

## CIC gains Hitachi Data Systems as tenant

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The Cyber Innovation Center and National Cyber Research Park in Bossier City have snagged a new high-profile IT tenant: Fortune 500 company Hitachi Data Systems.

Hitachi's local office will occupy space in the CIC's anchor building just east of Bossier Parish Community College, a release from CIC says.

"We are very excited to add Hitachi Data Systems to our list of tenants," CIC Executive Director Craig Spohn said. "Hitachi is one of the world's leading technology companies and is yet another Fortune 500 company to make the Cyber Innovation Center and Bossier City its home. We look forward to expanding our existing partnerships and growing their presence in the park."

CIC Assistant Director G.B. Cazes said Hitachi's initial footprint will be about 1,800 square feet.

"It is my understanding that the initial number of employees will be 16," Cazes said. Hitachi did not respond to The Times inquiries for comments.

Two Hitachi executives, Mike Tanner and

Louise White, will be guest speakers at the CIC member luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 21 at the Silver Star Smokehouse, 111 Dixie Overland Road, Bossier City.

Founded in 1989, Hitachi Data Systems helps organizations transform raw data into valuable information by making data more accessible and simpler to manage. Hitachi, whose customers include more than 70 percent of the Fortune 100 and more than 80 percent of the Fortune Global 100, has about 4,700 employees in more than 100 countries and regions. Its parent company, Hitachi Ltd., is ranked 40th on the Global 500 list with more than 360,000 employees worldwide and 900 subsidiary companies.

The CIC also says Hitachi will work with Bossier Parish Community College to design, develop and offer a new Advanced Data Storage course.

Tentatively called the Technical Competency Area in Data Storage, it will provide students with an industry-

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recognized certificate stemming from two senior-level courses, an advanced topics course for networking and a course based on Hitachi Data Systems-specific curriculum.

The program targets students in BPC's Cyber Information Technology Department and will help link students with internship opportunities, the CIC said.

"This certificate program is just one example of how partnerships between industry and academia can build a stronger technology-focused work force in our area," said Cazes, who also is director of the CIC's Academic Outreach and Workforce Development Program. "This program fits very nicely with our larger Academic Outreach and Workforce Development efforts."

In addition to the CIC offices, the initial building on the National Cyber Research Park campus houses the headquarters of 8th Air Force, Baton Rouge-based IT firm Venyu, Northrop Grumman, LUBA Workers' Comp, Science Applications International Corp., Boeing and Precision Aerial Reconnaissance.

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