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Construction Approved for State-of-the-Art Physical Sciences Facility -Existing Facilities Included in Project-

RICHLAND, WA - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) this week began construction of the Physical Sciences Facility (PSF) at its Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) north of Richland, Washington. PSF will provide research and office space for materials science and technology, radiation detection, and ultra-trace and low-level detection and characterization of radionuclides. The PSF will be an approximately 200,000-square foot complex located on the Horn Rapids Triangle just north of the PNNL campus in Richland. Preliminary construction at PSF, includes preparing the site, pouring the foundations, and erecting structural steel. Construction of the PSF is scheduled to be completed in fiscal year 2011.

“The Capability Replacement Laboratory Project will give DOE the facilities to maintain our edge as a world leader in research and development by ensuring that vital research capabilities at PNNL are available to meet the mission of the Laboratory,” said DOE Under Secretary for Science Dr. Raymond L. Orbach. “The foundation of the new laboratory is the Physical Sciences Facility, a state-of-the-art laboratory addition that will keep PNNL’s capabilities at the forefront of science. PNNL has provided the nation with quality scientific research and delivered results for more than 40 years. This project will enrich those capabilities for the future.”

PSF will be part of PNNL’s Capability Replacement Laboratory (CRL) Project, which will also utilize four of DOE’s already existing laboratory facilities that would otherwise be demolished as part of DOE’s Hanford 300 Area cleanup in Eastern Washington. In addition to the PSF, the Department will renovate and continue to use 318, 325, and 331 Buildings, in the 300 Area at Hanford, for up to 20 years. The use of these buildings provides flexibility and cost savings to the overall CRL Project, and each facility offers unique laboratory capabilities currently utilized by PNNL. The fourth facility – Building 350 – used for maintenance and operations, as well as key infrastructure facilities and systems, will also be retained. DOE’s Office of Science and Office of Environmental Management, which has responsibility for the clean up projects at Hanford, are coordinating closely on the CRL Project to ensure current research and cleanup efforts in the 300 Area continue.

As part of the CRL Project, the following existing facilities in the Hanford 300 Area will continue to be utilized:

- 325 Building Radiochemical Processing Laboratory where PNNL performs analytical radiochemistry verification and research support for complex issues requiring chemical or radiochemical analysis.
- 331 Building Life Sciences Laboratory where PNNL performs a variety of research activities related to the life sciences.
- 318 Building Radiological Calibrations where PNNL performs radiation detection instrument calibration and radiation dosimeter development.
- 350 Building Plant Operations and Maintenance Facility

Funding for construction of the PSF, estimated at approximately \$224 million, will be shared by DOE's Office of Science, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Both NNSA and DHS have significant resources invested in national security work at PNNL.

The CRL Project also includes two additional new laboratory facilities: the Biological Sciences Facility (BSF) and Computational Sciences Facility (CSF), which will be built by a private developer. Together, BSF and CSF will consist of approximately 148,000 square feet of laboratory and office space on the PNNL campus. Both facilities are in early planning stages and are targeted for completion in fiscal year 2009.

For more information on PSF, visit: http://www.pnl.gov/rcf/phy_science_fac.stm.

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