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# Lab could add jobs, millions to state

## MSU hopes to build rare isotope facility

BY ROBIN ERB • FREE PRESS EDUCATION WRITER • JULY 1, 2008

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Michigan could get a \$1-billion bump to its economy over the next 10 years if a new U.S. Department of Energy lab is located at Michigan State University, according to an analysis to be released today.

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The project would generate about \$187 million in taxes over 20 years and would mean a "home run" for the state, said Patrick Anderson, president of the East Lansing-based Anderson Economic Group.

"We rarely get to even bat in this league," Anderson's seven-page memo to MSU notes.

Michigan State is hoping to land the

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contract to build a Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, or FRIB, for the Energy Department. The device would provide intense beams of rare isotopes for researchers.

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That kind of work is being done at MSU's National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory (NSCL) in East Lansing, and it has laid the groundwork for research in number of fields -- including treating cancer and providing technology for border security. But the NSCL is about to be eclipsed by facilities in other countries, the Energy Department says.

Several years ago, MSU competed against Argonne National Laboratory outside Chicago for such a similar Energy Department facility, but the United States scrapped the plans after budget troubles. Proposals for the new project are due by July 21.

Anderson, which was hired by the university to help convince Congress of the project's importance, includes \$548 million in construction spending in its \$1-billion estimate. Of that, about \$147.9 million would be paid to construction workers, said Anderson consultant Alex Rosaen.

The new facility would employ about 300 people, likely including 120 already at the NSCL. In addition, about 220 jobs would be created in other industries, such as entertainment and professional services, Rosaen said.

But just as important as the numbers, he said, is ensuring Michigan maintains a critical research edge.

"This is cutting-edge science that is happening here," he said. "It's not a guarantee that every single person will stay, but some will stay and everyone will be here at least for a while."

Contact **ROBIN ERB** at 313-222-2708 or [rerb@freepress.com](mailto:rerb@freepress.com).

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MSUICEMAN wrote:

This would definitely be a good thing, especially for mid michigan which seems to be

a relatively forgotten area, as most talk about the west side or metro detroit. This research can be very pivotal in the further development of how we understand physics.

7/1/2008 7:12:03 AM

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