Project Approval

East Campus Plant Growth Facilities Complex – Phase One

MU

The University of Missouri – Columbia requests Project Approval for the East Campus Plant Growth Facilities Complex – Phase One project. The total project budget of $30,000,000 is funded from Campus Reserves.

The Interdisciplinary Plant Group (IPG) is recognized as one of the top plant research and training programs in the nation. In May 2008, a Blue Ribbon Team of scientists concluded that, “using any metric of success, the IPG is an exceptional program of research excellence.” Plant Sciences has a fundamental role in the MU Strategic Plan. While MU Plant Sciences has many successes, the existing plant growth facilities are beyond capacity and many are inadequate to support modern, innovative research. This limits the research programs ability to expand and increases the potential to lose valued faculty and students. With improved facilities, expanded research avenues can be explored while enhancing external funding, and faculty and student recruitment, and retention. A study was completed in 2015 to further study the concept of a new East Campus Plant Growth Facility originally conceptualized in the 2006 Plant Growth Facilities Master Plan.

The East Campus Plant Growth Facilities Phase One project will be the first phase of a multiphase plant growth complex as identified in the 2015 study. This project will include a total of 62,050 gross square feet (GSF) of space including two new research greenhouses with 28 compartments and associated head house, and a controlled environment facility with up to 52 growth chambers with an ultimate capacity of 77 growth chambers. The new controlled environment facility will triple the growth chambers on campus and expand research potential with a wide-range of environmental characteristics including temperature, humidity, CO2, and extended growth heights. The new facility will be located near the intersection of Ashland Road and East Campus Drive. Future phases can be incrementally constructed based on funding availability.

Cannon Design, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, is the recommended architect for this project. Cannon presented a well-balanced and experienced team with in-depth knowledge of plant sciences facilities. Cannon Design included Rough Brothers, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio, as a greenhouse specialty sub-consultant on their team. The design team includes David Mason & Associates, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri (MBE) for structural engineering; Cannon Design, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri for mechanical, plumbing, electrical, and fire protection engineering; Civil Design, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri (WBE) for civil engineering; WA Architects, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri (MBE) for interior design; and Stahl & Ponder, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri (WBE) for low voltage system design.

The selection committee also interviewed The Clark Enersen Partners, P.C., Kansas City, Missouri, and BSA Life Structures, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri.

The fee for basic architectural and engineering services has been determined by using the University of Missouri’s “Architectural and Engineering Basic Services Fee Estimating Guidelines” at 6.4% of the $20,500,000 construction cost or $1,312,000. Additional services for equipment planning; planning for the realignment of East Campus Drive, future phases, and utility provisions; and additional energy analysis and alternative considerations due to the unique project type is anticipated at $67,000 for a total design fee of $1,379,000.

The total construction cost is $330/GSF and is expected to be complete by May 2019.