



THE PONCA CITY NEWS

PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Sensor Project Coming to Ponca City *ConocoPhillips Donates Lab, \$2 Million to OSU*



By LOUISE ABERCROMBIE
News Business Editor

A rumor that has floated around Ponca City for the past few weeks that a major economic impact announcement was in the making became a reality today as Oklahoma State University and the City of Ponca City announced a far-reaching gift of a research building and \$2 million from ConocoPhillips that will create a national sensor testing center and provide a significant economic boost to North Central Oklahoma.

The joint announcement was made this afternoon in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall by Oklahoma State University President David J. Schmidly and ConocoPhillips Vice President of Downstream Technology George Paczkowski.

With this leadership gift of funding and facilities, Oklahoma State University will establish the University Multispectral Laboratory in a 70,000-square-foot building located at the ConocoPhillips complex in Ponca City. The laboratory will provide services to federal, state, local and commercial organizations. The building was previously known as Research East.

"We're delighted to contribute to this important OSU testing facility, which will also provide significant economic benefits to the community," said Paczkowski. "This laboratory will not only benefit OSU and support our nation's defense and security efforts, but will also have a significant economic development impact on Ponca City and North-Central Oklahoma."

David Myers, executive director of the Ponca City Development Authority, who was master of ceremonies at the announcement event, introduced Schmidly.

Schmidly said, "ConocoPhillips and the community of Ponca City have been tremendous OSU supporters and partners through the years. So it is extremely thrilling for all of us at Oklahoma State University to be joining forces yet again in such a positive and exciting way.

"Kay County trails only Tulsa, Oklahoma and Payne counties for most students enrolled at OSU.

"We currently have more than 500 students from Kay County and of course, we have thousands of alumni who help make Ponca City and Kay County nice and orange.

"ConocoPhillips has a long history of support to OSU. The company has given and pledged more than \$23 million to our university through the years and is our largest corporate donor.

"ConocoPhillips has more employees who have graduated from Oklahoma State University than from any other college and OSU has more of its graduates employed at ConocoPhillips than at any other company. So we have a special bond with ConocoPhillips.

"Today's gift brings together three of Oklahoma's greatest assets — Ponca City, ConocoPhillips and Oklahoma State University.

"This partnership will not only have a tremendous impact on the Ponca City community but will have a far-reaching economic impact on the state and its continued push for more high-tech jobs.

"It also is a major boost to OSU's research and technology transfer mission. The 70,000-square-foot facility and \$2 million gift from ConocoPhillips will greatly strengthen OSU's position as a leader in the critical area of sensor and sensor-related technology research."

Schmidly added. "This OSU sensor testing facility will be fulfilling a national need for a single sensor testing and evaluation facility. It means less time in getting the sensor technology from concept to usable product."

The OSU president continued, "I want to thank Norm Carley, Tim Reynolds and everyone at AMTI for their

support in this initiative. AMTI is an expert in the areas of defense, homeland security and intelligence analysis and they will be managing the lab here in Ponca City."

He added, "Today's announcement is the start of something extremely important for our nation, our state, Ponca City and Oklahoma State University.

He also expressed his appreciation to Ponca City Mayor Dick Stone and to Paczkowski.

Stone said, "Ponca City is elated about this latest partnership with our city, ConocoPhillips and Oklahoma State University. This is an incredible opportunity that will have a significant impact not only on our community but our entire region."

When fully operational, UML will employ 80 scientists, engineers and support personnel with an annual payroll of approximately \$13.8 million. According to the Ponca City Development Authority, the projected economic impact on the surrounding area will be \$120 million over 10 years.

"This is an extraordinary gift that will elevate our work and opportunities," said Stephen McKeever, Oklahoma State University's vice president for Research and Technology Transfer. "The UML will fulfill a national need for a single sensor testing and evaluation facility by enabling the rapid transfer of innovative technologies from the laboratory to the end user. And it opens the door to secure future federal funding."

OSU's leading-edge researchers already collaborate with government, industry and other universities to develop innovative sensor and sensor-related technologies for commercialization.

Developments at OSU include bacterial sensors, biomedical sensors, environmental sensors, optical sensors and sensors for homeland security and defense applications. The new OSU University Multispectral Laboratory will create additional interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students working on sensor and sensor-related research projects.

The UML will be managed by AMTI, a government contractor based in Virginia Beach, Va., with offices in Ponca City since 2003, and a leading supplier of professional and technical services. AMTI has unique capabilities and an outstanding track record in the areas

of defense, homeland security and intelligence analysis.

"AMTI offers the technical, tactical and management expertise needed to organize and operate the UML," said McKeever. "AMTI personnel have managed many programs related to sensor and detector system development and we look forward to what we can accomplish together."

Tim Reynolds, AMTI director of Government Affairs said, "We want to commend ConocoPhillips for this tremendous leadership gift and for its confidence in our company and Oklahoma State University, and for its long-standing commitment to Ponca City."

Norm Carley, president, CEO and founder of AMTI said, "We are proud the technology developed by UML will benefit the war-fighter and our national security as a whole. OSU maintains a talented staff, which we are pleased to augment with our corporate personnel and expertise. This partnership will positively impact the Oklahoma economy and the safety of the nation. Needless to say, AMTI is very excited about this opportunity."

[Front Page](#)

Published Mon, Feb 6, 2006, On Page 1
