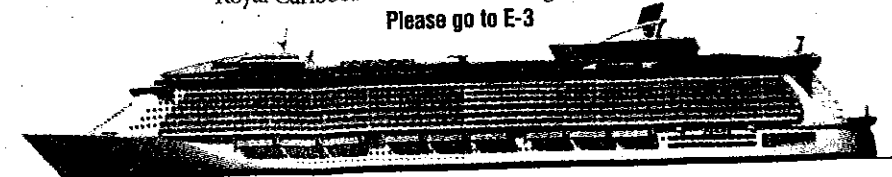


E BUSINESS

Supersize ship

Royal Caribbean orders world's largest cruise vessel.
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ConocoPhillips gives OSU lab

► A sensor testing center is being created in Ponca City.

By ROBERT EVATT
World Staff Writer

PONCA CITY — ConocoPhillips has given Oklahoma State University a 70,000-square-foot research building and up to \$2 million for the creation of a sensor testing center.

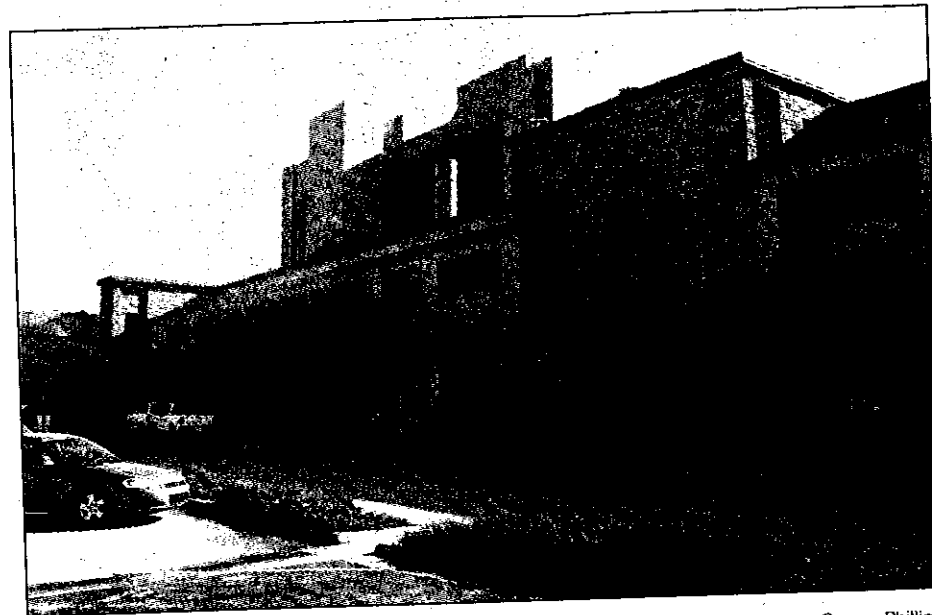
The OSU University Multispectral Laboratory, which will be OSU's first presence in Ponca City, will eventually

employ 80 scientists, engineers and support personnel, and may lead to the development of additional technological jobs in the area.

"Our dream is to draw companies here that will test and decide to build the sensors we develop here," OSU President David Schmidly said during a press conference Monday.

The Ponca City Development Authority estimates that the center's economic impact on the area will be \$120 million over the next 10 years.

SEE OSU E-2



Courtesy ConocoPhillips

ConocoPhillips is donating this building on its Ponca City campus, and up to \$2 million, to Oklahoma State University. The structure will become the OSU University Multispectral Laboratory, a national sensor testing center.

OSU:

The research building was idled a decade ago.

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The facility, located at ConocoPhillips' campus in Ponca City, will not reach full capacity for six years, though some projects will begin there immediately, said Stephen McKeever, OSU's vice president for research and technology transfer.

He said the laboratory will be used for the development of bacterial, biomedical, environmental and optical sensors, as well as other types of sensors for homeland security and defense applications.

McKeever said research and innovations at the lab will be shared with the federal government through the laboratory's management entity, AMTI, a government contractor based in Virginia Beach, Va.

Mayor Dick Stone said the laboratory will have a huge impact.

"It's truly a wonderful day for Ponca City," he said. "This marks a new era for our community."

Schmidly said OSU researchers have been conducting sensor work for years. The university wanted to expand the program but lacked a testing and prototype facility, he said.

ConocoPhillips has long been a supporter of OSU, most recently giving \$2 million to scholarship programs and various school departments. The Houston-based oil giant also donated \$7.5 million for the construction of the ConocoPhillips Alumni Center at OSU-Stillwater.

When company officials learned of OSU's desire for a sensor laboratory, they decided to step in and provide an unused building at the ConocoPhillips complex, said George Paczkowski, vice president of downstream technology at the company.

"Research facilities aren't easy to come by," he said.

The building was used by the company for research but was idled a decade ago when new facilities were built nearby, he said.

Schmidly said the donation, which he termed an "orange-letter day," was the key to expanding the program.

"We wouldn't be here without ConocoPhillips," he said.

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