



PCDA CITY Development Authority Board of trustees this morning in a special meeting signed an agreement to provide limited \$2 million for the sensor lab project at the ConocoPhillips complex. The agreement is for the Oklahoma State University/University Multispectral lab. Signing the documents are Greg Neisen, left, secretary, and Lee Evans, chairman. Other trustees are, from left, Chuck VanCleave, Stan Paynter, Jim Leach and Darrell Stolhand. (News Photo by Louise Abercrombie)

PCDA Votes \$2 Million For UML Sensor Center

Ponca City Development Authority Board of Trustees today unanimously approved an agreement with Oklahoma State University to provide \$2 million in economic incentives to develop the nation's first sensor testing center in Ponca City.

The OSU sensor testing center, now known as the University Multispectral Lab or UML, will employ 80 full-time, permanent people. The center will test sensors and research from universities and private companies from throughout the world. According to an economic impact model prepared by PCDA, the UML will create \$140 million in economic benefits to Ponca City over the next 10 years.

According to PCDA Vice-Chair Jim Leach, the economic impact will likely be even larger. He said, "The \$140 million impact includes just the UML. We expect to see a significant number of jobs created by companies that are going to want to locate near the lab. These projections were not included in the \$140 million projection."

The agreement provides the funding in four installments. The first payment of \$500,000 is due upon the formation of the Ponca City UML, which occurred earlier this fall, and

of \$500,000 will be made during PCDA fiscal year 2007-2008, after the UML employs at least 10 people in Ponca City. The third and fourth payments will be made in subsequent years at the creation of 30 jobs and 50 jobs respectively. All of the funding is restricted to the Ponca City center.

PCDA incentives will be matched by a \$2 million donation from ConocoPhillips to OSU specifically for the project. ConocoPhillips also donated the former Research East, a 70,000-square-foot, wet-dry lab on the ConocoPhillips campus, which will become the home of the UML.

PCDA Board Chair Lee Evans noted that ConocoPhillips' support of the project was the real key to bringing the facility to Ponca City. He said, "ConocoPhillips continues to show its support for this region in a variety of ways. These unprecedented gifts were instrumental in bringing this project to Ponca City."

Evans also said that the community needs to prepare itself in order to attract the kind of professionals that will be employed at the UML. He said, "These will be high salaried people that will be looking for certain amenities in a community. If we don't have them,

Sensor

(Continued From Front)
be a true missed opportunity."

The first checks from PCDA and ConocoPhillips are scheduled to be presented to OSU in a celebration ceremony on Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. in Ponca City Hall Commission Chambers. Dr. David Schmidly, president of the OSU System, will receive the PCDA check from Evans and Ponca City Mayor Dick Stone. Ron Armstrong of

ConocoPhillips is scheduled to present the company's donation. The public is welcome to attend.

The PCDA Board action follows a resolution passed earlier this year that said that PCDA would provide the incentive if the center was developed in Ponca City. The agreement approved Monday officially approves the payment itself and spells out the details of the benefits and timing.