



U.S. Army
Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

Public Affairs Office

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News Release

\$38M Contract Awarded for Advanced Chemistry Laboratory at Edgewood

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Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. – Two Baltimore-based companies will begin work soon on a \$38 million contract to build an Advanced Chemistry Laboratory in the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, officials of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) announced today.

Gaudreau Inc., an architectural firm, and Poole & Kent, a mechanical contracting company, will begin site preparation work in advance of a formal ground-breaking, tentatively set for April 2003.

The Advanced Chemistry Laboratory, a 74,000 square-foot facility, will replace three older laboratories in the Edgewood Area. Much of the research work performed in the new laboratory will support the nation's homeland defense efforts and its work to counter the evolving threat of chemical warfare and the use of chemical or biological agents by terrorists.

ECBC is a unique national asset that has been the focus of research and development work involving chemical warfare agents in the defense against chemical weapons for more than 80 years. The Advanced Chemistry Laboratory will allow ECBC to continue this important work by providing a state-of-the-art research facility with a flexible, modular design to meet the changing requirements of scientific advancements. The building will also feature sophisticated engineering controls and specially designed filters to ensure the safety of the workforce and protect the environment.

The new lab primarily replaces the Amos A. Fries Chemistry Building, constructed in 1963. Fries, who became commanding officer of Edgewood Arsenal in 1919, worked throughout his career to advance the Army's chemical training and to establish the Chemical Warfare Service as a permanent part of the post-WWI military. Fries retired as a major general in 1929 and died in 1963.

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ECBC is the Army's principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and services. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for national defense, civilian needs and industrial competitiveness, with a long and distinguished history of providing

the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. ECBC is located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. For more information about the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, please visit our Web site at <http://www.sbccom.apgea.army.mil> or call (410) 436-4347.