
Manhattan, Kan. (May 27, 2015) — Today, team members from McCarthy Mortensen NBAF A Joint Venture (McCarthy/Mortenson) broke ground on the final and largest phase of the $835 million National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF). The construction team was joined by representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the state of Kansas, Kansas State University, and the community of Manhattan, Kan.

“The NBAF will be a key component in our joint effort with USDA to advance research, which is critical to the security of our nation’s food supply and agricultural economy,” said Under Secretary Dr. Reginald Brothers with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate. “This critical step also heightens our focus on recently initiated efforts to develop strategic partnerships with both private and public entities in the animal health arena to better leverage the research capabilities of the NBAF once it is operational.”

Awarded to the McCarthy/Mortenson team by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate, this project represents the initiation of the third and final phase of construction of the NBAF. The award is a modification to the existing $107 million contract for the team made up of St. Louis-based McCarthy Building Companies, Inc., and Minneapolis-based Mortenson Construction, which was chosen in 2009 to perform construction management services for the NBAF. The McCarthy/Mortenson team was selected through a best value competitive process based on the team’s expertise in constructing biosafety facilities and its experience in the local area.

With funding provided in 2012 by the state of Kansas, McCarthy/Mortenson completed site preparation and is currently building an 87,000-square-foot, free-standing Central Utility Plant (CUP) to house boilers, chillers, emergency diesel generators and other support elements for the main laboratory facility. The CUP is scheduled to be completed in October of this year. The $80 million CUP was funded with $40 million in federal appropriations and $40 million in gift funding from the state of Kansas. In total, the state of Kansas is providing $307 million
and the city of Manhattan $5 million toward the total acquisition cost for the NBAF inclusive of planning, design, construction and commissioning of $1.25 billion facility.

“Our team is pleased to continue to partner with DHS and the NBAF Design Partnership to construct the main laboratory building, additional outbuildings and associated site work at the NBAF,” said McCarthy Senior Vice President Jon Jacobsmeyer. “We are ready to apply our expertise and technology to deliver this unparalleled technical research facility for the United States government.”

The NBAF project will contain 574,000 gross square feet, including biosafety level (BSL) 2, 3 and 4 shared research space to be constructed on the 29-acre site. The facility will house advanced research, diagnostic testing and validation, countermeasure development (i.e., vaccines and anti-viral therapies) and diagnostic training for high-consequence livestock diseases. It will also provide the necessary infrastructure to improve understanding and preparedness for potential bioterrorism employing foreign animal disease and zoonotic disease pathogens that may be accidentally or intentionally introduced in the United States and will develop capabilities to improve protection against such threats.

The McCarthy/Mortenson joint venture brings extensive knowledge and experience in the construction of BSL-3E, 3Ag and 4 facilities to the project. McCarthy has completed similar biosafety level projects for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Ames, Iowa, and Boston University in Boston. Mortenson Construction brings long-standing, local experience in the Manhattan, Kan., area, along with the experience of working on a similar laboratory project at the University of Colorado Denver’s Research II in Aurora, Colo. The NBAF Design Partnership (NDP) is the architect and engineer on the project.

The McCarthy/Mortenson team is using the latest construction technology and tools on this project, including Virtual Design and Construction (VDC), allowing the team to build the entire project virtually prior to actual construction. “Our use of industry pioneering VDC helps to make sure the facility is built in the most cost efficient way possible, while still achieving quality construction and ease of operation and maintenance,” said Mortenson Vice President Derek Cunz.

Construction of the NBAF is to be completed in 2020 with full operational capability achieved in 2022.

For more information on the project, visit www.mcmjv.com.
About McCarthy

McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. is one of the nation’s premier commercial construction companies. Founded in 1864, the firm is currently the 9th largest builder in America (Engineering News-Record, May 2014) and has been building in the science and technology market for more than 50 years. This resume of experience includes: research facilities; life sciences; nanotechnology; pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical processing; data centers; high containment labs (BSL-3, BSL-4 and Potent Compound); cleanrooms; agri-business; and biomedical facilities. In addition to the Department of Homeland Security, McCarthy provides services throughout the federal sector, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Energy, US Army Corps of Engineers, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Indian Health Service. The company is working on government projects totaling $3.2 billion nationwide. Headquartered in St. Louis, McCarthy has offices in Atlanta; Collinsville, Ill.; Kansas City, Kan.; Denver; Phoenix; Las Vegas; Dallas, Houston; Albuquerque; and San Diego, Newport Beach, San Francisco, San Jose and Sacramento, Calif. McCarthy is 100 percent employee owned. More information about the company is available online at www.mccarthy.com or by following the company on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Google+.

About Mortenson Construction

A privately-held and family-owned company since 1954, Mortenson Construction currently employs over 4,000 team members and has active project operations in every region of the United States. Recognized as the nation's 26th largest builder (Engineering News-Record, Sept. 2014), Mortenson has gained a reputation of excellence through delivering consistent, high quality services and exceptional projects in a wide range of markets. With over $4.9 billion in work completed for the Federal Government, their customers include the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Navy Facilities Engineering Command, Department of Energy, Department of Justice and the General Services Administration. Mortenson maintains offices in Chicago, Denver, Fargo N.D., Iowa City Iowa, Milwaukee Wisc., Madison Wisc., Minneapolis Minn., Phoenix, Portland Ore., San Antonio Texas, and Seattle, with international operations in Canada. For more information visit www.mortenson.com or follow the company on LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook.

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## PROJECT FACTS

**Owner**  
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)  
@DHSgov

**Delivery Method**  
Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc)

**Construction Manager as Constructor**  
McCarthy Mortenson NBAF A Joint Venture (MCMJV)  
[www.mcmjv.com](http://www.mcmjv.com)  
- McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. – headquartered in St. Louis with 14 other offices, including Leawood, KS  
  ([www.mccarthy.com](http://www.mccarthy.com), @mccarthybuild)  
- Mortenson Construction – headquartered in Minneapolis, MN with 11 offices nationwide, has 25 years of experience in the Manhattan, KS area  
  ([www.mortenson.com](http://www.mortenson.com), @MAMortensonCo)

**Architect / Engineer**  
NBAF Design Partnership (NDP)  
- Perkins+Will ([www.perkinswill.com](http://www.perkinswill.com), @perkinswill)  
- Flad Architects ([www.flad.com](http://www.flad.com))  
- Merrick & Company ([www.merrick.com](http://www.merrick.com), @MerrickCompany)  
- AEI Engineering Inc. ([www.aeieng.com](http://www.aeieng.com), @AEITweets)  
- CCRD Partners ([www.ccrd.com](http://www.ccrd.com), @ccrd_partners)

**Project Size**  
707,000 square feet of facilities on 48-acre site  
$942 million for Preconstruction and Construction  
$1.25 billion overall

**Construction Status to Date**  
- GMP 1 – Preconstruction and site work package is complete  
- GMP 2 – Central Utility Plant is in progress currently 95% complete  
  (87,000 square feet, four levels)  
- GMP 3 – Main laboratory building, additional outbuildings and associated site work – breaking ground today (four levels with labs, offices and MEP spaces)

**Progress of Project**  
- Completed – Environmental Impact Study, Determine Suitability of the Kansas Site  
- Completed – Record of Decision, Complete Site Selection  
- Completed – Design, Develop Detailed Design  
- Completed – Site Preparation, Prepare Site for Construction  
- October 2015 – Complete Construction of Central Utility Plant  
- 2015 – Begin Construction of Main Laboratory Facility  
- 2021 – Complete Facility Commissioning  
- 2022 – Select Agent Registration, Receive Select Agent Permit  
- 2023 – Complete Transition from Plum Island
### Biocontainment
Biosafety Levels (BSL) 2, 3, 3Ag and 4. Level 4 does not exist in current facility at Plum Island.

### Construction Technology
- Single-source schedule can provide high-level outlook down to daily crew level schedules. Single-source means everyone is up-to-date, but still has a schedule that is useful to them for that day and for planning ahead. The schedule is also cost-loaded to improve billing.
- With GMP 3, parts of the schedule will be tied into the model, which will provide visualization when forecasting and coordinating work. It is integral to sequencing and coordinating construction activities. The model is used in weekly superintendent meetings and throughout the course of construction and will be handed over to NBAF upon project completion for managing all facilities. The construction model will also help to bring new workers on site up to speed more quickly, which is valuable on a large project.
- An electronic dashboard allows the team to quickly access the most current safety information, schedules, drawings, etc. It is accessible in the portable field kiosk and to the Design and Construction team, the Owner and all stakeholders, as well as all trade partners.
- Modeling is a robust effort with a dedicated BIM trailer on site to house 30 modelers. The purpose is to increase communication among all team members, provide efficiencies to the project and maintain productivity. An example is modeling reinforcing steel so the team knows steel sizes prior to fabrication. Modeling also allowed the electrical ductbanks and other major piping section in the utility plant to be prefabricated and installed in sections.
- The team will utilize BIM 360 Field to perform safety inspections, quality verifications and punchlists in the field utilizing iPads.
- The project team will utilize McCarthy’s Project Management software Teamsight to collaborate with all stakeholders. Teamsight will be used for RFI’s Submittals, Meeting Minutes, etc.

### Construction Type
Facility is cast-in-place concrete with a structural steel frame to “harden” the structure. Built to NRC standards. Includes blast resistance standards.

### Self-Perform
MCMJV will self-perform concrete and site logistics work.
**PROJECT FACTS**

**Safety**
MCMJV is participating in an OSHA Partnership. Safety protocol is in alliance with Department of Defense standards, which also aligns with MCMJV’s comprehensive safety program. Current project RIR is 2.16 and LTIR is 0. For comparison purposes, industry standard is RIR 3.8 and LTIR 1.50.

**Location**
The Manhattan location puts the NBAF in proximity to research of NBAF-related missions in veterinary, agriculture and bio-security research expertise, and resources. The stretch from Columbia, Missouri to Manhattan, Kansas is defined as the Animal Health Corridor. This location also puts NBAF in proximity to a major hub of the veterinary pharmaceutical industry. The NBAF will be built adjacent to the existing Kansas State University BSL-3Ag Biosecurity Research Institute.

**Subcontractor Participation**
Project to date through 3.31.15 – Percentage of Subcontract values
- 71% small business
- 29% large business
- 63% from Kansas or Kansas City area
- 32% from outside of Kansas and Kansas City area
- 4% from Manhattan area

**Labor Participation**
- 14% Minority and Women on-site labor participation.
- 370,000 on-site labor hours through March 2015.
- 908 workers have received safety orientations to perform work on site through March 2015.
- Approximately 1,000 construction workers will be on site during peak construction activity.
- Facility will employ approximately 400 people.

**Sustainability**
Designed to USGBC LEED Silver certification standards. The team worked with Area Transportation Agency, the local public transportation agency, to add a stop at NBAF to their route. The team performs recycling and sorts materials on site, and tracks low volatile organic compounds (VOC) and regional materials use. A baseline energy model was developed by a consultant so the team can track energy efficiency and savings over time.

**Community Involvement**
The MCMJV project team has participated in Habitat for Humanity on numerous occasions and helped construct the Manhattan Partner City Flag Plaza at City Park in Manhattan, KS.
With the award of the construction contract for the Central Utility Plant (CUP) in February 2013, DHS reached an important milestone in the NBAF timeline. Funding for the CUP showcases the collaborative nature of the NBAF as the contract was awarded using both congressional appropriations and grant funding provided by the State of Kansas. The 87,000-square-foot CUP will house the primary heating and cooling systems as well as the emergency generators for the main lab building. DHS is also moving forward with the process to award the main laboratory construction contract in 2015. In fiscal year 2014, $404 million was received for laboratory construction. To help alleviate the federal cost burden, the State of Kansas agreed to commit more than $300 million of gift funding toward the total NBAF construction project. At peak construction, NBAF will employ 1,000 people.

Design

After a comprehensive three-year federal examination of potential sites that focused on the environmental impacts, threats, and risks of operating the NBAF, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) selected a site located within the Animal Health Corridor on the campus of Kansas State University. DHS developed an iterative risk assessment process to ensure that the NBAF is safe, secure, and operable over its entire life cycle. Significant design features beyond the industry standard were incorporated into the NBAF design to reduce risk. For example, the biocontainment areas are designed to meet structural and containment building integrity standards similar to those used in the nuclear industry. By adhering to these standards, the final design minimizes the potential for accidental release from the research laboratories.

Operations Will Begin in 2022

Current operations at PIADC will continue through NBAF construction. DHS is developing a plan to ease the transition from PIADC to NBAF that includes an overlap of operations to ensure there is no interruption of the critical science mission. DHS will not build or operate the NBAF unless it can be done in a safe manner. No select agent permits will be issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention until all requirements are met. NBAF will be government-owned, government-operated with contractor support. When fully operational, NBAF will employ 400 people.

Contact

Questions? For more information, visit http://www.dhs.gov/nbaf or email NBAFProgramManager@dhs.gov.
About McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

Founded more than 150 years ago, McCarthy is one America's largest national builders with annual revenue exceeding $3 billion. With a focus on delivering state-of-the-art, highly complex facilities for research, healthcare, animal health and pharmaceutical clients, McCarthy has established a reputation for utilizing industry-leading construction techniques and the most sophisticated technology to deliver the highest quality, job-site safety and ultimately, the best value. Examples include Centers for Disease Control – Building 18, Emerging and Infectious Diseases BSL-4 Laboratory; United States Department of Agriculture – BSL-3Ag Large Animal Research Facility; Boston University Medical Center – National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories; research facilities for Cornell University, Georgia State University, University of California-Berkeley, University of California-San Diego and more.

About Mortenson Construction

M. A. Mortenson Company, doing business as Mortenson Construction, was founded in 1954 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and provides general construction, design-build and construction management services. The company is built upon a foundation of deep-rooted values that include trust, responsibility, teamwork, service, safety and stewardship. Today, Mortenson remains a family-owned business committed to these same values. Mortenson employs over 4,000 professional staff and craft workers, located at project sites and offices throughout the country. Mortenson has completed individual projects with construction values over $650 million and annual company revenues are over $3 billion.

About the McCarthy Mortenson NBAF A Joint Venture

The joint venture of McCarthy Building Companies and Mortenson Construction bring a shared commitment to excellence, culture and tradition as self-performing builders to the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) endeavor. As a result, NBAF and the Department of Homeland Security collaborate with a singular, integrated team and also receive the benefit of the resources, capabilities, expertise and creativity of two premier construction firms. This includes a commitment to improving the construction process through the application of technology; a dedication to creating a positive experience for all stakeholders from planning and design through construction and turnover; a proven history of successfully executing complex bio-containment projects, federal projects and large-scale construction work; and a long-time presence in the Midwest, including Manhattan, Kansas. McCarthy Mortenson NBAF A Joint Venture has built a strong working relationship since the inception of the NBAF project and is ready to get started on the final phase of this industry-leading, state-of-the-art facility.
### About NDP (NBAF Design Partnership)

This all-star cast of experts in large animal vivarium design, biocontainment design, federal large project design and large campus creation was assembled to bring unparalleled talent and horsepower to this extremely important project for our nation.

### About Perkins+Will

- Perkins+Will is an interdisciplinary, research-based architecture and design firm established in 1935 and founded on the belief that design has the power to transform lives and enhance communities.
- Perkins+Will is recognized as one of the industry’s preeminent sustainable design firms due to its innovative research, design tools and expertise.
- The firm’s 1,700 professionals are thought leaders developing 21st century solutions to inspire the creation of spaces in which clients and their communities work, heal, live and learn.

### About Flad Architects

- Our clients don’t work on small problems. They are tackling challenges that will change people’s lives. They employ the brightest individuals, with the boldest ideas. These people are working toward only the smartest solutions and the most dramatic accomplishments.
- Flad’s primary role on the NBAF project was to bring extensive knowledge in food animal containment research facilities as well as expertise in biological vaccine development operations and design.
- Our collaborative team effort delivered a high performing, modernized and efficient facility for Homeland Security and the USDA.

### About Affiliated Engineers (AEI)

- With a vision to CONFRONT CHALLENGES FACING SOCIETY, WITH INSIGHT AND INNOVATION, AEI is a multi-discipline technical consulting firm providing innovative solutions for complex and large scale projects worldwide, supporting the excellence of a diverse clientele.
- AEI is an industry leader in project team optimization and project delivery efficiency.
- Projects are integrated laterally across offices, bringing the best talent to the table for any given project, regardless of location.
- AEI’s leadership in the development of project delivery technologies allows immediacy in the field while enhancing productivity in the office.
About Merrick & Company

- Merrick is an internationally recognized leader in the design, commissioning and validation of high containment environments for science facilities.
- We provide specialized architecture/engineering solutions including programming, conceptual layouts, architectural systems, ventilation/filtration, waste decontamination, carcass disposal, electrical and security systems.
- Our clientele includes government agencies, academia and private sector clients around the world.

About ccrd

- ccrd is an industry-leading mechanical, electrical and information technology engineering design and commissioning firm with offices across the United States.
- ccrd has provided specialized engineering design and commissioning services for some of the country’s most advanced laboratory facilities including BSL-3, -3 Enhanced, -3Ag and -4 laboratories and ABSL-3 and -4 vivaria.
- The firm is well-versed in the working terms of government contracts and has built a solid reputation with an extreme level of accuracy and insight towards service, documentation and delivery.
You could build a sidewalk from Manhattan, KS to Oklahoma City, OK – about 300 miles – with this amount of concrete.

This amount of steel weighs about the same as 6,500 cars or 104 million quarter-pound burgers.

You could cover 69 acres with this amount of paint.

You could build roughly 200 houses with this amount of exterior work.

You could run a line of wire from Manhattan, KS to New Orleans – about 850 miles – with this amount of wire.

That averages about 385 people working for five years – or one person working for 1,925 years.
Call for Proposals to Site NBAF: Jan. 2006

McMJV Selected as Construction Manager: Sept. 2009

Manhattan, KS Selected as the NBAF Site: Jan. 2009

McMJV Begins Site Preparation Work: Nov. 2010

McMJV Completes Site Preparation: Aug. 2012

Land Deeded to DHS from Kansas: Dec. 2012

McMJV Begins Laboratory Construction: May 2015

McMJV Begins CUP Construction: July 2015

McMJV to Complete CUP Construction: Oct. 2015

McMJV Begins CUP Construction: July 2013

Laboratory Construction to be Completed: Dec. 2020

Laboratory Commissioning to be Completed: May 2021

On-Site O&M to Begin: Jan. 2020

Transition from PIADC to NBAF to be DONE: Aug. 2023

Laboratory Construction to be Completed: Dec. 2020

Acquire Select Agent Accreditations: Dec. 2022
EXECUTIVE BIOGRAPHIES

Michael Bolen, McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

Michael Bolen is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of McCarthy Building Companies. Mike began his career with McCarthy 34 years ago as a Carpenter Superintendent, after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and completing his graduate degree at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, while on active duty. He worked his way up through the company and in 1999 he became the first non-McCarthy family member to lead the company as CEO since the company’s founding in 1864. In 2002, he was instrumental in helping transition the family-owned firm into the 100% employee-owned company it is today. With a focus on delivering an exceptional client experience, Mike has helped lead McCarthy to become one of America’s premier building companies.

David Mortenson, Mortenson Construction

David Mortenson is the Chairman of Mortenson Construction. David joined the company in 1991 after serving in the United States Navy as the Combat Information Center Officer on board the USS Hewitt (DD-966). He started his career as a project engineer on the physics building at the University of Washington and worked his way up through the project management ranks before leading the company’s Communication Technologies Group from 1998 – 2001 and subsequently its Seattle office from 2001– 2007. David then returned to company headquarters to join the company’s senior leadership in strategy and growth planning. As a passionate promoter of innovation, David has been driving construction technology and process advancements such as Virtual Design and Construction, prefabrication and integrated project delivery into the company; helping to make it a leader in the industry.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the NBAF project?
The National Bio and Agro-defense Facility, or NBAF, is the answer to an important national challenge — to ensure public health and the safety and security of our national food supply. NBAF will be a $1.25 billion, 707,000-square-foot facility in Manhattan, Kansas, that will provide integrated research, response and diagnostic capabilities to protect animal and public health. NBAF will replace an aging federal facility located at Plum Island, New York.

What is the lab’s function?
As a Biosafety (BSL) level 3, 3Ag, 4 Laboratory, NBAF will provide the nation with integrated research and response capabilities to protect animal and public health. The facility also will enhance the nation’s capability to protect livestock and the livestock industry from both naturally occurring and intentionally introduced disease threats. NBAF will conduct research on emerging zoonotic and animal diseases in order to develop vaccine countermeasures for foreign animal diseases and advanced test and evaluation capabilities.

What research will be conducted in NBAF?
NBAF will research biological threats that cause human, zoonotic and foreign animal diseases. Researchers will conduct microbiological tests and develop new vaccines and therapeutics to prevent and help combat these diseases.

Why did Kansas pursue this project?
Kansas has a long history of protecting the American food supply and agriculture economy and has unique capabilities and infrastructure to contribute to the NBAF research mission.

What advantages does Kansas have?
Kansas offered the federal government a solution, not just a site. The state is uniquely qualified for NBAF because of its location and because it has the right kind of scientific assets and expertise in place to be applied immediately. Kansas has long-standing expertise in animal health research and veterinary sciences. Specifically, Kansas State University has nationally recognized expertise in zoonotic diseases, infectious diseases and livestock medicine. In addition, Kansas State University is home to the Biosecurity Research Institute — a biosafety level-3 and biosafety level-3 Agriculture laboratory — and the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center. NBAF research is being conducted at the Biosecurity Research Institute while NBAF is being built. The proximity to the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor also is a distinctive advantage. The Corridor, anchored by Manhattan, Kansas, and Columbia, Missouri, is home to more than 300 animal health companies, representing the largest concentration in the world. For more information about the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, visit kcanimalhealth.thinkkc.com/about.
**What are some of the economic benefits?**
This is an opportunity for a state that values agriculture and bio/agrosecurity. NBAF will create jobs, stimulate the state’s innovation economy and heighten Kansas’ position as a global food systems and bioscience leader. The $1.25 billion NBAF will create many construction jobs with up to 1,000 workers on site during peak construction activity. About 400 permanent jobs will be created at the lab. It will generate an estimated economic impact of $3.5 billion in its first 20 years and create a magnet for private biotechnology companies, professionals and support infrastructure. It also will result in collaborative opportunities for existing universities and research institutions and will help attract more top-flight researchers to the area.

**Where is the site location?**
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security selected a site on the campus of Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS. The site provides land acquisition potential; highway access; environmental compatibility; adequate utility infrastructure; an available local work force for skilled labor and academic research; and proximity to agricultural, academic, medical and bioscience resources.

**Why Manhattan?**
Manhattan is home to Kansas State University — long recognized for its expertise in zoonotic, emerging and reemerging infectious diseases and livestock medicine. The university’s National Agricultural Biosecurity Center and Biosecurity Research Institute — the nation’s most modern biosafety level-3 agricultural facility of its kind — demonstrate that state and local communities understand the significance of this type of research and can build a large-scale federal biocontainment facility.

**Are there safety and security issues?**
NBAF is designed to protect our nation, and the safety and security of the site itself, as well as the surrounding community, will be of paramount importance. NBAF will contain a biosafety level-4 laboratory, which will be completely self-contained and isolated from all other areas of the facility. Six existing biosafety level-4 facilities are in operation, five of which are located in large metro areas. The facility will have a specially designed air-handling system that will prevent the release of any hazardous materials out of the research space. All waste materials will be sterilized, heat treated and/or decontaminated with disposal strictly regulated. Employees will be strictly supervised by experts in foreign animal and zoonotic diseases.
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

*Why does the current facility need to be replaced?*

The facility at Plum Island is more than 60 years old and is too small to meet America’s increasing research needs. In addition to lack of space, Plum Island does not have biosafety level-4 capabilities to be able to conduct research on the latest emerging zoonotic diseases.

*If Manhattan already has the Biosecurity Research Institute, why do we need NBAF?*

NBAF and the BRI will be complementary facilities. The BRI is a 113,000 square-foot facility designed for research on pathogens that threaten the nation’s animal and plant-based agricultural systems. It is the only research facility to integrate plant pathology, food safety, entomology, veterinary medicine and molecular biology. As a biosafety level-4 facility, NBAF will take the research of the BRI a step further. It will be a livestock-capable laboratory that will work on developing countermeasures for emerging zoonotic and animal diseases.

*What are zoonotic diseases?*

Zoonotic diseases are diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans. Examples are rabies, tuberculosis and Lyme disease.

*Who will own the laboratory?*

The federal government will own the facility. NBAF will support the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.