

National Security Lab at KU

Making discoveries, growing the economy

The University of Kansas is building a National Security Laboratory that will enable KU scientists to conduct research for the Department of Defense and other U.S. government agencies.

The NSL will position KU researchers to enhance their pursuit of federal contracts in areas such as engineering, computer science, and cyber-security in a way that expands KU's research portfolio and helps attract and retain top scholars.

Additionally, the lab's location in the Bioscience & Technology Business Center will encourage collaboration with the BTBC's 42 companies and attract others to the region. The economic impact of the NSL will be realized through job creation, technology transfer, research publications, and the attraction of private industry partners. By 2021, the number of full-time employees derived from these activities is expected to be 30-40 with \$11-\$12 million in payroll.

The lab is slated to be completed in spring 2018.

Opportunity

Many KU faculty members have expertise in research areas and technologies critical to our nation's defense, but without the right lab, they cannot pursue projects in the national interest. This lab addresses that need.

Additionally, while federal funding for the NIH and NSF continues to be flat, funding for the Department of Defense is growing. It makes good sense for KU to pursue defense-related projects.

KU currently does about \$1 million per year in this type of research. This new facility has the potential to grow that to \$20 million in three years. The typical return-on-investment for these types of research projects is 5-to-1.

Research Areas

The lab will be capable of housing sensitive and export control research. Likely research areas include radar, remote sensing, math, unmanned aerial vehicles, signal processing, and sensors.

Specs

The 7,000 square-foot lab will be located in the basement of the BTBC's northeast wing. It will have dry lab space only.

The long-term goal is to have the facility federally designated as a University Affiliated Research Center. There are currently 13 UARCs nationally.

Funding Model

The facility will cost \$4 million, which will be paid for by the BTBC through a 20-year loan from the KU Center for Research, Inc. The BTBC will collect rent from KU investigators who use the lab, while KUCR will receive the standard off-campus 26 percent overhead (F&A) rate for each project.

More information: Office of Public Affairs, Joe Monaco, (785) 864-7100, jmonaco@ku.edu



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Active KU startup companies

\$238.8M

Annual externally funded research at KU

127

Active license agreements for commercial use of KU technology

20+

Companies that have created locations in Kansas to collaborate with KU since 2010

42

Companies in the Bioscience & Technology Business Center's three facilities

5-to-1

Typical return-on-investment for defense research projects

13

Federally designated University Affiliated Research Centers in the nation