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## MSU beam facility expected to bring \$1 billion in economic activity

By Dustin Walsh

Some researchers look to the stars for the future of science. But in East Lansing, they are looking down. Way down — 40 feet under the intersection of Bogue Street and Shaw Lane — on **Michigan State University's** campus in East Lansing.

That's where to find MSU's **National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory** and the future home of the \$550 million **Facility for Rare Isotope Beams** — which will create rare isotopes, short-lived nuclei naturally created by stars, for nuclear physics and medical applications. The facility, which will be 20 times more powerful than the cyclotron, will be built next to and connected with the existing cyclotron, leveraging \$200 million of the investment.

MSU won the **U.S. Department of Energy** proposal over the **University of Chicago's Argonne National Laboratory** last December.

According to a projected economic impact study completed by the East Lansing-based **Anderson Economic Group L.L.C.**, FRIB will generate \$1 billion in economic activity over its initial decade of operation.

"At a time when people are questioning the state's economy," said Lou Anna Simon, MSU president, who confirms the study's data is still accurate, "it (FRIB) signals that Michigan can play in the big leagues of science."

The project is under conceptual design until 2012. Thomas Glasmacher, FRIB project manager, said the facility has an early estimated completion date in 2017. The DOE is expected to provide up to \$1 billion in funding for the project, or \$50 million annually for 20 years after its completion.

The NSCL has a staff of 350, with another 150 students. Glasmacher said the new facility will require an additional 50 employees.

The project's four-year design phase is expected to create 82 full-time jobs. Construction of FRIB is expected to create 791 single-year duration construction jobs.

The economic study indicates Michigan would collect \$187 million in new tax revenue from construction and operation of FRIB over 20 years. Tim Daman, president and CEO of the **Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce**, said the area wants to market and create regional growth around FRIB similar to the **Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility** in Newport News, Va.

"There are other successful models out there," he said. "We're developing strategies on how to capitalize on that."



A rendering shows the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, including underground sections.

Photo credit: Courtesy of Michigan State University