

## Your New Applied Sciences Laboratory – Start to Finish, an Example of CH2M HILL Spirit

Having supported a myriad of CH2M HILL's engineering and consulting projects as far back as 1970, the Applied Sciences Laboratory (ASL) has outgrown its second laboratory facility. The first was located in a converted four-car carport (one space for each founding father) at the CH2M office (and, at the time, corporate headquarters) in Corvallis, Oregon. The current director of ASL, Mark Boedigheimer reflects, "Those were much simpler times. During an EPA study of seafood processing waste, managed by an aspiring project manager by the name of Ralph Peterson, we outfitted a nearby furnace room with BOD incubators."



*New Home of ASL in Corvallis, Oregon (just a portion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor!)*

From this modest beginning the laboratory was then "officially" expanded in 1983 when a new Corvallis corporate headquarters and regional office were built. The lab's initial footprint in the new office was 2,000 square feet. "At that time we thought the new laboratory would be more than we'd ever need," says Boedigheimer. Not so. Between 1983 and today the lab has undergone five expansions to its present footprint of ~12,000 cubic feet. As part of one of these expansions, the 1991 move of corporate headquarters to Denver, especially the relocation of Corporate's mainframe VAX computer system (with large reel-to-reel tapes) and accounting offices, opened up space that was a natural fit for ASL's most sensitive analytical instruments, such as GC/MS, ICP, and ICP/DRC/MS (for those of you who enjoy scientific acronyms). But once again, by 2008 ASL had outgrown its facility. Enter Cliff Thompson, Southeastern Regional Manager, now retired but on call for special assignments. Cliff was assigned the task of carrying out an independent assessment of ASL's value proposition within CH2M HILL. In Cliff's words, "Too few people hear about the value added and very significant contributions this lab is making to projects around the world. It is an undeniable truth that ASL is as relevant to the CH2M HILL business model today as it was when it was founded by the firm in 1970."

In late 2008, CH2M HILL's executive management team approved relocation and expansion of the laboratory. A somewhat fortuitous event in Corvallis, the downsizing of Hewlett Packard's (HP's) facility in Corvallis, made the relocation and expansion of ASL a favorable financial proposition. CH2M HILL's Corporate Real Estate group was able to negotiate a lab space lease at HP that resulted in no added cost of operations, even with tenant improvements included. The design and specifications of tenant improvements for the new lab were performed inhouse by architects and engineers in our Industrial and Advanced Technology (IAT) Business Group. Cost estimating, bid package preparation, bidding, bid award, and construction contracting were handled internally by Lee Amlicke (estimator) and Sonia Jensen (contracts administrator).



*Construction Manager Joe Jurosky/CVO, Emerick Project Manager Mike Williams, and Emerick Project Superintendant Joe Aljets (left to right) review construction plans.*

Construction on the new ASL laboratory began in earnest in January of this year. Emerick Construction Company (Portland, Oregon) was awarded the construction contract. Joe Jurosky is the construction manager. As stated by Steve Gelman, ISBG President and corporate sponsor for the laboratory, "This lab relocation and expansion would most likely not have happened in a timely fashion had it not been for the resolve of Mark Boedigheimer and his lab team to make it so." Mark points to the key contributions of all the internal parties involved: Corporate executive management, Corporate Real Estate group, IAT designers, estimators, contract administrators, the Facilities

Group, and ASL staff. In his words, "Given that the lease on the current lab expires in September of this year, suffice to say we would not be very well off had it not been for the internal resources we were able to draw upon and their outstanding contributions - this is an across the board internal success story."

ASL plans to commission the new laboratory around September of this year. As was the case with each previous expansion of the lab, the new lab digs will undoubtedly be a well-spring for future contributions from ASL.