

## NORTH CAROLINA CONSORTIUM FOR THE NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY

### BACKGROUND

On January 19, 2006, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) called for “expressions of interest” to site a new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF). The NBAF will be a diagnostic and health research facility housing scientists from the departments of Agriculture, Homeland Security, plus other federal agencies, performing unclassified research aimed at enhancing the nation’s ability to address human pathogens, foreign animal diseases, and threats to our food supply. Selection for a minimum 30 acre site will be based on a region providing:

- (1) *Vibrant science community in human/veterinary medicine, public health, agriculture; close to biotech private sector;*
- (2) *Technical workforce and local labor force availability and training;*
- (3) *Proximity to infrastructure such as highways, international airports, utilities, and security; and*
- (4) *Community acceptance (local and state government, academia, industry, agricultural stakeholders).*

North Carolina’s consortium of over 30 entities (universities, government, agricultural stakeholders, non profit organizations and private sector) proposed locating the NBAF on state-owned land in southwest Granville County.

### TIMELINE *(Items in italics indicate expected future events)*

Jan 06 - Federal Register announcement on NBAF	May 07- Site Selection Team and other federal visits
Feb 06 - NC Dept Commerce canvassed Charlotte-Triad-Triangle research corridor for interested areas	Jul 07- DHS downselect to 5 sites; start of 12-15 mo Environmental Impact Study
Mar 06 - NCC NBAF Expression of Interest submitted	Sep 07 - Public Scoping Meeting, Creedmoor, NC
Aug 06 - DHS announces first cut from 29 to 18 sites	<i>Spring 08 - Draft EIS report; request public comments</i>
Oct 06 - NCC industry event at NC Biotech Center; NC Consortium website launched	<i>Fall 08 - Final EIS report; request public comments</i>
Dec 06 - DHS requests Phase 2 info from all consortia	<i>Late 08- Announcement of winning site</i>
	<i>'09- 12- Site preparation and construction period</i>
	<i>'13- 14- NBAF expected to be operational</i>

In March '06, DHS received 29 proposals from across the USA. In August '06, 14 consortia, including ours, advanced into a second phase of the process. That winter all consortia were asked for further information, and that spring they hosted site visits from federal teams. On 11 July '07 we, plus four other consortia (GA, KS, MS, TX), were selected for further in-depth evaluation, including a 12-15 month national Environmental Impact Study (EIS). A federal public comment meeting was held on 18 Sep '07 in Creedmoor, near to the NC site. A final site selection decision is planned for late 2008, with construction to occur from 2009 through 2013.

### SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

NBAF will contain laboratories through Biosafety Levels 3 (BSL3) and 4 (BSL4). North Carolina currently houses several BSL3 labs at our universities, government facilities, and private companies. North Carolina is also the home to people and companies who are international leaders in biocontainment facility design, construction, and operation. The National Institutes of Health has been monitoring safety at federal BSL4 labs for over 20 years, and there have been no worker infections, community contaminations, or security breaches.

### ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- Construction budget: \$450 million.
- Construction jobs: 1,000 to 1,500 over 4 years.
- Employment: 250 to 350 researchers, technical support and operations specialists.
- Economic impact: \$1.7 billion in new revenue during first 20 years of a projected 50 year life span.
- Growth: Magnet for growth of related research in health, agriculture, and biotechnology industries.

### NORTH CAROLINA’S STRENGTHS

- Top universities with human/animal health, biomanufacturing, & emergency management expertise.
- Public/private sector experts in public health, agrosecurity, infectious disease, & vaccinology.
- A highly educated population & trained work force.
- Nationally ranked for attracting and nurturing knowledge economy organizations and companies.
- A major agriculture state; leader in swine & poultry.
- Over fifty-years of state investment in biotechnology, health sciences research, and biomanufacturing.
- Experienced in biocontainment: Operates dozens of BSL3 facilities; leader in lab design/operation.
- Understands federal partners: NIEHS, EPA, Army Research Office, USDA / APHIS, National Guard.
- Nationally recognized for integrating animal & public health with emergency management.
- One of the top-ranked states for its high quality of life and its simultaneous low cost of living.
- A strong track-record for designing and building large and complex projects on time and under budget.