LIMS construction update – video transcript 1/5/12

Narrator:

Despite some weather related delays in December, construction of the $94 million La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science, also known as LIMS, is on track. The exterior is nearing completion and inside is in various degrees of construction and is likely to be completed by the end of 2012.

A significant investment by La Trobe and the Federal Government, the facility will be a six-story building with 34 research and support labs set over 15,000 square meters of floor space. The new building will significantly boost Australia’s capacity for world-class research, ranging from medical science to agricultural and plant bio-security.

Prof. Brian McGaw:

There are enormous challenges facing us in research these days, in particular cancer, neurodegenerative diseases, anti-biotic resistance, these are such important areas of research for us and areas which LIMS has a justifiable reputation as being one of the best laboratories in the world.

Narrator:

The building has been designed with research; undergraduate teaching and community out-reach in mind.

Prof. Brian McGaw:

Its absolutely crucial we attract the best students from schools in the area to come and join us here to study at an undergraduate and post-graduate level. And this isn’t just for the research activities we have here at La Trobe University, but also perhaps even more importantly for the prosperity of Victoria and Australia in the future.

Narrator:

LIMS will work with Agribio, The Centre for Agribio Science to address major world problems in plant and animal health as well as tackling human related diseases.

The modern exterior of LIMS certainly catches your eye and will be the centre of the northern biosciences precinct.

Aaron Driessen – Project Manager:

The building has been designed by Lyons Architects who actually won an award to design the building. Lyons Architects have a natural adversity to right angles, so to combine their intent with the structural integrity of the building has been a really difficult project so we’ve had a lot of time spent with workshops, with both our consultant team and our subcontractors to make sure we can make the architectural intent work from a structural point of view.

Narrator:

The new LIMS building will see a 30% increase in staff and has already secured some high level scientists who will call LIMS home.

Prof. Nick Hoogenraad:

We have actually kept our eyes open and we’ve recruited same really first-class, world-class people such as Richard Simpson who came from the Ludwig Institute in Melbourne and he has brought his group, they’re world-class proteomics experts for example, and there’re are a number of LIMS fellows who have joined us in recent times. Somebody who’s about to join us who works on influenza virus and other human viruses for example, so we keep picking up people at very senior levels.

Narrator:

The facility is intended to vertically integrate the education process and enhance research collaboration. With undergraduate teaching labs on the bottom levels and research labs on the top three floors.

Bevan Marshall – PhD student:

At the moment the three departments that will be going in there, that being the genetics, the biochemistry and the chemistry department are all sort of segregated so I feel that we lose a lot of contact from that and it really makes expanding beyond our field difficult. But with the new building and new facility we’ll be all in the one place, we’ll see each other on a regular basis, we’re all having lunch together and talking about new ideas, it just helps to enhance our own research and the research of other people.

Narrator:

As the University eagerly awaits the early 2013 grand opening of LIMS, one thing is for sure, the future of science and research at La Trobe is bright.

Prof. Nick Hoogenraad:

Even now with the building going up there are a lot of people I meet in the University who say, isn’t it looking great Nick, and it is, it’s a bright building that has a big smile on its face really if you like to put it that way.

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