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Department of Energy's Joint BioEnergy Institute Gets New Home in Emeryville:

EmeryStation East New Home of Bioenergy Research Center

The Joint BioEnergy Institute (JBEI), a \$125 million U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Bioenergy Research Center, has announced an agreement with Wareham Development to lease space at EmeryStation East, a new state-of-the-art laboratory building in Emeryville, CA.

JBEI is a partnership led by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) whose mission is to speed the development of renewable biofuels – liquid fuels derived from the solar energy stored in plant biomass. JBEI's other partners are Sandia National Laboratories, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the University of California campuses of Berkeley and Davis, and the Carnegie Institution.

"High quality laboratory space is essential for first-class research and the lease of EmeryStation East will enable JBEI researchers to make renewable biofuels a reality and help establish the Bay Area as the hub of renewable biofuels development," said Jay Keasling, Director of Berkeley Lab's Physical Biosciences Division and a UC Berkeley Professor of Chemical Engineering, who serves as JBEI's Chief Executive Officer.

"For the JBEI partnership, EmeryStation East was the the best fit programmatically and locationwise," Keasling added.

Raymond Orbach, DOE's Under Secretary for Science, whose Office of Science's Biological and Environmental Research Genomics:GTL research program is funding JBEI and two other Bioenergy Research Centers, sent a congratulatory message to Keasling and the Berkeley Lab leadership.

"We have very high hopes for JBEI in our quest for major scientific breakthroughs needed to make biofuels a commercially viable alternative to imported oil and other fossil fuels," Orbach said. "It is our hope that this modern laboratory space in EmeryStation East, located in the heart of Biotech Country in San Francisco's East Bay, will be a crucible for transformational discovery." Wareham Development is a San Rafael-based firm that since its inception in 1977 has established itself as one of the premier developers of laboratory space for bio, nano and physical sciences R&D. EmeryStation East is a 245,000 square foot component of Wareham's 11 acre EmeryStation campus. Designed by SmithGroup, an American Institute of Architect award-winning lab specialist, it rises four stories over two parking levels and is organized around a 20,000 square foot lushly landscaped central plaza with gardens and sculpture, and a dynamic lobby boasting a Nobel Wall of Fame to pay homage to the Bay Area's unique contributions to science.

"Wareham Development is delighted to welcome JBEI to EmeryStation East," said Rich Robbins, president of Wareham Development. "We built this extraordinary building for Bay Area scientists and as prototypical of the facilities needed in the East Bay Biotech Corridor. As our hope was to attract Nobel or noble research to this facility; we could not feel more privileged to have the opportunity to house this extraordinary and urgent research that JBEI is entrusted and engaged in on behalf of aiding the world's citizens at this crucial time in our planet's history."

Research has shown that harnessing even a tiny fraction of the total solar energy available each year could meet most if not all of the nation's annual transportation energy needs without contributing carbon emissions that contribute to global warming. Although scientific studies have consistently ranked biofuels among the top candidates for accomplishing this goal, the commercial-scale production of clean, efficient, carbon-neutral and cost-effective biofuels will require technology-transforming scientific breakthroughs.

JBEI researchers intend to meet this challenge through the conversion of lignocellulosic biomass into biofuels. Lignocellulose, the most abundant organic material on the planet, is a mix of complex sugars and lignin that gives strength and structure to plant cell walls. By extracting simple fermentable sugars from lignocellulose and producing biofuels from them, the potential of the most energy-efficient and environmentally benign fuel crops can be realized.

The lease with Wareham Development is for a 5-year term with options to renew for two additional 5-year terms. JBEI will occupy the fourth (top) floor of EmeryStation East, a space of approximately 65,000 square feet. The interior build-out of the JBEI space is being designed by the San Francisco architectural

firm DGA, with mechanical and electrical and plumbing being handled by the engineering firm Flack and Kurtz, also of San Francisco.

Said Douglas Lockhart, a senior operations manager with Berkeley Lab's Facilities Division, who is serving as project director for tenant improvement, "We've developed a phasing plan so that JBEI can take partial occupancy of the EmeryStation East space in March, and full occupancy in May."

Berkeley Lab is a U.S. Department of Energy national laboratory located in Berkeley, California. It conducts unclassified scientific research and is managed by the University of California. Visit our Website at www.lbl.gov/

Bill Nork, senior vice president and manager of the Emeryville office; Jonathan Tomasco, vice president in the Emeryville office and Randy Scott, executive vice president in the Palo Alto office represent Wareham's EmeryStation East. Senior Vice President Breck Lutz in C&C's Walnut Creek office represented JBEI in the transaction.

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Online resources:

JBEI, visit the Website at <http://jbei.lbl.gov/>

Genomics: GTL program of DOE's Office of Science
<http://genomicsgtl.energy.gov/>

Wareham Development <http://www.warehamproperties.com/index.htm>

EmeryStation East
http://www.warehamproperties.com/properties/life_science/5885_hollis.htm