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LCS Breaks Ground for ExxonMobil

LCS broke ground for ExxonMobil's new quality assurance laboratory in Torrance, California. After an extensive planning and design process, a groundbreaking event was held on April 29, 2009 at ExxonMobil's Torrance Refinery complex.

The groundbreaking was the culmination of an effort that began on October 16, 2008, when LCS was officially notified that they had been selected by ExxonMobil to serve as design-builder for the laboratory project. As design-builder, LCS worked with the Architectural and Engineering team, including Tomko Woll Group Architects and key laboratory users to design and develop the project. "While we believed LCS represented the best solution for the project, it is gratifying to have that belief validated by a company of ExxonMobil's stature," said Stephen Metzger, vice president of construction for LCS.

With the early morning arrival of heavy equipment on April 30, excavation began for the 10,000 square foot single story facility. The new facility will consist of a quality assurance lab that will allow testing of the refinery's various petroleum products before they are distributed into the marketplace.

The new facility will follow the latest standards for laboratories by using energy efficient lighting, electrical, and mechanical design. Also, the lab will incorporate design features that will enable the efficient use of work space and allow for a hands-free work environment. The project is expected to be complete in 2010.

This project presents special design challenges with a combination of stringent industrial standards and the latest commercial techniques. However, the biggest concern throughout this project will be safety. ExxonMobil has strict safety protocols at all its facilities, particularly refineries. "LCS shares ExxonMobil's goal that 'nobody gets hurt' and we will follow our own safety guidelines throughout the project," said Bob Wiggins, senior project manager for LCS.

For LCS, safety is at the forefront of every project. LCS works to maintain a high level of safety awareness by creating an atmosphere where safety always comes first. Being safe is a routine of carefully planned out days which includes the inspection of work equipment, the use personal protective equipment such as gloves and eye protection, neat and clean work spaces, and awareness for potential hazards throughout each day.

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Project Utilizes Design Build

The LCS team of general contractors and construction managers is dedicated to the planning, design, construction, and facility support of laboratories and technical facilities. LCS works with its clients during the design and build phases of both new construction and renovations to ensure practical, cost-effective solutions are achieved and facility needs are met. Design-build is often times the preferred method for designing and constructing technical facilities. The complexities of these jobs benefit from a team approach throughout the design phase. Constant value engineering and project cost development are a continuous part of the design-build process. The LCS team collaborated with ExxonMobil and the architects at Tomko Woll to ensure this project was cost effective and provided the best solutions for every aspect of the project.

LCS has completed more than 3,000 laboratories and technical facilities nationwide. LCS is looking forward to completing the new lab and is proud to participate in ExxonMobil's future growth.