

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Merrick Awarded New Commissioning Contracts

Aurora, CO – April 14, 2010 – Merrick & Company ([Merrick Life Sciences](#)) has been awarded new commissioning contracts for several biocontainment laboratories in the U.S. The firm is known in the life sciences research and development field for high containment laboratory planning, design, and commissioning and these contracts reflect the firm's continued growth in the industry.

Merrick has been selected to provide commissioning services for the **U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense** (USAMRICD). The facility, located at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, is the nation's leading science and technology laboratory in medical chemical countermeasures research and development. The facility manages a diversified portfolio of medical chemical warfare agent research projects for the U.S. Department of Defense and other Federal agencies.

Merrick has been selected as part of a specialized team to provide commissioning services for the new \$550 million **National Bio-Agro Defense Facility** (NBAF) to be located in Manhattan, Kansas. This new facility will replace the existing U.S. Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Department of Agriculture research facility currently located on Plum Island, New York.

Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC), part of the Department of Homeland Security's Directorate for Science and Technology, is a U.S. Federal research facility focused on the study of animal diseases. Merrick has been selected to provide commissioning services for the center. The facility has been in operation since the Spanish-American War, when it was established as a military outpost. In 1954, the facility was converted to the mission of animal disease research. Recently, the Department of Homeland Security determined that a replacement facility was needed and a new facility is now under design and will be located in Manhattan, Kansas, as mentioned above. Until the new facility is completed and the current Plum Island facility is closed in seven years, the existing systems are being re-evaluated and re-commissioned to ensure safety for ongoing research.

What is Commissioning?

Commissioning, or Cx as the activities are known in the industry, is an evaluative process for ensuring new building systems are designed, installed, tested, operated, and maintained in accordance with the design intent for the facility. The process is intended to provide safety, on-time start-up, lower first costs, reduced long-term operating costs, superior system reliability, and ease of maintenance during operations.

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Merrick & Company *(continued)*

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Merrick & Company, a \$100 million engineering, architecture, design-build, surveying, and geospatial solutions firm, serves domestic and international clients in the life sciences, security, energy, and infrastructure markets. With a focus on life sciences research laboratories, high containment laboratories, and other research facilities, the firm's most recent work includes commissioning services for the \$500 million U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) replacement project to be located at Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland. The work is being completed under a contract with Manhattan/Torcon, the construction manager on the project. USAMRIID is the lead medical research laboratory for the U.S. Biological Defense Research program. Its mission is to conduct basic and applied research on biological threats resulting in medical solutions to protect military service members. It is the only laboratory in the U.S. Department of Defense's system that is equipped to safely study highly hazardous infectious agents requiring maximum containment at biosafety level (BSL) 4. Merrick is also providing commissioning services for a project at Washington State University and has completed additional Cx projects at the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Missouri, and other institutions.

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