

Picatinny to build new propellant facility

The Army will build a \$17.7 million high energy propellant formulation facility here. The design and construction contract recently was awarded to a joint venture between Hirani and MES, Inc., of Brooklyn, N.Y. by the New York District Army Corps of Engineers.

“It’s the biggest project in dollar amount and magnitude awarded to small businesses (8a),” said Vinod Kapoor, a facilities engineer in the Directorate of Public Works. “The facility will help develop precise pilot scale formulations of propellants, propelling charges, igniters and new manufacturing technologies,” he explained.

It will be located near the eastern boundary of the installation near Picatinny’s Mt. Hope entrance. Construction will occur in two phases.

Phase 1, which will cost \$10.2 million, calls for the demolition of five older buildings and construction of a 31,000 sq. ft. energetic building, 1,400 sq. ft. administration building, three in-process magazines and one bulk storage magazine.

Phase 2, a \$7.5 million effort, will demolish 13 additional buildings, construct seven new ones and renovate three others.

The buildings will contain propellant and igniter operational bays with reinforced concrete walls and a sophisticated electro-mechanical control room to monitor and control the experimental equipment.

Actual design of the project began Oct. 23. It will take about one year for the design process and one and one half years for construction. Completion is scheduled for fiscal year 2006.