

NEWS from

Information Services

ST. CLOUD STATE COLLEGE

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ST. CLOUD, Minn., Sept.--Construction is scheduled to begin in early October on a new science and mathematics building at St. Cloud State College, following Thursday's (Sept. 2) announcement in St. Paul of the apparent low bidders.

Bids totaling \$5,678,343 are being reviewed by the State Commissioner of Administration and the building's architects, Bissell, Belair and Green of Minneapolis.

Gunnar I. Johnson and Son of Minneapolis is the apparent low bidder for general construction with a bid of \$2,926,000. Other apparent low bidders are: mechanical contractor--Gorhams' Construction of Mora, \$728,000; electrical contractor--Cold Spring (Minn.) Electric, \$697,443; ventilation and temperature control--McDowall Company of St. Cloud, \$428,900; and science equipment--Hauenstein and Burmeister of Minneapolis, \$898,000.

The four-story building should be completed by the end of 1972, according to Dr. Donald Payne, director of campus planning. It will be located on the block bordered by 1st and 2nd Ave. S. and 8th and 9th St. S.

The 1971 Legislature has allotted \$6,615,000 for completing and equipping the new building, Payne said. Rather than replace Brown Hall, the current math and science building, the new building will supplement it. All science and math classes will be in these two buildings.

Constructed with concrete columns and brick veneer, the building will have a "moat" around it so that the ground floor, below normal earth level, will have windows. Stairwells enclosed but on the outside of the building walls will provide post tension for the building and will save about \$70,000 in construction cost, Payne said.

The air-conditioned building will include a large planetarium, an auditorium and a museum on the ground floor, a greenhouse and many classrooms, laboratories and faculty offices. The top floor will have an observatory with a slide-off roof and ten permanent telescopes.

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Construction bids--p. 2

Additional space for graduate and undergraduate research will come with the new facility. Plans call for such additions as aquarium workrooms, environmentally-controlled growth rooms for plant study, a high energy Van de Graaff linear accelerator--or atom smasher--for nuclear research, a fully-equipped computer calculator room and a mathematics curriculum room.

Payne said that if money is available after the building is completed an enclosed walkway connecting Brown Hall and the new building may be built across 8th St. S. at the upper level. If building costs run too high, some of the planned features may be eliminated, he added.

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