High-tech MSU center called state's largest project

It's a $730 million investment billed as Michigan's largest construction project, and its economic impact will be discussed at Tuesday's Good Morning Livingston breakfast.

The Facility for Rare Isotope Beams — FRIB for short — is a nuclear science research facility under construction at Michigan State University.

"This is a point of pride for all of Michigan and, of course, it's being built in an adjoining county," Howell Area Chamber of Commerce President Pat Convery said.

"There will be a tremendous financial impact, and our members, certainly, want to learn more about it," she added.

The chamber sponsors the breakfast series.

With construction estimated to continue through 2022, the project is expected to create 5,000 construction jobs as well as 400 permanent jobs and also bring more than 800 research scientists to Michigan to conduct their studies.

Isotopes are defined as two or more atoms with similar chemical properties but different physical properties.

Isotope technology is used in everything from cancer treatment to NASA satellites to smoke detectors.

The FRIB center will specialize in the study of rare isotopes not normally found in nature.

Its overall economic impact has been estimated at $1 billion.

Good Morning Livingston meets 7:30-9 a.m. at the Johnson Center on the campus of Cleary University, 3750 Cleary Drive in Genoa Township.

Admission, including breakfast, is $20 for chamber members in advance, $25 at the door. Nonmember admission is $30.

To make a reservation, call the chamber at 517-546-3920 or send an e-mail to chamber@howell.org.

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