EAST LANSING, MI (WLNS) – It’s called the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, but everyone calls it the F-RIB.

It’s the cutting edge research facility that’s being built at Michigan State University and its future could unlock breakthroughs in medicine, national security and even our understanding of the universe.

6 News Alexis Rosado spent the day getting an exclusive tour and takes us inside for a closer look.

Metal, concrete, and over a half a billion dollars are invested into MSU’s new Facility for Rare Isotope Beams.

One hundred fifty – 250 workers are working six days a week.

“You only have one opportunity to get this right you’re not going to go back and redo it,” said Brad Bull, director, F-RIB Conventional Facilities Infrastructure.

Bull says F-RIB is a $730 million building project, largely funded by the government.
“The government sponsors these social programs it will be a national users facility which means users from all over the country and in fact all over the world from 55 countries will come here and use the facility.”

The facility is over 220 thousand square feet, allowing space for isotope beams to travel.

Beams travels like the shape of a paperclip, going 570 feet straight, then wrapping along the walls.

“It comes all the way back along this wall and turns here and goes right at its target.”

The isotope beams will travel from the F-RIB facility to an already existing building.

The isotopes studied here travel faster than half the speed of light, and the goal of this project is to further the basic understanding of isotopes and hopefully discover new ones.

It’s still going to be a while until things are up and running in the F-Rib facility, which is set to open in 2022.