JCU's science project

Lend Lease picked for $85m wing

TONY RAGGATT

PROPERTY giant Lend Lease has won the coveted contract to build the biggest project to be undertaken on James Cook University's Townsville campus.

The five-level $85 million building, called The Science Place, is being developed in the university's Science and Engineering Precinct at Douglas.

Lend Lease won a tender for the $64 million construction contract and will sign the agreement at the campus today.

Deputy vice-chancellor services and resources Tricia Brand said The Science Place was the biggest project undertaken on the Townsville campus and would revolutionise science teaching in the North.

“The aim of the building is to promote the sciences and encourage interest in science-based careers in the wider community, as well as co-locate the JCU science community on the Townsville campus,” Ms Brand said.

General manager of Lend Lease’s construction business in Queensland and Northern Territory, Tony Orazio, said his team was excited to be working with one of the world’s leading institutions that focuses on the tropics.

“Lend Lease has a proud history in Townsville, having completed the Australian Institute of Marine Science facility, defence projects, Willows Gardens and Riverside Gardens residential developments, the Jezzine Barracks redevelopment, as well as the Vantassel to Cluden Bruce Highway upgrade,” Mr Orazio said.

The Science Place will combine state-of-the-art laboratories and technology-enabled active learning spaces with the capacity to link through to regional and remote, national and international locations.

The five-level, 12,000sq m facility will accommodate projected growth in student and staff numbers in chemistry, biology and biochemistry over the next decade.

The CSIRO is also contributing to the development. Construction is expected to be completed by December 2016.
HI-TECH: An artist's impression of The Science Place at JCU.