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The Dirt: Emerald Initiative, McKinstry break ground on manufacturing facility on the West Plains

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Seattle-based Emerald Initiative and McKinstry recently broke ground on a fabrication and manufacturing facility on the West Plains.

The two companies are building the 68,000-square-foot fabrication facility on 5 acres at 9470 W. 21st Ave. in Airway Heights.

The facility, when complete, will produce prefabricated sheet metal, piping, and plumbing materials and systems by union professionals, according to a company release. It also will house an Overcast Innovations manufacturing plant. Overcast Innovations is a Seattle-based startup that makes ceiling appliances that are shipped to construction sites.

“This new shop has been years in the making,” Allie Teplicky, principal at Emerald Initiative, said in a statement. “This space will not only allow McKinstry to increase productivity and capacity but is specifically designed to address the climate, affordability, and equity crises that we are working to eliminate in the built environment.”

The facility also will include flexible space for multitrade assemblies, a staging area, break room that doubles as a training room, and a separate area leased by Overcast Innovations to manufacture Cloud systems. The facility will include electric vehicle infrastructure for the company’s fleet vehicles, according to the company.

McKinstry indicated the facility allows it to triple its current prefabrication capabilities. ➤

Seattle-based McKinstry, which has an office in Spokane, is a design and build firm specializing in consulting, construction, energy and facility services. McKinstry partnered with Avista Corp., Kattera and Eastern Washington University to develop the Catalyst Building in the University District. The Catalyst Building is one of the largest zero-energy buildings in the country.

McKinstry’s current fabrication services span four fully operating prefabrication facilities totaling about 200,000 square feet in the Pacific Northwest.

Emerald Initiative develops, owns and operates commercial real estate and alternative energy infrastructure.

The facility is slated to be operational in late 2023, according to the company release.

Mercer International to expand mass timber facility

Mercer International Inc. is planning an expansion to its cross-laminated timber production facility in Spokane Valley.