Johnson Controls, U.S. Army announce first contract following President Obama's energy efficiency directives

Johnson Controls and the U.S. Army today announced a federal contract for a solar energy installation and other energy efficiency improvements at Fort Bliss. The nearly $16 million project, executed through the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Ala., is expected to save the post $39 million in energy costs over the next 24 years.

Fort Bliss is the first to respond to President Barack Obama's directive calling on federal agencies to make $2 billion worth of energy efficiency upgrades over the next two years using Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC). This is also the first Army project to take advantage of a federal renewable energy tax credit, which totaled $1.87 million. The project also supports the Army's renewable energy goals.

Under the agreement, energy efficiency improvements will be installed at Fort Bliss with no up-front costs to the government. The cost of the improvements will be paid for over time with energy costs saved on utility bills. Johnson Controls will guarantee the energy savings.

"I hope this is the first of many of these types of projects under an ESPC," said Michael Norton, branch chief of Huntsville Center's Energy Division.

"The U.S. Army has truly embraced the recent directives calling for new energy efficiency measures," said Dave Myers, president, Building Efficiency, Johnson Controls. "Fort Bliss is a great example for other U.S. military installations by taking advantage of available financing methods to fund projects that more than pay for themselves through energy cost savings."

Under the Fort Bliss project, the Army will purchase the renewable energy produced by the 5,500 solar panels without owning or maintaining the equipment. In addition to the solar energy installation, the project will include new utility monitoring and control systems to manage energy at 120 buildings, a program to reduce electricity use during peak demand periods and other improvements to make Fort Bliss more energy efficient. Together, these measures are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing 1,280 vehicles from the road annually or planting 1,400 acres of pine forest each year.

"We hope to be energy efficient by 2015," said Jean Offutt, the Fort Bliss Garrison public affairs officer. "Anything being done to support that initiative is good news for us."

Since 2007, Johnson Controls and Fort Bliss have partnered on four contracts

totaling $35 million in energy conservation projects. Under the federal ESPC program, Johnson Controls has implemented more than 100 projects for various agencies, including the Army, Department of Energy, Air Force, Navy, General Services Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Justice Department and Department of the Interior.

Johnson Controls has implemented, or is working on, more than 2,500 performance contracting projects with guaranteed savings of $19 billion.

www.bliss.army.mil [1]

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