

Project Owner

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE
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Design Professional

The Sellers Group
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The Project

The Indoor Athletic Practice Facility project at the UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE consists of construction of a new 66,105 square foot pre-engineered metal building together with associated site work, utilities, services, etc., and all necessary appurtenances. The structure, including the alternatives requested in the bid documents, will house a new 120-yard indoor practice football field with a wing for basketball courts and drop down baseball cages. Nine prime bidders from Louisiana registered for the project and M.D. Descant, Inc of Bunkie, LA won with an overall low bid of \$3,806,700.00. A total of 179 interested parties reviewed the project on AEPlans including 46 general contractors and over 96 sub-contractors and suppliers from 18 States. Several plan rooms and reprographers participated through downloads of plans and specifications for printing and distribution.

"This will be the second such indoor facility in the State of Louisiana for dedicated non-competitive practice use. It's construction will allow greater community use of the current 8000 seat indoor practice facility which is in high demand for concerts, rodeos, motor cross, flower shows, and other hosted trade shows", explained Bill Crist, the University Physical Plant Director. The Cajun Dome, home of the Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® is a 12,800 seat, multi-purpose facility also regularly booked for various community events.

The Project Owner

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has an annual budget of \$40 to \$50 million for construction projects approved from University generated funds. Bill Crist graduated from UL Lafayette and returned to his Alma Mata sixteen years ago after twelve years as a professional Architect. The Physical Plant department manages over 250 buildings totaling more than 3.5 million square feet.

The University has posted several projects on AEPlans including the new computer science facility (<http://www.louisiana.edu/Advancement/PRNS/news/2006/419.shtml>), a vehicle-parking garage and an addition to the Marine Survival Training Center, a world-class facility used by international firms for offshore survival training. UL Lafayette is more than 100 years old with enrollment of 17,000 students from 53 states and possessions and from 93 foreign countries. 91% of the students are from the 40 parishes in LA.

The Design Professional

Established in 1992, The Sellers Group, A Professional Corporation of Lafayette, LA is an Architectural/Engineering firm with 4 licensed Architects, 1 Civil Engineer, 2 Architectural Interns, a Draftsman, Interior Designer, Construction Inspector and Office Manager on staff. State, Parish and City government projects account for 75% of the practice's projects, including several with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

The Benefits Derived from Use of AEPlans

Gene Sellers Jr. AIA, President of The Sellers Group, also a UL Lafayette graduate, was very pleased with the national exposure enjoyed through AEPlans. "The project got interested parties from several states pertaining to the metal building in this project. The competition was obvious and although a local dealer was low bid, the interest by material suppliers from all over the country made for better pricing", stated Mr. Sellers. The project architect, Lyle Savant, appreciated the ease of doing automatic addenda posting with instant notification to all participants. The AEPlans electronic system also eliminated administrative tasks associated with preparation of paper construction documents, and the controls needed for managing deposits and subsequent stamping and tracking for mailing addenda.

Bill Crist stated, "Competitive pricing is what is coming through the use of AEPlans. Although we have experienced rising costs for materials and labor since the 2005 hurricane season with Louisiana being hit hard by Katrina and Rita, free exposure through AEPlans is getting the most competitive bids."