Laboratory for the Structure of Matter
Philadelphia, PA

Architect
Burns Engineering
Philadelphia, PA

Owner
University of Pennsylvania

Major Components
Bioengineering Electrical and System Engineering

Material Science Engineering

Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics

Chemistry

Physics

Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

HBS Services
Project Management
Transition Planning
Move Management
Installation Supervision

Project Size
95,152 SF

Construction Budget
Confidential

Completion Date
January 2023

Project Information Detail

The Laboratory for Research on the Structure of Matter (LRSM) is the center for materials research at the University of Pennsylvania. Established in 1960 as one of the first interdisciplinary academic Materials Research Laboratories in the nation, the LRSM facilitates collaborations between faculty from different departments and schools, and it promotes links to partners in industry, government, academe, and society at large.

It hosts the MRSEC, which consists of three Interdisciplinary Research Groups (IRGs), continually evolving Seed projects, shared experimental facilities, and innovative education and outreach activities.

The HVAC system for the 95,152 SF building had reached the end of its useful life and the entire system required replacement, necessitating the removal, storage and recommissioning of over 25 laboratories across five floors.

As the laboratory relocation manager, HBS met with representatives from each laboratory to obtain a clear understanding of their research and identify areas that required special attention during the move. The lab relocation required 10 phases of construction.

HBS develop a detailed timeline and met with each lab manager to create a detailed plan across all 10 phases that supported equipment storage and removal, moving students to dry working spaces, and back within a 6-week timeline. In addition, HBS worked with Penn's Facilities Group to identify temporary space and coordinated research group desking assignments in open labs. HBS managed the selection of the mover by qualifying the bidders and making recommendations for selection.