The Katherine G. Johnson Computational Research Facility, or CRF, is a state-of-the-art facility that will enable innovative research and development supporting NASA’s air mobility and space exploration missions. It is the third building in NASA Langley Research Center’s 20-year revitalization plan.

The $23-million, 37,000-square-foot structure will consolidate four Langley data centers and more than 30 server rooms. The building will have energy-saving features that are expected to be 33-percent more efficient than if those features were not incorporated.

The facility advances Langley’s capabilities in modeling and simulation, big data, and analysis. Powerful computers like those in the CRF are capable of ever more complex analysis and simulation, in some cases replacing but also validating and complimenting the research done in NASA’s labs and wind tunnels.

‘Hidden Figures’ Connection

Katherine G. Johnson, after whom the building is named, was a “human computer” at Langley who calculated trajectories for America’s first space flights. The retired mathematician was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, in 2015. Her contributions and those of other NASA African-American human computers are chronicled in the 2016 movie “Hidden Figures,” based on the book of the same name by Margot Lee Shetterly.

Johnson worked at Langley from 1953 until she retired in 1986. For more about her, go to https://www.nasa.gov/content/katherine-johnson-biography.
The Norfolk District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers selected for the project, Turner Construction Co., and awarded the New York City-based company a $23-million construction contract in October 2014.


For more about NASA Langley, go to https://www.nasa.gov/langley