Ground has been broken at the NACA Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory for a $2,500,000 project to expand the laboratory's rocket research facilities.

Dr. Edward R. Sharp, director of the laboratory, said the program includes a new rocket laboratory operations building on the main grounds and a test facility located on government land adjacent to the south end of the reservation on Cedar Point Road.

The new operations building will include complete offices, workrooms and a control room for remote operation of rocket facilities. The control center will permit aeronautical research scientists to direct experiments in existing facilities as well as the new ones.

In the new testing installation will be an engine test cell, service area, high pressure propellant supply bays and an instrument terminal room in one building, plus exhaust and soundproofing equipment, steel treatment duct, fuel storage tanks and an electrical substation.

Dr. Sharp said the NACA aims to expand its work studies of high energy rocket fuels and other problems related to long-range rocket vehicles, to maintain this country's leadership in the field of rocket propulsion.

The project is set for completion about December, 1956. George Kinney, a member of the Lewis Laboratory staff, is project engineer.