Sandia National Laboratories

Overview

Sandia grew out of America's World War II effort to develop the first atomic bombs. Today, keeping the U.S. nuclear stockpile safe, secure and effective is a major part of Sandia's work as a multidisciplinary, national security, engineering laboratory. But Sandia's role has evolved to address the additional complex threats facing our country. Sandia carries out research and development in:





Nuclear Deterrence – Develops, integrates, secures, assesses and sustains the nuclear arsenal in concert with the U.S. Nuclear Security Enterprise.

National Security Programs – Supplies new capabilities to U.S. defense and national security communities.

Global Security – Develops systems to monitor emerging threats, protect nuclear assets and materials, and address nuclear emergency response and nonproliferation.

Deterrence, Science & Energy – Supports the resilience and security of the nation's energy systems, protects digital and physical critical infrastructure, and reduces U.S. vulnerability to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism.

Advanced Science & Technology – Conducts fundamental science to promote national security, economic competitiveness and improve quality of life. Research Foundations play an integral role in mission delivery.

Sandia's science, technology and engineering foundations enable our unique mission. The Laboratories' highly specialized research staff is at the forefront of innovation, collaborating with universities and companies and performing multidisciplinary science and engineering research programs with significant impact on U.S. security.

Exceptional service in the national interest



People

The Labs' staff of about **16,300** includes about **7,500** with advanced degrees.

They work at the Laboratories' headquarters in Albuquerque, New Mexico; at a second lab in Livermore, California; and at other sites including Carlsbad, New Mexico; Las Vegas and Tonopah, Nevada; Amarillo, Texas; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Kauai, Hawaii.

Budget

Sandia's operating costs were $5.6 billion in fiscal year 2025.

Capabilities

Meeting tomorrow's national security challenges will require readiness, excellence in engineering and rapid innovation. Sandia will help the nation solve significant problems with core capabilities in:

- Systems engineering and integration
- Quantum computing, digital engineering, modeling and simulation
- Extreme-environment testing at unique facilities
- Nanotechnologies and microsystems



Collaboration

Sandia's customers and collaborators include many federal, state and local agencies, companies and academic institutions. Partnerships are formed through cooperative agreements, licensing, technical assistance, centers of excellence, use of unique Sandia facilities, personnel exchanges and other mutually beneficial arrangements.

Achievements

Sandia has pioneered such products as cleanrooms for microelectronics manufacturing, triggers for automobile airbags and high-resolution radars that see through clouds and darkness. Recent achievements include:

- Completed major NNSA nuclear weapons programs on time and on budget, including completing the B61-13 First Production Unit a year ahead of schedule
- Satellite sensors that help the nation monitor worldwide nuclear activity from space
- Completed final deployment of enhanced security system for US Air Force sites
- Developed a threat representative, advanced maneuvering hypersonic target vehicle for Missile Defense Agency and U.S. Navy test

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY | NNSA National Nuclear Security Administration

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