Sandia National Laboratories[[1]](#footnote-1)

Fun Facts

**SAND2019-10961O**

# Did you know that…

Sandia has four locations? We have laboratory sites in Albuquerque, NM and Livermore, CA, and test sites at Tonopah Test Range, NV and the Kauai Test Facility, HI.

The Albuquerque site sits on 13,740 acres? 749 buildings and other structures encompass 6,026,145 gross square feet just chock full of productivity.

Sandia made a dinosaur talk? In 1997, using powerful computers, computed tomography (CT scans), and a rare Parasaurolophus skull, scientists at Sandia and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science recreated a low-frequency rumbling vocalization of a crested dinosaur that lived 75 million years ago.

Sandia started as Z Division of Los Alamos in July 1945? It left the nest and became a separate laboratory November 1, 1949.

Goodyear’s Assurance TripleTred tire, *Consumer Reports’* most recommended all-season tire for passenger cars, was the result of a partnership with Sandia and its powerful computer codes?

All e-commerce authentication has its roots at Sandia? During the 1960s and ‘70s, cryptologist Gustavus Simmons pioneered the theory of authentication, used to verify adherence to nuclear weapons treaties and now commercial transactions.

President John F. Kennedy visited Sandia in 1962?

Sandia employees and retirees are generous? Since the employee contribution plan introduced payroll deduction in 1957, Sandians have provided at least 15% of the United Way of Central New Mexico’s annual contributions.

Sandians are generous even without payroll deduction? In 1956, two Sandia scientists decided to buy new shoes for children in the community instead of exchanging holiday gifts with one another. Their grassroots effort continues to this day and has provided new shoes for more than 11,500 Albuquerque children.

You can fight mold and mildew with a Sandia-inspired product? A decontamination formula developed at Sandia to render harmless a wide variety of chemical and biological agents forms the basis of Mold Control 500, licensed to Modec, Inc. and distributed by Scott's Liquid Gold.

One Sandian won an Academy Award? In 1942 Robert W. “Bob” Henderson received an Academy Award for his special effects work at Paramount Studios. That same year Ernest O. Lawrence recruited him to work at Oak Ridge. Robert Oppenheimer requested his transfer to Los Alamos where he helped select the site for the Trinity test of July 16, 1945, which he also witnessed. He became Sandia’s senior engineer in 1947 and was known as “Mr. Sandia” until he retired as Executive Vice-President in 1974.

Some of Sandia’s tiny robotic vehicles live in The Smithsonian Institution? Nine of Sandia’s historically significant robots are maintained the National Museum of American History’s permanent collection. They include miniature autonomous robotic vehicles developed in the mid-1990s that led to the creation of superminiature robots.

Sandia’s student interns are actively helping to secure computers nationwide? The Center for Cyber Defenders program trains college students to protect and defend computer systems and networks from attack.

Sandia’s energy research programs started in 1971? After a brief foray into a solar furnace concept in 1956, Sandia didn’t start exploring energy until after Congress amended the Atomic Energy Act in 1971, authorizing AEC research to develop “more efficient methods to meet the Nation’s energy needs.”

Sandia helped displace about 12 million tons of earth? The Sedan Crater at the Nevada National Security Site is the largest ground depression resulting from a nuclear detonation in the United States. It was the result of Project Plowshare, conceived to use nuclear explosives for peacetime projects, including excavation.

Sandia has a short lunch break and a long winter holiday? During the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, OPEC initiated an oil embargo against any state supporting Israel, including the United States. Oil prices rose quickly, making energy savings a nationwide goal. Sandia’s savings measures include slicing the lunch hour in half, adjusting building temperatures, and cutting heating and cooling on weekends and holidays. Beginning in 1974, the Labs instituted a week-long shutdown around the Christmas holiday. By 1977, the annual shutdown was standardized by gathering Federal holidays from elsewhere in the calendar to cover the time off.

The main hydraulic ram of Sandia’s baler for baling waste and recyclables applies up to 137 tons of force to form a bale?

# Learn more…

* About Sandia’s capabilities and take a virtual tour of various facilities at <http://tours.sandia.gov/> .
* About Sandia’s history at <http://www.sandia.gov/about/history/index.html> .
* About Sandia’s acreage, workforce, and related numbers at <https://www.sandia.gov/about/facts_figures/index.html> .
* About Sandia at <https://sandia.gov> .

1. Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)