2025 PERSPECTIVES

ANNUAL REPORT

New Mexico
Small Business Assistance
NMSBA
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES

$94.4M

Technical Assistance Provided by Labs

3,469 Businesses Assisted

13,275 Jobs Created & Retained

33 New Mexico Counties Supported

Cumulative numbers since the inception of NMSBA in 2000.

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New Mexico is quickly becoming the next frontier for innovation, where world-class science and entrepreneurial drive come together to create real opportunity. NMSBA plays a critical role in that progress by helping small businesses tap into the unmatched expertise of our national laboratories. That partnership fuels new technologies, strengthens local companies, and ensures that innovation happening in New Mexico benefits communities across our state.

ROB BLACK
Cabinet Secretary
Economic Development Department
State of New Mexico

NMSBA plays a critical role in strengthening economic resilience across New Mexico. By providing small businesses with access to specialized scientific knowledge, the program empowers them to overcome obstacles, diversify their capabilities, and strengthen their footing in a rapidly evolving marketplace. This collaboration reflects the state's commitment to stability, innovation, and sustainable economic growth.

STEPHANIE SCHARDIN CLARKE
Cabinet Secretary
Taxation and Revenue Department
State of New Mexico

DEAR GOVERNOR LUJAN GRISHAM AND NEW MEXICO STATE LEGISLATORS,

We are pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report for the New Mexico Small Business Assistance Program. This report highlights a few of the many successful projects from 2025 and provides metrics for the performance of NMSBA for both the past year and since it began in 2000.

During 2025, a total of 242 small New Mexico businesses participated in NMSBA. Thanks to the Laboratory Partnership with Small Business Tax Credit Act, the state of New Mexico, along with Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories, invested $4.67 million of national laboratory expertise and resources to help small businesses in 21 counties overcome technical challenges and grow.

The success stories in this report demonstrate the impact NMSBA has on small businesses from a wide range of industries across the state. Here are a few examples from some of the featured success stories:

- Data is being used by a group of companies to optimize a cellular lightweight concrete formulation and manufacturing process before presenting a business plan to potential investors.
- High-resolution 3D X-ray scans revealed hidden secrets in rare string basses made by masters; data collected will be used to inform the construction of future instruments.
- Research into coatings helped a company save $10,000 per month on efforts to combat the effects of the abrasive perlite they mine and process on their equipment.

The Cross-Domain Collaborative Autonomous Systems Leveraged Project received the Honorable Speaker Ben Luján Award for Small Business Excellence for demonstrating the most economic impact. The two-company team has won a five-year subcontract for White Sands Missile Range mission support services worth $14 million and will be hiring a minimum of 12 new employees.

For 25 years, NMSBA has helped New Mexico's small businesses create jobs, increase revenues, decrease operating costs, and attract new funding opportunities. Since 2000, the two national laboratories have provided $94.4 million in technical assistance to 3,491 businesses, enabling 13,275 jobs to be created and retained across the state's 33 counties.

Your continued support of NMSBA, which promotes collaboration between our national laboratories and small business community, leads to economic development throughout our great state. Thank you!

Since 2000, the two national laboratories have provided $94.4 million in technical assistance to 3,491 businesses.

CANDICE SIEBENTHAL
Los Alamos National Laboratory

DAVID KISTIN
Sandia National Laboratories

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Overview

In 2000, the New Mexico Legislature created the Laboratory Partnership with Small Business Tax Credit Act for the purpose of "bringing the technology and expertise of the national laboratories to small businesses in New Mexico to promote economic development in the state, with an emphasis on rural areas." As a result, Sandia National Laboratories established the New Mexico Small Business Assistance Program to provide technical support to small businesses throughout the state. Los Alamos National Laboratory began participating in NMSBA in 2007. Jointly, the labs are committed to solving small businesses' critical challenges with national laboratory expertise and resources; influencing New Mexico business development by building capacity, capabilities, and competencies; and acting as an advocate for small businesses through an entrepreneurial culture.

While each company utilizes NMSBA in a different way, all use it as a means to maintain or grow their business. NMSBA services are provided at no cost to participating small businesses in the form of lab staff hours valued at up to $40,000 per calendar year for businesses located in rural counties and $20,000 for businesses located in urban counties (Bernalillo and Santa Fe Counties). The total amount of assistance is capped at $2.4 million annually for each laboratory. NMSBA may not provide assistance that is available in the private sector, and no equipment or cash can be given to a participating company.

Future Direction

In the coming year, NMSBA is focused on accelerating innovation in New Mexico's emerging technology sectors, including Space and Aerospace, Quantum Technologies, Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Manufacturing, Energy Security, and Biotechnology, building on the state's national lab and research infrastructure. By bridging the gap between science and industry, the Program helps businesses adopt advanced technologies, bring new products to market, and enhance global competitiveness.

NMSBA is deepening its engagement with entrepreneurs and small businesses in rural regions, ensuring the benefits of innovation reach beyond the state's urban centers. The Program also serves as a connector within New Mexico's broader economic development ecosystem, linking businesses to resources and partners across the state. Through continued support for emerging industries, locally led innovation, and this ecosystem-building role, NMSBA is helping build a resilient, high-tech economy for all New Mexicans.

During 2025, NMSBA helped 242 small businesses across the state reach business goals, develop their products for commercial use, and increase profitability. NMSBA makes a statewide impact by:

- Providing New Mexico small businesses access to cutting-edge technology
- Increasing New Mexico small businesses' technical sophistication and capabilities
- Sharing knowledge and resources between laboratory personnel and small businesses to address issues and develop real-world applications

Types of Small Business Assistance

INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Individual NMSBA projects involve a single New Mexico for-profit small business. Projects address business-specific challenges that can be solved with national laboratory expertise and resources. Technical assistance challenges are wide ranging; however, the majority include testing, design consultation, and access to special equipment or facilities. Requests for individual projects are accepted year-round until funding is exhausted.

LEVERAGED PROJECTS

Leveraged NMSBA projects allow a group of small businesses that share technical challenges to collectively request assistance. Leveraged projects address issues that are too large or complex to solve through an individual project. Proposals for projects are reviewed semi-annually by the NMSBA Advisory Council.

CONTRACT PROJECTS

Legislation allows NMSBA to contract with entities that have the capability to provide small business assistance services not available in the private sector. For the benefit of New Mexico's small businesses, NMSBA has contracts for specific services with the New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the state's three research universities.

Contract Partners

The **New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership** provides training and assessments in the areas of quality and lean manufacturing principles.

The **Arrowhead Center at New Mexico State University** evaluates small business capabilities and technologies using subject matter experts throughout the university.

The **New Mexico Tech Business and Technology Management Department** interfaces with a variety of disciplines taught at the university to help accurately assess the current competitive position of small business technologies.

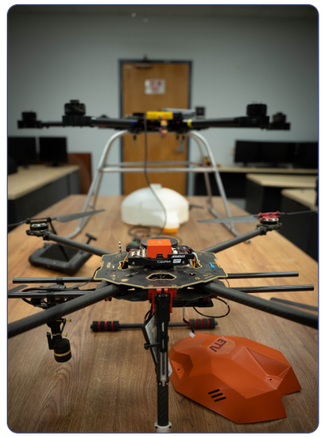
The **University of New Mexico Management of Technology Program** at the Anderson School of Management evaluates the commercial potential of small business technologies and identifies commercialization challenges and pathways.

The **University of New Mexico School of Engineering** addresses technical challenges faced by small businesses in computer science and chemical, biological, electrical, computer, civil, nuclear, and mechanical engineering.

The ETV team at the NMSU Genesis Center in Las Cruces.

Cross-Domain Collaborative Autonomous Systems

LEVERAGED PROJECT



Bottom line, our NMSBA project through Sandia has been so important to our technological and design team growth—it has opened significant doors for us within the Department of Defense and garnered new interest in precision agriculture from companies including Amazon.

CLIFF HUDSON
Chief Executive Officer
Emerging Technology Ventures Inc.

Emerging Technology Ventures develops autonomous systems technology for applications including precision agriculture and critical infrastructure inspection. Their systems provide multi-modal sensing with camera, lidar, infrared, and ultrasound to obtain a total picture. The data collected can then be processed through AI to show issues that may affect performance.

One of the challenges is obtaining 360° coverage of equipment or assets in the air, on the ground, or in the water. Drone swarms can provide that capability, working together like a racecar pit crew to rapidly tackle tasks in a complex environment.

An NMSBA project with Sandia National Laboratories helped ETV and project partner KeenAI System Solutions LLC, a company specializing in systems for collecting, sharing and analyzing data related to assets, overcome the challenge of developing a toolset for building inspection drone software packages. Sandia Scientist Spencer Jensen and his team went through the huge amount of available information on Simultaneous Localization and Mapping, or SLAM, and multi-agent collaboration. A report on open source software ranked options and helped the companies determine which to use.

Results of the NMSBA project so far include a five-year subcontract for White Sands Missile Range mission support services worth $14 million to ETV and KeenAI. ETV was also selected by Amazon for their Cloud to Table Initiative where drone swarm teams look for pests and disease that threaten crops. KeenAI will manufacture the drones for these projects while ETV continues to focus on R&D.

Meet the Principal Investigator

SPENCER JENSEN
Sandia National Laboratories

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

Riley Willingham and Carlos Jacquez of Dicaperl Minerals at their Socorro facility.

Dicaperl Minerals

CONTRACT PROJECT

This project was a great opportunity for Dicaperl to build our relationship with New Mexico Tech. I and other Dicaperl NMT alumni engineers had the opportunity to involve ourselves with research and development. The NMT students learned about real-world operations and how research can measurably make a difference.

RILEY WILLINGHAM
Plant Manager
Dicaperl Minerals LLC

Perlite, a type of volcanic glass found in New Mexico, is used in horticulture, lightweight building materials like sheetrock, filtration, kitty litter, and more. Dicaperl Minerals has been in Socorro since 1975 and operates a large perlite mine and processing plant. New Mexico Tech is nearby, and Plant Manager Riley Willingham is an alumnus.

Dicaperl was already collaborating with Tech by providing perlite to the university's Materials Engineering Department for various applications. An NMSBA project with NM Tech's Business and Technology Management Program furthered their partnership. Dicaperl requested assistance with mitigating the effects of the extremely abrasive perlite on company equipment including transfer chutes, piping, crushers, and screens.

Professor Arjak Bhattacharjee and his students studied which coatings would be best able to stand up to perlite's abrasiveness. Previous efforts to develop a ceramic coating had failed, so Tech's efforts focused on polymers. The students ran trials and wrote a report so that Dicaperl could try the suggested alternatives.

The report provided five different polymeric options which were ranked on their cost and anti-abrasive qualities. Application processes were also considered. Using more effective coatings not only saves on wear, increasing the lifespan of equipment, it also reduces plant downtime, which, along with materials and labor for repairs, can be very expensive.

NMSBA projects like this provide an opportunity for research training and financial support for participating students. Impact for Dicaperl has included $10,000 savings per month on materials, fabrication, and installation.

Meet the Principal Investigator

HAOYING WANG
New Mexico Tech

SOCORRO COUNTY

Amy Laura demonstrates the flour blend formulation for FODify It!

FODify It!

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT

I am deeply grateful to the NMSBA team's expertise and guidance that not only strengthened my product, but also increased my confidence as I move forward to help others find relief from digestive symptoms and reclaim their lives.

AMY LAURA
Founder
FODify It!
dba Gentle Home Cooking LLC

Amy Laura struggled for years to get relief for her digestive issues until she found the Low FODMAP Diet. Developed at Monash University in Australia, it's a science-backed dietary approach to manage symptoms of medically diagnosed irritable bowel syndrome.

Laura decided it was her mission to share this information. She became a recipe developer specializing in Southwest cuisine and published "Calm Tummy, Happy Heart," the first Low FODMAP cookbook from the U.S. with recipes certified by Monash University.

In order to create baked goods for people with a variety of allergies and intolerances, Laura started a company. After two years of testing baking and leavening methods for a variety of baked goods, including an artisan-style pizza crust, Laura found out about NMSBA, and applied to have her ingredients scientifically analyzed.

Los Alamos National Laboratory Scientist Rose Adams used mass spectrometers to test the nutritional properties and levels of metals in various commercially available gluten-free flours against Laura's proprietary gluten-free flour blend. This expert scientific analysis helped Laura refine her flour blend and binding ingredients to replicate the taste and texture of traditional wheat-based pizza crust.

Blind taste tests with focus groups have confirmed that the new artisan pizza crust recipe is delicious while also being gluten free and addressing multiple food allergies and sensitivities. Laura is moving ahead with her Gentle Home Cooking line of baked goods, starting with her flagship pizza product. She is also moving forward on manufacturing a line of allergen-free condiments in New Mexico.

Meet the Principal Investigator

ROSE ADAMS
Los Alamos
National Laboratory

SANTA FE COUNTY

The Cellular Lightweight Concrete team at Aerblock's facility in Santa Fe.

SANTA FE COUNTY

Incorporating CO_2 Gas into Cellular Lightweight Concrete

LEVERAGED PROJECT

As a result of NMSBA, we have been able to make significant progress in optimizing our CLC mix-designs. One of our key outcomes was demonstrating that, by using CO_2/nanobubble technology, we can offset emissions associated with the cement production process.

MICHAEL BARON
Founder
Aerblock Enterprises LLC

Michael Baron is working on creating more resilient building solutions that protect against wildfires, mold, and termites while being energy efficient and affordable. His company, Aerblock Enterprises, has been building with autoclaved aerated concrete, or AAC, for over 25 years.

Now Aerblock is developing a cellular lightweight concrete, or CLC, that can be cast into steel frames of prefabricated wall assemblies, with AAC as the exterior cladding. Cement is used worldwide, but its production accounts for 8% of global carbon emissions annually. In order to address this issue, Aerblock has been experimenting with carbonizing their CLC using CO_2 nanobubble technology.

An NMSBA project with Los Alamos National Laboratory Scientist Wenfeng Li compared CLC samples where carbon dioxide was introduced into the cement mixture as nanobubbles to samples without CO_2. The Lab has specialized equipment needed to test lightweight concrete. A thermal gravitational analyzer and other tools were used to quantify the amount of CO_2 sequestered in the CLC through mineralization, and to test mechanical performance.

Leveraged project partners Timbernaut Studios LLC, Ferrock Fabrication LLC, and Tauist NM LLC (dba Eigenberths) are all involved in the building industry and have an interest in CLC material.

Aerblock's batch plant in Santa Fe is already producing prefabricated wall panels and the company has developed a large-scale manufacturing plant design. Data from the NMSBA project is being used by Aerblock to optimize the CLC formulation and manufacturing process before presenting a business plan to potential investors.

Meet the Principal Investigator

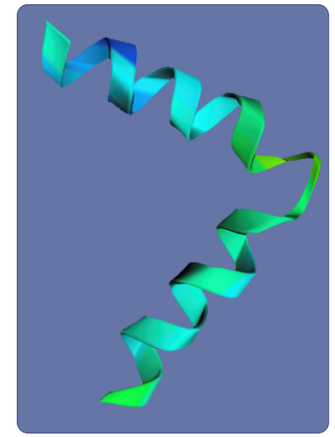
WENFENG LI
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Tom Jerkins of Premier Citrus and Harold Browning of Innate Immunity are working to solve citrus greening with the Innate Immunity peptide therapeutic.

SANTA FE COUNTY

Innate Immunity

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT



Innate Immunity has promising technology to treat significant and unsolved diseases affecting cherished crops and devastating human and animal threats. Assistance from NMSBA and Sandia is helping us move the technology forward.

MICHELLE MILLER
Co-Founder, CEO & President
Innate Immunity Inc.

Innate Immunity was co-founded by a former Los Alamos National Laboratory molecular biologist. Using technology originally developed by Los Alamos and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the company developed a novel peptide to combat bacterial diseases facing agriculture, most notably in the citrus industry which is under threat of global extinction.

The company then decided to see if its patented antimicrobial peptide would also be effective against devastating human diseases, particularly some where there is no effective treatment. An NMSBA project with Sandia National Laboratories looked into whether Innate Immunity's peptide could survive in human blood long enough (up to six hours) to be able to treat diseases by killing pathogens.

Sandia Scientist Bryce Ricken performed tests to determine stability of the peptide in whole blood (serum) over time using mass spectrometry and other spectrophotometric methods. Preliminary results showed successful inhibition of the human pathogen E.coli, the bacteria that was used for the NMSBA testing.

This project is helping to lay the groundwork for further development of this new class of antibiotic. Since receiving assistance, Innate Immunity has raised a new round of angel funding, developed a strategic partnership with a bioproduction manufacturer, been accepted into a new accelerator program which could include additional funding, and is in discussion with the USDA for a new Cooperative Research and Development Agreement likely to commence in 2026 to continue its citrus work.

Meet the Principal Investigator

BRYCE RICKEN
Sandia National Laboratories

The Mesa Quantum team.

Mesa Quantum

CONTRACT PROJECT

New Mexico has built something extraordinary—a quantum ecosystem anchored by national labs, powered by homegrown talent, and backed by bold state leadership. Mesa Quantum is proud to be part of it, and we are just getting started.

SRISTY AGRAWAL
CEO & Co-founder
Mesa Quantum Systems Inc.

Mesa Quantum is commercializing chip-scale quantum sensors for data networks, navigation, remote sensing, autonomous systems, communications and other applications. Founded in Colorado, the company is expanding into New Mexico as it moves toward manufacturing. It was attracted by the quantum ecosystem being created by the state of New Mexico and national laboratory, academic, and private firm partners.

The New Mexico Economic Development Department selected Mesa Quantum for its first Quantum Technologies Award of $100,000 in 2025. The company plans on hiring and further developing Vertical-Cavity Surface-Emitting Laser technology used in its sensors in collaboration with the Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies at Sandia National Laboratories.

An NMSBA project allowed Mesa Quantum to access the resources of the University of New Mexico's Management of Technology and Technology Project Management Programs. Professor Steve Walsh and eight students tackled the topics of Predictive Analytics and Small Firm Scaling. The students looked at the commercial potential of Mesa Quantum's products, and made recommendations on how to navigate various industries. Mesa Quantum was also selected for the UNM Global Scaling Challenge.

As Mesa Quantum completed working on its NMSBA project, the company received $12 million in venture funding. CEO Sristy Agrawal believes the NMSBA project helped accelerate the company's growth. Mesa Quantum is looking at investing more resources in the state in 2026, and is planning to open an advanced test and characterization facility to further develop quantum sensors including atomic clocks, magnetometers, and accelerometers.

Meet the Principal Investigator

STEVE WALSH
University of New Mexico

BERNALILLO COUNTY

Zachary VanCuren and his mother Sally VanCuren of Milagro Goat Farm getting ready to make soap.

Milagro Goat Farm

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT

Working with NMSBA gave us access to scientific resources and expertise that would normally be out of reach for a small business. The data and support we've received have helped us validate our products and build long-term credibility.

ZACHARY VANCUREN
CEO
Milagro Goat Farm

During the pandemic, everyone was washing their hands a lot. But some soaps can strip the skin's natural oils, causing irritation. Zach VanCuren's mother didn't have that problem. She was making soap from her own goats' milk as a hobby. People who tried it said it was gentle on dry and sensitive skin.

VanCuren started looking into goat milk soap and decided to start a company. He wanted to quantify what was happening at a cellular level, but how? He found a way when he met an NMSBA project manager at a local business expo.

Once Milagro Goat Farm's NMSBA application was accepted, testing on the soap commenced at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Scientists Kumkum Ganguly and Emilia Solomon led the research to study the soap's effects on skin cells with the Mass Spectrometry team in the Bioscience Division. After exposure to inflammatory agents, the cells were then exposed to the soap to evaluate its effect.

Scientific evidence supported what people had experienced. The soap showed 0.0% cytotoxicity in a laboratory setting, meaning it didn't cause damage to living skin cells. This data gives Milagro Goat Farm credibility with wholesale, retail, and hospitality customers.

Now Milagro Goat Farm is looking to expand their line of goat milk soap products and has hired a soap-maker trainee. VanCuren's parents are still tending to and milking their Nubian goat herd while he is looking to increase soap production in a new facility.

RIO ARRIBA & VALENCIA COUNTIES

Meet the Principal Investigators

KUMKUM GANGULY & EMILIA SOLOMON
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Aaron Robertson outside two of the three large showrooms that house the impressive collection of stringed instruments available at Robertson & Sons.

BERNALILLO COUNTY

Robertson & Sons Violin Shop

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT

A great instrument carries the fingerprints of history inside it. These scans revealed construction methods that have remained hidden for centuries. This NMSBA project helped open a new window into the history and future of the double bass.

AARON ROBERTSON
Director of Sales
Robertson & Sons Violin Shop Inc.

3D X-ray scans have been used since the 1990s to study rare violins by historic makers like Stradivari and Guarneri. Such non-destructive test methods reveal critical details of how the finest instruments were made.

For larger members of the violin family, particularly the double bass, it is difficult to obtain high-resolution scans. Aaron Robertson and his colleague Duane Rosengard wanted to further study great, historic basses. Robertson & Sons is one of the leading dealers of rare and contemporary instruments of the violin family, and has taken a leading role in modern bass construction.

Rosengard is an expert on classifying basses. He and Robertson searched two years for a scanner of the necessary size with high resolution rendering. Then they found out about Sandia National Laboratories' scanners and the NMSBA program.

Sandia Engineer Brandon Fehr scanned three basses using the large, high-resolution industrial X-ray CT scanner at the Labs. The oldest bass was built circa 1580. The scans revealed remarkable hidden secrets in the skeletal structures and wood densities of the basses; the trove of data collected will be used to inform the construction of future instruments.

The NMSBA project gave Sandia engineers the opportunity to contribute their expertise to the artistic community. Data collected and analyzed will help Robertson & Sons and their makers, many of whom have won top honors in international competitions, further improve newly made basses, strengthen the company's reputation for excellence, and reinforce its competitive position in an increasingly discerning market.

Meet the Principal Investigator

BRANDON FEHR
Sandia National Laboratories

Scott Feuille of Taylor Garrett Spirits stands in the distillery.

Taylor Garrett Spirits

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT

NMSBA connected us with world-class scientists who helped us prove what we believed: that innovation and craft can coexist. The data we gained didn't just validate our process; it gave us a foundation to scale, compete, and grow.

SCOTT FEUILLE
Founder
Taylor Garrett Spirits LLC

Whiskey is steeped in tradition. It is generally aged for years in wood barrels, but waiting that long to enter the marketplace makes it difficult for small producers to be successful. Taylor Garrett Spirits began making whiskey the traditional way: mashing, fermenting, and distilling. When it came to aging though, distiller Scott Feuille came up with a new, faster method.

The company's proprietary, accelerated aging process is all natural and uses one-sixteenth of the wood as barrel aging. The challenge was to analyze and validate what Taylor Garrett had produced with small batches and increase efficiency and consistency.

An NMSBA project with Sandia National Laboratories scientists analyzed 214 chemical compounds in whiskey, comparing a variety of commercial samples across price and quality ranges to the Taylor Garrett whiskey. The scientists used gas chromatography-mass spectrometry to tune the aging process for specific flavor profiles and mouthfeel.

Whiskey drinkers already liked Taylor Garrett's taste when they tried bottles from small batch production, and the new data allowed the company to modify its process to maintain that taste and quality as they scaled up production to higher volumes.

Since implementing these improvements, the company has experienced a 200% increase in sales volume, new placements in over 70 accounts statewide, and is planning for distribution to southern Colorado and El Paso, Texas, markets in 2026. Taylor Garrett is also adding to its sales and production teams in Albuquerque as the company grows.

Meet the Principal Investigator

DAVE SCHAFER
Sandia National Laboratories

SANDOVAL COUNTY

Mathew Shepardson and the T Skies team at their facility in Albuquerque.

Turquoise Skies

CONTRACT PROJECT

Taking part in the NMSBA Program helped us not just survive, but compete. We now win orders from fashion brands that used to ship overseas. This is paying off for our local artists.

MATHEW JAMES SHEPARDSON
Founder
Turquoise Skies Inc.
dba T Skies Jewelry

T Skies Jewelry, a producer of Southwest and Indigenous jewelry, was experiencing rapid growth when Founder Mathew Shepardson learned about several programs offered through the New Mexico Economic Development Department. During a visit, NM EDD representatives also introduced him to the NMSBA Program.

Through an NMSBA project, T Skies received training and consulting support that strengthened manufacturing skills and overall production capacity. The New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership evaluated operations and recommended process and technology improvements grounded in LEAN manufacturing principles.

Refined handling methods and workflow adjustments doubled the efficiency of hand stringing beads. Updated 3D printing equipment also improved product quality and yield on buckles. Ongoing education from New Mexico MEP includes a floor leadership training program to help T Skies maintain LEAN systems internally as the company continues to grow.

T Skies consults with manufacturers and major fashion brands. The upgraded systems became increasingly important as production needs expanded due to a new retail location at the Albuquerque International Sunport and wholesale partners seeking to shift more manufacturing back to the United States.

Since participating in NMSBA, a $10,000 grant from NM EDD's Creative Industries Division has been leveraged into $500,000 in revenue for a local artist collaborating with T Skies through Ralph Lauren's Authentic Makers program. This pilot will expand in 2026, enabling T Skies to support additional local artisans. The company has also hired more staff to increase manufacturing capacity and meet rising customer demand.

Meet the Principal Investigators

SCOTT BRYANT & WESLEY ECCLES
New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership

BERNALILLO COUNTY

PROGRAM METRICS | 2025

VALUE OF PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

In 2025, the state of New Mexico, along with Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories, invested **$4.67 million**, helping **242 small businesses** in **21 counties** to solve technical challenges. The following table contains the number of small businesses that received assistance from NMSBA, dollar value of the assistance for calendar year 2025, and cumulative value from 2000 to 2025.

	LOS ALAMOS*	SANDIA	TOTAL**
NUMBER OF SMALL BUSINESSES SERVED			
2025	**126**	**123**	**242**
Rural	55	53	105
Urban	71	70	137
2000 - 2025**	**1,329**	**2,608**	**3,491**
Rural	1,052	1,498	2,103
Urban	277	1,110	1,388
VALUE OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED			
2025	**$2,272,137**	**$2,399,963**	**$4,672,100**
Rural	$1,355,352	$1,427,189	$2,728,541
Urban	$916,785	$972,774	$1,889,559
2000 - 2025	**$38,924,838**	**$55,506,699**	**$94,431,537**
Rural	$30,207,688	$36,674,487	$66,882,175
Urban	$8,717,150	$18,832,212	$27,549,362

* Los Alamos began participating in NMSBA in 2007.

** Some companies are served by both laboratories.

Note – In 2019, Santa Fe County moved from being a rural county to an urban county.

Los Alamos NATIONAL LABORATORY

Sandia National Laboratories

BENEFITS TO NEW MEXICO SMALL BUSINESSES

New Mexico small businesses achieved positive results after receiving technical assistance from the NMSBA. Feedback from companies that participated in the 2024 economic impact client survey revealed that:

66% DEVELOPED A NEW PRODUCT OR TECHNOLOGY

59% IMPROVED OVERALL OPERATIONS

69% EXPANDED OR IMPROVED A PRODUCT OR SERVICE

64% BECAME MORE COMPETITIVE IN THE MARKETPLACE

64% IMPROVED THE EXPERTISE OR CAPABILITIES OF EMPLOYEES

ACCOUNTABILITY & ECONOMIC IMPACT

NMSBA, enabled by the Laboratory Partnership with Small Business Tax Credit Act, is accountable to the state of New Mexico for its expenditures. NMSBA measures its economic impact through client surveys conducted by Research & Polling Inc., and economic analysis provided by Robert Grassberger, PhD Economist.

Cumulative Economic Impact for Businesses from NMSBA Projects (2000-2024*)

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS CREATED AND RETAINED	**13,275**
AVERAGE REPORTED SALARY (2024)	**$63,574**
INCREASE IN REVENUE	**$591,072,918**
DECREASE IN OPERATING COSTS	**$408,594,144**
INVESTMENT IN NM GOODS / SERVICES	**$210,098,082**
NEW FUNDING / FINANCING RECEIVED	**$383,146,830**
RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI)**	

For every $1.00 of tax credit invested, the state receives a return of $1.80.

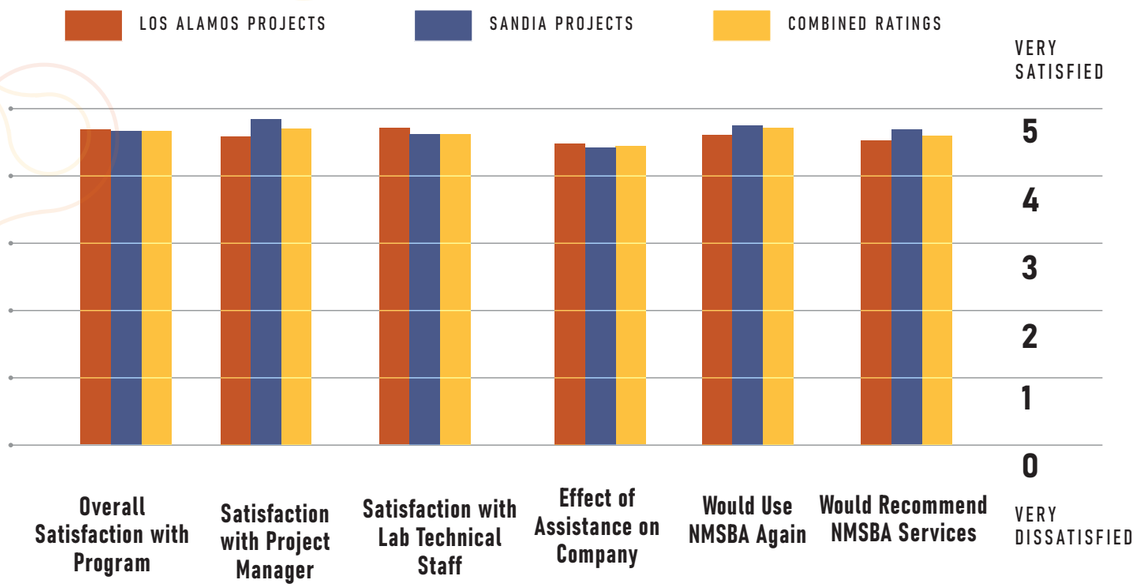
*Economic surveys are performed six months to one year after project completion.

**ROI is based on salaries of jobs created and retained.

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Each year, NMSBA surveys the participating businesses to learn about their satisfaction with the Program.

2025



NMSBA identifies the areas of technical expertise that the national laboratories and their contractors utilized in NMSBA technical assistance projects, as well as the industry sector for the participating companies. The counties in which the small businesses are located are tracked to gain a better understanding of the reach of the NMSBA Program across the state.

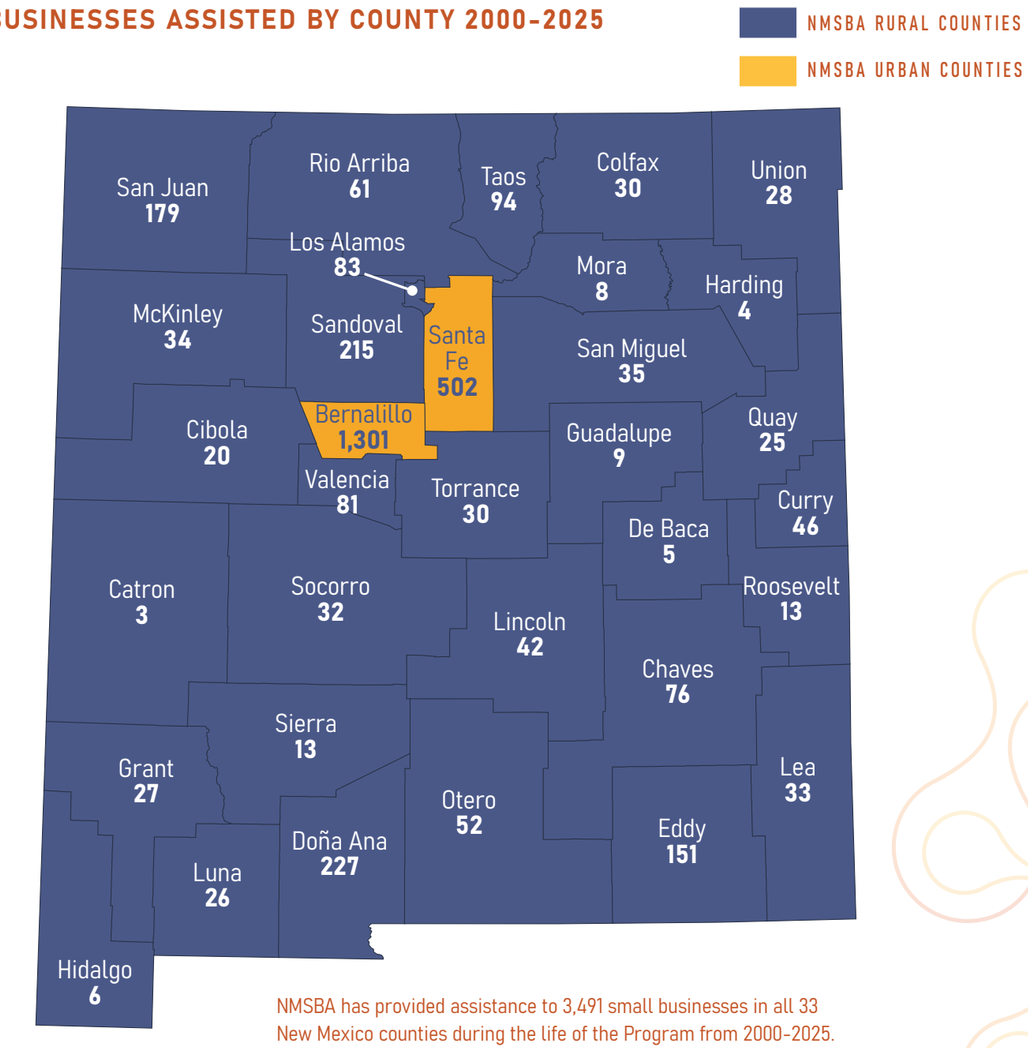
LABORATORY CAPABILITIES UTILIZED [2025]

Manufacturing	31.0%
Engineering	12.7%
Materials Science	11.9%
Earth and Environmental Sciences	9.5%
Biological and Medical	8.3%
Advanced Modeling and Simulation	7.5%
Business Development	7.1%
Math and Computer Science	4.4%
Energy	4.0%
Chemistry	2.4%
Micro-Nano Technology	0.8%
Astronomy and Physics	0.4%

INDUSTRIES OF SMALL BUSINESSES SERVED [2025]

Manufacturing	50.3%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	23.4%
Agriculture and Natural Resources	9.1%
Oil & Gas, Utilities, and Mining	4.4%
Real Estate, Finance, Insurance, and Management Services	4.4%
Education Services and Health Care	3.2%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	3.2%
Media and Hospitality	1.2%
Retail and Wholesale Trade	0.8%

BUSINESSES ASSISTED BY COUNTY 2000-2025



NMSBA has provided assistance to 3,491 small businesses in all 33 New Mexico counties during the life of the Program from 2000-2025.

LEVERAGED PROJECTS

Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories provide technical assistance for both individual and leveraged NMSBA projects. The following is a listing of this year's leveraged projects.

		COUNTIES	FUNDING
SANDIA **Advanced Ophthalmic Diagnostics**	A prototype optical sub-assembly of the Partially Automated Technician system was assembled by the company, Scintellite, and brought to the Labs for alignment and characterization. The Labs performed an optical sensitivity analysis of PAT, developed an alignment strategy, and demonstrated an alignment technique utilizing a commercial-off-the-shelf robot arm to measure the beam location and inform the optical adjustments. Stability of the chief ray during optical element translation was measured at multiple points within the optical system using an electronic detector mounted to the robot arm. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **Apex Machining LLC | Deuce LLC | Integral Corporation | Scintellite LLC**	**Bernalillo Sandoval**	**$76,400**
SANDIA **Black River**	In summer 2024, farmers in the Carlsbad Irrigation District that use Black River water for irrigation saw the river dry up for the first time. The Labs helped the Black River small business project by studying how river water is used. The Labs utilized GIS, a computer mapping system, to collect and analyze public data from wells, flow monitoring stations, irrigation changes, state water networks, and records from flow monitors they deployed to understand the river's water balance and identify patterns that might explain why the river is running dry. Their findings showed that reduced rainfall, hotter temperatures, and groundwater pumping near the river have lowered river flows. Oil and gas development, including pipeline crossings, may also be affecting river flows and further complicating the water situation. The Labs recommends expanding weather, groundwater, and river flow monitoring in critical locations along the river to provide more detailed information on river conditions. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **Calderon Farms LLC | Guadalupe Carrasco | Lookout Ag Enterprises LLC**	**Eddy**	**$113,400**
SANDIA **Coated Ductwork**	The Labs studied how commercial anti-corrosion powder coatings worked on ventilation material samples, focusing on coating quality, durability, and normal operating limits. Sandia reviewed the products provided by the companies to choose which ones to test, then examined the coatings before and after exposure to semiconductor chemicals to help develop basic guidelines for corrosion resistant films. They also used modeling software to predict how the coating would behave over larger areas and estimated how the materials might perform under published thermal stress standards for ventilation ducts. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **Hydrocut Inc. | Sisneros Bros. Mfg LLC | Sisneros Manufacturing**	**Valencia**	**$97,700**

		COUNTIES	FUNDING
SANDIA **Cross-Domain Collaborative Autonomous Systems**	The Labs assisted by navigating the vast literature on Simultaneous Localization and Mapping while focusing on Multi-Agent Collaboration. The Labs tested some of those SLAM algorithms on its internal ground vehicles and provided results of the tests to the companies. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **Emerging Technology Ventures Inc. | Systems Technology Solutions LLC dba KeenAI System Solutions LLC**	**Doña Ana**	**$76,400**
SANDIA **Evaluate Membrane**	The Labs provided analysis of ion selective membranes which were supplied by the companies, including chemical and structural analysis to determine uniformity and characterize membrane properties. These were carried out through the use of standard analytical tools and methods which included ICP-OES, XPS, FTIR, SEM and AFM. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **GridFlow Inc. | Integrated OffGrid LLC | Micro-Heat Engineering**	**Bernalillo**	**$57,300**
SANDIA **Fuel Cell**	The Labs supported the companies by creating computer models of a fuel cell system. They first built a simple 3D mesh of the fuel cell, then created a more detailed, full-scale mesh that included a catalytic heater. The Labs also developed specialized computer models that used advanced turbulence, wall, and swirl physics. They added heat-transfer models to show how heat moves between fluids and solid parts, including how the walls conduct heat and how phase changes affect energy. Finally, the Labs ran simulations of the different cases provided by the companies, including setups with various valves open or closed. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **Energy Related Devices Inc. | Rancho Alma Linda | Tucumcari Bio-Energy Company**	**Quay**	**$95,500**
SANDIA **GPU Utilization**	This project used the Labs' existing open-source Sierra Tool Kit mesh libraries to improve GPU utilization. The Labs enhanced STK mesh code to enable more efficient search operations and mesh topology changes on the GPU. These changes enabled faster turn-around times for the customer's simulation software. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **Aperi Computational Mechanics Consulting LLC | Morgrim LLC**	**Valencia**	**$76,400**

		COUNTIES	FUNDING
LOS ALAMOS **H_2S Removal**	The Lab evaluated a produced-water treatment system through field and laboratory testing, finding that nanobubble aeration improved and sustained dissolved oxygen levels. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **CK Supply LLC | Delaware Water LLC | Panther Energy Services LLC**	**Lea**	**$52,800**
LOS ALAMOS **Introducing CO_2**	The Lab built a CO_2 nanobubble generator and tested CO_2-enriched cellular lightweight cement samples to assess strength, elasticity, and chemical interactions. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **Aerblock Enterprises LLC | Ferrock Fabrication LLC | Tauist NM | Timbernaut Studios LLC**	**Grant Santa Fe Taos**	**$117,000**
LOS ALAMOS **N_2O Emissions**	The Lab measured farm-scale nitrous oxide emissions, confirmed consistently low fluxes, and evaluated a promising proxy measurement approach influenced by growing media. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **Desert Verde Farm LLC | Growing Opportunities | Skout Strategy Inc.**	**Bernalillo Rio Arriba Santa Fe**	**$78,000**
LOS ALAMOS **Rad-Waste Cover Design**	The Lab strengthened confidence in simulations of a multi-barrier radioactive-waste cover by integrating dual-porosity modeling of extreme precipitation and waste decay. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **Bionic IP Holdings LLC | Kent Cravens Consulting LLC | Lithified Technology Group LLC | Padre Springs LLC | Palace Canyon Properties | Perry LT Investment LLC**	**Bernalillo Santa Fe**	**$116,900**
LOS ALAMOS **Santa Fe Dirt**	The Lab tested postbiotic-enhanced Santa Fe Dirt formulations for effects on the skin microbiome and skin cells, then provided findings and recommended next steps. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **Boodle Body | Invisible City Designs | Maison Smith / Smith Interior Design | Santa Fe IP LLC | Soap Santa Fe LLC dba Soap & Supply**	**Bernalillo Santa Fe**	**$76,900**
SANDIA **Short Pulse**	The Labs provided technical consulting to the companies by studying how solenoids behave when they are hit with very short, high-power pulses needed for ion beam systems. Working with the companies, the Labs defined the analysis scenarios and used first-principles calculations along with multiphysics software to model the thermal and structural behavior of the solenoids. This included using the modeling software to study how the coils and their supports heat up during the pulses, analyzing different cooling designs to reduce these heat effects, and modeling how the solenoid supports respond to shock loads during the pulse events. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **Aquila Inc. | Gold Standard Radiation Detection Inc. | Saavedra Precision Inc. | Scientific Vacuum Sales and Support Inc. | Tetra Corporation**	**Bernalillo**	**$88,900**

		COUNTIES	FUNDING
LOS ALAMOS **Silica Removal**	The Lab compared silica-removal technologies for cooling towers, identifying alumina and membrane approaches as promising options to reduce costs, emissions, and water use. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **First National Tower Limited | Industrial Water Engineering | Sunvista Commercial Real Estate LLC | The Cleanery Inc.**	**Bernalillo Chaves**	**$97,600**
SANDIA **Solid State Detector**	The Labs tested a variety of company-provided, printed Solid State Tissue Equivalent Detectors over a wide range of doses with 662 keV gamma rays from a Cs-137 source. Response from the SSTEDs when exposed to Pu-Be sourced neutron radiation, with or without moderation, was tested. Performance metrics include minimum detectable dose rate, output signal accuracy, and consistency throughout the range of detection (compared to a calibrated detector). The Labs utilized its resources for electron microscopy characterization of the device materials. BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS **Integrated Deposition Solutions | Noel Savignac Consultants | nStone Corporation | Radiation Detection Solutions LLC | Testudo Engineering**	**Bernalillo**	**$86,300**

INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

BERNALILLO

American Direct Procurement Inc. dba Commercial Door Manufacturing
Apple Canyon Gourmet Inc.
Armonica Technologies
Bendies LLC
BGS Engineering
BioProcess Diagnostics Inc.
Century Sign Builders
Cerrna Inc.
Chillville LLC
Clear Consent
CVI Laser LLC
Damage Control AthletiX LLC
EasyFlo dba Mixxed Corp
Eclipse Aerospace Inc.
El Pinto Foods LLC
Enchanting Soap Collections LLC by Roberta LLC
Ernest Thompson & Co. Inc. fka Ernest Thompson Furniture
Excel Manufacturing
Firescape
Foury Inc.
Garcia Enterprises Inc. dba The Original Garcia's Kitchen
Gilz LLC
Goodman Technologies LLC
Hestia Energy Company
Hoonify Technologies Inc.
HT MicroAnalytical Inc.
Hugo's TV Repair
Hydrosonics Inc. dba Axolo
IDEAS Engineering & Technology LLC
IXC Corporation
Just Right Cabinet Installs LLC
Kairos Power LLC
LAD Engineering LLC
Life Science Testing and Analysis LLC
Los Poblanos Historic Inn & Organic Farm
Management Sciences Inc.
MARPAC Inc.
Mesa Alta Research LLC
Mesa Quantum
Mimi Green
NanoElectromagnetics LLC
Nidel Hospitality Services Inc.
OBTC Warehouse LLC dba Old Barrel Tea Company-ABQ
Osazda Energy LLC
Passages International Inc.
Pland Collaborative
Precision Solar Technologies Corporation
Qamia Quantum Technologies
Radiant Technologies Inc.
Rayklan
Riccobene Masonry Co. Inc. dba Hard Scape Systems
Ridgeline Manufacturing and Engineering Inc.
Robertson & Sons Violin Shop Inc.
Sandia Pet Products LLC dba V. F. Pet Products LLC
Sierra Peaks Corporation
Silicon Carbide Nanosheets Technology LLC
Skella T. Creations LLC
Skout Labs
Southwest Composite Works/ Southwest Pattern Works Inc.
Starlight Process Technology Demonstrations LLC
Submaterial LLC
Symphony Handmade Paper LLC
Telemetry Insight
Theta Plate Inc.
TIPT - Tomorrows Innovative Products Today Inc.
Toltec Industries Inc.
Turquoise Skies Inc. dba T Skies Jewelry
Ventura Prototypes
Way Out West Ltd.
Wildlife Protection Management Inc.
Z-Coil Footwear aka Z-Tech Footwear
Zenthos Energy fka Flow Aluminum

CIBOLA

C & E Concrete Inc.
Emerging Equities Solutions Group

DOÑA ANA

AE International Laboratories Incorporated
Artifacts Unlimited Industries
BrainSTEM Educational Services Inc. fka BrainSTEM LLC
Callie Baby Bottle
Edward R Armstrong
Filtravate Inc.
Frigerator
Indie LLC dba Bender Innovative Solutions
KaizenRhino Solutions International Consultancy
Lidio Rivera Maldonado
Ruby Rooster Trading Company LLC
SIRE Engineering Solutions

EDDY

Intrepid Potash - New Mexico LLC

GRANT

Carbon-Bound Material Technologies LLC
St. Claire's Organics Inc.
Stream Dynamics Inc.

HARDING

Ute Creek Cattle Company

LOS ALAMOS

Eco Sphere Sciences Inc.
Muhlala Turbine LLC
Odysseus Technologies Inc.
Richard Sayre Consulting LLC
Tibbar Plasma Technologies Inc.
Undesert Corporation Inc.

MCKINLEY

Cals Micro Co.
Mr. Teez Global LLC
Navajo Spirit Southwestern Wear LLC dba Navajo Spirit LLC

MORA

Sangre De Cristo Mountain Initiative

OTERO

Remote Well Solutions LLC

RIO ARRIBA

Chama Troutstalkers LLC
Quarter Circle U

SAN JUAN

A. F. Garcia Engineering LLC fka AG Engineering
ABC Canvas Inc.
Affordable Blinds LLC
Agape
Bidii Baby Foods
Brady Trading LLC
Eric Miller
Hauling Accessories LLC
Jack's Plastic Welding Inc.
Largo Tank and Equipment
Linear Motion 120 LLC
Pleasanton Ridge Research
Power and Control Solutions Inc.
Simply Solid LLC
Stand Strong Arch LLC
Third Axis LLC / Third Axis Custom Engraving LLC
Wines of the San Juan

SAN MIGUEL

MxRam LLC
NOALAN Ventures Inc.
San Miguel Sun Dwellings

SANDOVAL

Aztlan Incorporated fka Aeon Blue New Mexico
Bladewerx LLC
Castelion Corporation
Cetaly LLC
Daedalus Technology Group LLC
Deuce LLC
DHF Technical Products LLC
Endless Mushroom
Harleys Hands
Matt's Mushroom Farm
Mountain Vector Energy LLC
NanoJet LLC
ParadOxy Particles LLC
Seed International Inc.
Sixth Sense Designs
Stainless Motors Inc.
Taylor Garrett Spirits
Truvent Capital LLC
Vamco LLC

SANTA FE

Agua Sulis LLC
Auger Laboratory LLC fka Stephen Auger Studio LLC
Beck & Bulow Buffalo LLC
Better Music Boxes
Canton Custom Guitars
Dressikie Gardens
El Milagro Herbs
Element 3 Energy
EnviTrace LLC
eTree Solar Inc.
Fault Tolerant Technology LLC
Freezie Fresh LLC
Gentle Home Cooking LLC and FODify It! LLC
Hollowpoint LLC dba Wicked Edge Sharpeners
InHouse CTS
Innate Immunity LLC
Keystone Restoration Ecology Inc.
Last Call Kombucha LLC
LatticeX
Leaf & Hive LLC
Mesa Photonics LLC
Molten Salt Solutions Inc. fka UCL3 Inc.
Nexus Health
Preservation Dogs LLC
Solstar Space Company
The Kitchen Table Santa Fe
The Sea Upwelling Company Inc.
Tia Zia's LLC
Ursa Science Inc.
Vandellyn Design LLC
Woodruff Scientific Inc.

SOCORRO

Dicaperl Minerals
ROI Ventures
Super 8 Socorro
Techie Innovative Solutions LLC

TAOS

Muy Chingon Creations
Taos Fly Shop

VALENCIA

4 Daughters Land & Cattle
AC Disposal Services Inc.
Koenig's Metalmorphosis
Milagro Goat Farm
New Mexico Ferments
Project Securiguard
Shirley's Dream Inc.
Wall Colmonoy

HONORABLE SPEAKER

BEN LUJÁN AWARD

for Small Business Excellence

The ETV-KeenAI team at the NMSU Genesis Center in Las Cruces.

CROSS-DOMAIN COLLABORATIVE AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

LEVERAGED PROJECT

The 2025 Honorable Speaker Ben Luján Award for Small Business Excellence was given to the project demonstrating the most economic impact.

Emerging Technology Ventures and partner KeenAI System Solutions are developing a toolset for inspection software packages to be used with drone swarms that can give 360° coverage of equipment or assets in the air, on the ground, or in the water.

As a result of the NMSBA project, new customer opportunities have emerged. A modular core software architecture helps speed the development of varying applications for customer tasks. One new solution is being developed to automate inspection of ship propeller shafts for the U.S. Navy. The process will cut inspection time in half, getting ships back in the water faster to renew operations.

In addition to inspection, robotic-assisted repair is being developed by teaming multiple autonomous systems and sensor feeds. Once anomalies are discovered, robotic repair reduces the risk to maintainers in hazardous environments. This means crew members can be kept off the airfield when aircraft repairs are needed in dangerous situations.

The partners are working to develop an initial production capacity of 10-15 systems per month and obtain certifications, including ISO and cybersecurity approvals. The New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership is providing LEAN training and helping optimize production workflow.

For Sandia National Laboratories, partnering with ETV and KeenAI through NMSBA aligns well with AutonomyNM, Sandia's autonomous sensing and control lab, and its mission to mature early stage research ideas into hardware implementations for real-world systems. AutonomyNM tackles a wide array of sensing, navigation, guidance, and control challenges across diverse autonomous platforms.

The ETV-KeenAI team is currently seeking angel investment to scale production to reach the goal of 40-50 systems per month. Based on current contracts, the two companies will be hiring a minimum of 12 new employees. The companies' plan to expand R&D will help them continue developing autonomous AI-driven solutions at the edge of possibility.

THANK YOU

...to all the small businesses for participating in NMSBA and creating jobs and economic wealth for New Mexicans.

...to all the Los Alamos and Sandia national laboratories principal investigators who applied their expertise and knowledge to help New Mexico small businesses solve their technical challenges.

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Sandia National Laboratories

Dana Derego Catron
Arrowhead Center New Mexico State University

John Elling
Molten Salt Solutions

Devin Fell
Sentiré Medical Technologies

Adriene Gallegos
New Mexico Small Business Development Center Network

John Heaton
City of Carlsbad

Ron Manginell
Sandia National Laboratories

Carl McLendon
Santa Fe Business Incubator

Nathan Moody
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Vanessa Roanhorse
Roanhorse Consulting

Therese Rivera
New Mexico APEX Accelerator

Nora Sackett
New Mexico Economic Development Department

Dan Sanchez
(ex officio) U.S. Department of Energy
NNSA Sandia Field Office

Michael Vickers
New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical Association

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Christos Christodoulou
University of New Mexico

Jennifer Sinsabaugh
New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership

John Waller
New Mexico State University

Steve Walsh
University of New Mexico

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New Mexico Tech

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Sandia National Laboratories

Valerie Salim-Meza
Sandia National Laboratories

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Los Alamos National Laboratory

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Sharon Evans
Sandia National Laboratories

Judy Hendricks
Sandia National Laboratories

Kathryn Herrmann
Los Alamos National Laboratory

David Kistin
Sandia National Laboratories

Alexander Lugo
New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership
Los Alamos National Laboratory

John Martinez
Sandia National Laboratories

Genaro Montoya
Sandia National Laboratories

Jessica Moose
Sandia National Laboratories

Candice Siebenthal
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Jeanette Trujillo-Rondeau
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Linda von Boetticher
Sandia National Laboratories

Megan Zipperian
New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Perspectives Annual Report Team

Sandia National Laboratories

David Kistin, Manager

Genaro Montoya, Program Leader

Sharon Evans, Financial Administrator

Linda von Boetticher, Annual Report Project Manager

Olivia Lujan, Designer

Ellen Cline, Writer

Alicia Bustillos, Photographer

David Lienemann Photographer

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Candice Siebenthal, Technology Engagement & Entrepreneur Program Manager

Kathryn Herrmann, Technical Project Manager

Jeanette Trujillo-Rondeau, Finance

Porter McLeod, Photographer

Ignacio Perez, Photographer

David Woodfin, Photographer

Lauren Hughes, Photographer

INNOVATION CELEBRATION

On September 11, 2025, NMSBA hosted the annual Innovation Celebration to recognize the 10 companies featured in the Perspectives 2024 Annual Report at Roadrunner Venture Studios in Albuquerque. The event was sponsored by New Mexico MEP. In addition to honoring NMSBA participants, the event provided an opportunity for small businesses, local economic development representatives, elected officials, and community leaders to network and learn what NMSBA offers to help businesses grow.

2024 SUCCESS STORIES

- Aperi Computational Mechanics Consulting
- Biochar Production and Agricultural Use Leveraged Project
- Cetaly
- Indie
- Mecca Enterprises
- Rapid Laser-Based Pathogen Detection Leveraged Project
- Ridgeline Manufacturing and Engineering
- Sagecore
- Sandia Biotech
- SunSiteVR

2024 BEN LUJÁN AWARD WINNER

The 2024 Honorable Speaker Ben Luján Award for Small Business Excellence for demonstrating the most economic impact was won by Aperi Computational Mechanics Consulting. An NMSBA project provided a proof of concept for engineering simulation software that works on a graphics processing unit, or GPU, instead of a central processing unit, or CPU.

With the compelling proof of concept from the NMSBA project, Aperi CMC was able to win three Small Business Innovation Research grants totaling $575,000, which included funding for more assistance from Sandia. The grants also let the company hire another engineer. Now Aperi CMC has applied for Phase II SBIR funding of $1.5 million. It is also taking part in the TRGR Technology Readiness Initiative and a second NMSBA project which will help move the company's software to market sooner than expected.

SOLVING NEW MEXICO'S SMALL BUSINESS CHALLENGES

Candice Siebenthal
Technology Engagement &
Entrepreneur Program Manager

P.O. Box 1663, C334
Los Alamos, NM 87545
(505) 458-9035
candices@lanl.gov

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Genaro Montoya
Program Leader

P.O. Box 5800 MS 1495
Albuquerque, NM 87185-1495
(505) 908-8852
gmontoy@sandia.gov

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