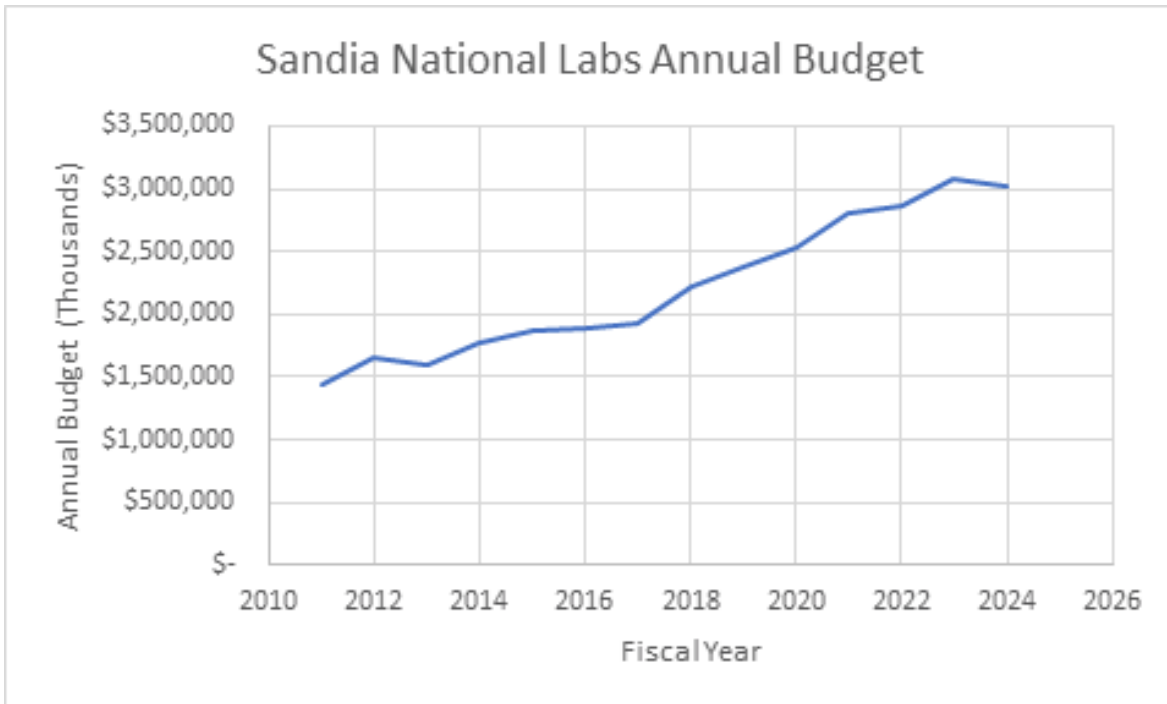


Senator Heinrich’s Support for Sandia National Laboratories

Increasing Appropriations

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and past member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) has consistently advocated to increase funding for Sandia National Laboratories (Sandia). Heinrich’s efforts have been hugely successful. Sandia’s Department of Energy (DOE) budget has nearly doubled since 2013, when Heinrich started in the Senate, going from [\\$1.59 billion in FY2013](#) to over [\\$3.02 billion in FY2024](#), an increase of 89%. See chart below.



In addition to increases in Sandia’s operating budget, Heinrich has secured authorizations and funding for key infrastructure at Sandia, including:

- [\\$22.5 million to upgrade the Microsystems Engineering, Science and Applications \(MESA\) Complex](#) for both [research and production of strategic radiation-hardened microelectronics](#);

- [\\$36 million to support a new Emergency Operations Center](#) to improve Sandia’s ability to respond to emergencies and provide emergency assistance so that appropriate response measures and notifications are taken to protect workers, the public, the environment, and national security;
- [\\$3 million in FY23 to boost Sandia’s collaboration with efforts to prove out an integrated design and manufacturing flow to demonstrate efficient, cost-effective, low-volume domestic manufacturing for state-of-the-art integrated circuits](#) optimized for the most technologically challenging military weapon systems requirements;
- [\\$195 million for a Sandia project to refurbish the W80 warhead](#) with replacement components for aging technology and components that have limited lifespans;
- [\\$38 million for the planning and development of a new Power Sources Capability facility](#); and
- [\\$66.9 million for operation of the Z Facility](#), which conducts research on Inertial Confinement Fusion Ignition and High-Yield, validating models and codes for nuclear weapons.

Growing Sandia’s Workforce

Heinrich has worked tirelessly to grow the number of employees at Sandia, while also ensuring that all New Mexicans can benefit from the opportunities that come from Sandia’s operation in New Mexico. His efforts have been [highly successful](#).

Sandia’s employment has grown from [9,474 New Mexico employees](#) in 2013 to a record [13,361 New Mexico](#) employees in 2023, cementing Sandia [as one of the top three employers in the state](#). Heinrich has also worked to better align [apprenticeships, training programs](#) and [university coursework](#) with the workforce opportunities at Sandia. And he has fought to ensure safety for those who work at Sandia, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) through a [measure to strengthen the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board \(DNFSB\)](#), requiring a report to Congress each year about DNFSB’s ability to ensure safe operations at DOE nuclear weapons sites.

Expanding Economic Impact

Heinrich has also worked extensively to expand the economic impact of Sandia within New Mexico. In [2023](#), Sandia spent over [\\$592 million](#) with New Mexico businesses and paid [\\$114 million](#) to New Mexico in gross receipts tax. In 2023, Sandia’s total [economic impact](#) reached a record high of \$4.8 billion, up from [\\$4.2 billion in 2022](#).

Heinrich’s efforts have included:

- Expanding opportunities for local businesses to subcontract with Sandia, including by urging the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) [to strongly consider the benefits of using New Mexico local businesses, welcoming Sandia's decision to prioritize buying from qualified New Mexico small businesses by giving them a 5 percent pricing preference](#), and hosting events in [Albuquerque](#) and [Carlsbad](#) to bring together small business owners and top leadership from the NNSA and the DOE’s Supply Chain

Management Center, which manages the procurement process at Sandia, LANL, and the WIPP.

- Strengthening the [technology transfer program](#), which is [extremely important to local economies](#), generating – from Sandia-alone – an economic impact of \$3.2 billion in New Mexico from 2000 to 2020, and employing over 2000 New Mexicans directly and over 10,000 New Mexicans in total per year.
- Improving Sandia’s ability to recruit and retain employees by [successfully transitioning the NNSA’s personnel management system](#), which had – over a 10-year pilot program – proven successful at helping recruit top talent by offering competitive salaries, reducing attrition rates, and properly rewarding high-performing employees.

Unwavering Support for Sandia’s Mission

Heinrich has been a staunch advocate for Sandia’s mission, bolstering America’s national security and scientific research.

- May 2015 – Heinrich was an original cosponsor of the America [COMPETES Act](#) to reauthorize energy research programs, including those at Sandia and LANL. [Heinrich worked to include a provision](#) that authorized a 4 percent increase in funding each year for basic energy research, and reauthorize for five years the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science and ARPA-E, an agency that supports research in energy technology. This legislation put DOE on a path toward doubling the roughly \$5 billion it spends on basic energy research. This legislation eventually passed as the [American Innovation and Competitiveness Act](#) (S.3084).
- July 2015 – As part of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015, a bipartisan energy package that Heinrich helped negotiate and pass, Heinrich [successfully secured a provision to authorize \\$50 million to cover the federal share of establishing off-campus microlabs that would serve as the "front-door" to national laboratories](#), including LANL and Sandia. The Feynman Center for Innovation at LANL and the Sandia Center for Collaboration and Commercialization are examples of outside-the-fence centers where industry collaborators can partner to commercialize technology for the private market.
- November 2017 – Heinrich secured the passage of the FY2018 NDAA, which [included a provision to help expedite small construction projects and facility upgrades at DOE facilities](#), including Sandia, LANL, and WIPP.
- March 2018 – Heinrich [secured a commitment from Energy Secretary Rick Perry to continuing future investment in upgrading the Microsystems and Engineering Sciences Applications \(MESA\) facility at Sandia](#) to meet future national security requirements after 2025. In response to Senator Heinrich, Secretary Perry agreed that NNSA should maintain the unique capability at MESA for both research and development and production of strategic rad-hard micro-electronics to meet the needs of NNSA, as well as other strategic partners.
- In September 2018 – Heinrich [announced that the University of New Mexico \(UNM\) was awarded a \\$20 million, five-year grant by the National Science Foundation \(NSF\) to create the New Mexico SMART \(Sustainable, Modular, Adaptive, Resilient and Transactive\) Grid Center](#), an interdisciplinary research and education program to help

support development of a modern electric grid and connect researchers and students from higher education institutions with scientists at LANL and Sandia.

- June 2019 – Heinrich [successfully passed an amendment with unanimous support to permanently remove the overhead burden on NNSA labs](#) for Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) that double-taxed Sandia and LANL. In that same bill, [Heinrich successfully passed his amendment](#) to encourage the Department of Defense (DoD) to utilize the technical and scientific expertise at Sandia necessary for the development of prototypes and to assist commercial industry in manufacturing of hypersonic vehicles.
- October 2019 – Heinrich's resolution [unanimously passed the Senate](#), designating October 30, 2019, as National Day of Remembrance for workers who helped develop and support the nation's nuclear weapons program.
- May 2021 – Heinrich sent a [bipartisan letter](#) urging Senate leadership to modify the Endless Frontier Act to elevate the role of DOE and national laboratories in strengthening American leadership and competitiveness in science, technology, and innovation. A modified version of the Endless Frontier Act became law as the [CHIPS and Science Act](#) in August 2022.
- September 2023 - Heinrich [advocated for](#) and later welcomed [the announcement that Sandia would be part of the Southwest Advanced Prototyping \(SWAP\) Hub](#), which was selected to be funded through the DOD's [Microelectronics Commons](#), which was created to address a critical gap in U.S. semiconductor manufacturing and innovation by developing direct pathways for U.S.-based microelectronics researchers and designers to get their innovations to market.

Additionally, Heinrich has been a strong supporter of the Department of Energy's Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) program, which helps Sandia solve national security challenges through mission-focused science, technology, and co-engineering. The LDRD program is funded with 5 – 6% of the Lab's operating budget and provides a competitive internal "free market" for scientists and engineers to pursue cutting-edge research to solve the nation's most difficult challenges, including advancement of next-generation energy sources, supercomputing simulations of drug-resistant bacteria, and advances in artificial intelligence. In 2015, Heinrich secured passage of Sandia's LDRD program and has steadily increased its funding from [~\\$202 million](#) in 2021 to over [~\\$231 million](#) in 2023.