



FACT SHEET

LOS ALAMOS: SUCCESSFUL WORKER TRAINING

Office of Worker & Community Transition

Background

The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is a valuable national resource for solving complex problems where science can make a difference. LANL is the dominant economic force in Northern New Mexico employing nearly 10,000 people and having a cumulative economic impact on the Tri-County Region of more than \$3.5 billion. National security remains LANL's primary mission; however, LANL's scientific expertise ranges from innovative biological research to exploring the outer reaches of the solar system. The Department of Energy owned Laboratory has been managed by the University of California since 1943.

The Path to Progress

The Department of Defense created the Defense Adjustment Task Force (DATF) in July 1993 to prepare a regional program plan addressing the issues of future LANL downsizing. The number of contractor employees reached a high of 7,667 in 1989 and as a result of the downsizing reached an all-time low of 6,439 in 1996. By January 1996, the DATF successfully completed a regional plan containing its recommendations entitled, *Actions Toward Building a Self-Reliant Economy* in the Tri-County Region.

Community Success Stories

Approximately \$3.2 million has been spent thus far on projects that meet the recommendations of the DATF and the Community Reuse Organization, known as the Regional Development Corporation (RDC). Key projects include a revolving loan fund, entrepreneurial development with the establishment of business incubators, and various training programs.



The CleanAIR Systems Facility in Santa Fe, NM

\$10 million in Community Transition Funds Create New Jobs

- As a result of the community transition funds, an estimated 330 jobs were created or retained, with an additional 1,400 jobs projected by the year 2001. A total of \$10 million in Community Transition funds were committed to the northern New Mexico region to assist in offsetting the economic impacts caused by the downsizing, with \$6.8 million of the total committed directly to the RDC.



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Training Programs Successfully Transition Displaced LANL Workers

- Training projects were established with community colleges in Santa Fe and Española and a branch of the University of New Mexico located in Los Alamos (UNM-LA). These projects have been successful in providing education-based training for many displaced Laboratory workers.
- Additional projects, such as the distance learning facilities and programs at UNM-LA, have positively impacted the rural areas surrounding the Laboratory.
- Other training programs include a thriving partnership between the Tri-County Regional Training Program and the New Mexico Economic Development Department's existing training program. The funding provides industry-specific training opportunities for former LANL and subcontractor employees.

Training Programs Support Growing Companies

- CleanAIR Systems, a Santa Fe based enterprise, is just one example of how a young, growing company has benefited from the training programs. CleanAIR Systems produces catalytic products to reduce toxic air emissions produced as byproducts in the combustion of diesel, propane, and gasoline engines.
- The job training funds have provided opportunities for the hiring of four key employees who continue to thrive and support the growth at CleanAIR Systems. According to Michael Roach, founder of CleanAIR Systems, "These funds have been valuable in providing assistance to support employee training and growth, costs that can be difficult to incur for a start-up company."
- CleanAIR Systems has experienced a phenomenal 77 percent growth rate and plans to establish a new manufacturing plant producing an environmental product. The plant is anticipated to add 200 new jobs to the northern New Mexico region and current market projections indicate the new plant could expand to provide 1,000 new jobs and \$250-500 million in revenues.



A look at the Catalytic Converter Welding activities at the CleanAIR Facility

Contact Information

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