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From
the tiny atom to
the supernovae



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of Science | Office of Scientific and
Technical Information

roentgenium 102
No
(291)

livermorium 103
Lr
(262)

mandelstamium 101
Md
(255)

bohrium 100
Fm
(257)

californium 98
Cf
(251)

berkelium 97
Bk
(247)

americium 95
Am
(243)

curium 96
Cm
(247)

technetium 43
Tc
(99)

plutonium 94
Pu
(244)



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- **Atom**—split it for nuclear energy
- **Fermi**—leader of the team that produced the first self-sustaining controlled nuclear chain reaction; contributed to ending WWII
- **Calutron**—invented by E. O. Lawrence; for maximum productivity, critical sensitive adjustments were provided by the ‘Calutron Girls’
- **Seaborg**—Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission 1961–1971; discovered many elements
- **Buckyball**—Buckminsterfullerene; 60 carbon atoms in the shape of a soccer ball; named after the architect, Buckminster Fuller, and the geodesic domes he designed
- **RTG**—radioisotope thermoelectric generator; providing power for the Curiosity (on Mars), the Voyager (recently entered interstellar space), the New Horizons (on its way to Pluto), the Lunar Lander, and many other spacecraft
- **DNA/RNA**—Deoxyribonucleic acid/Ribonucleic acid; contain key genetic information
- **Supernovae**—stars exploding; distant supernovae used to measure the accelerating expansion of the universe

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