



UC Davis Pathways Career Symposium Engineering & Physical Sciences Careers Beyond Academia

Saturday, January 30, 2010

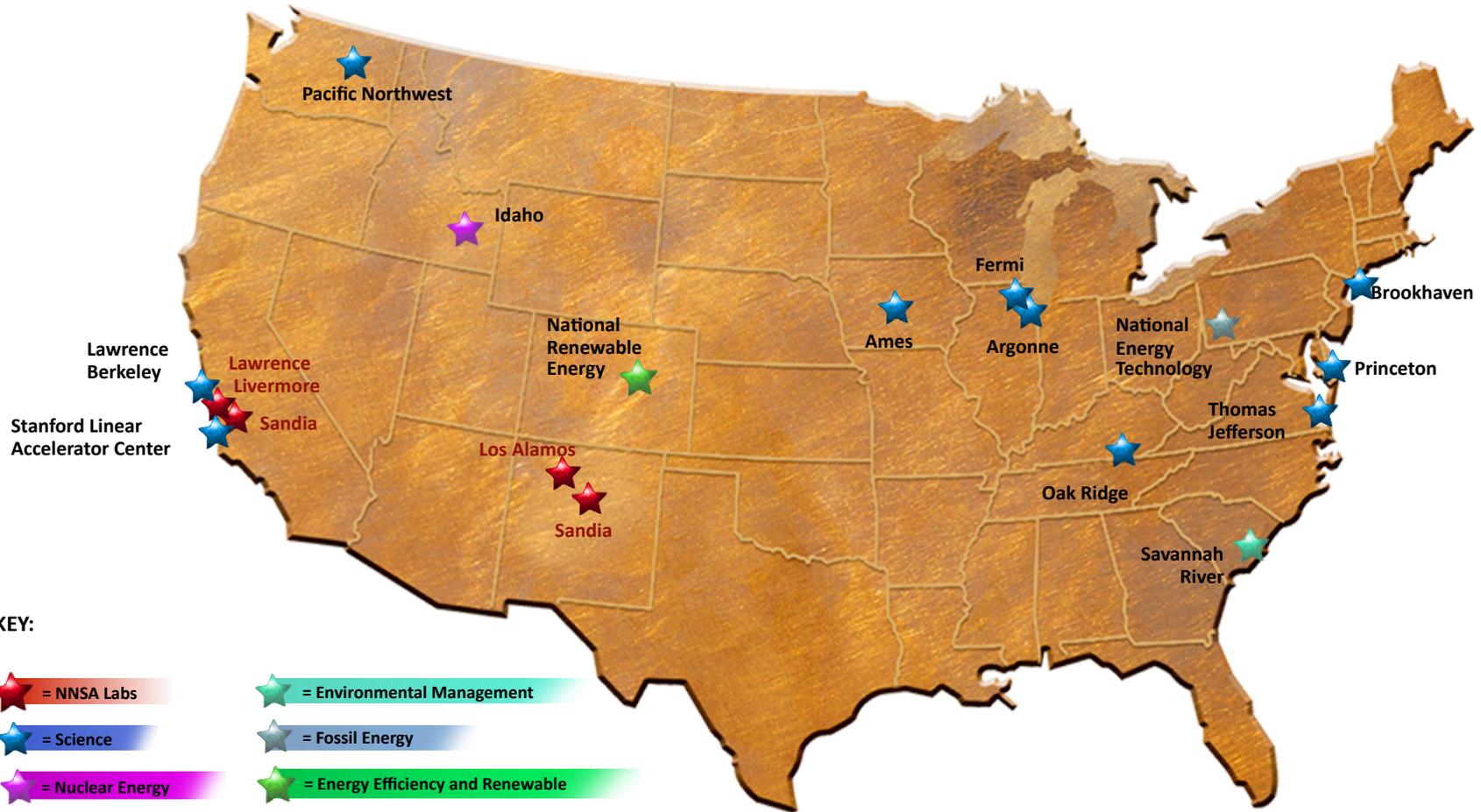
Janine Bennett

Senior Member of Technical Staff

Sandia National Laboratory



National Labs & Technology Centers



Sandia's Administration

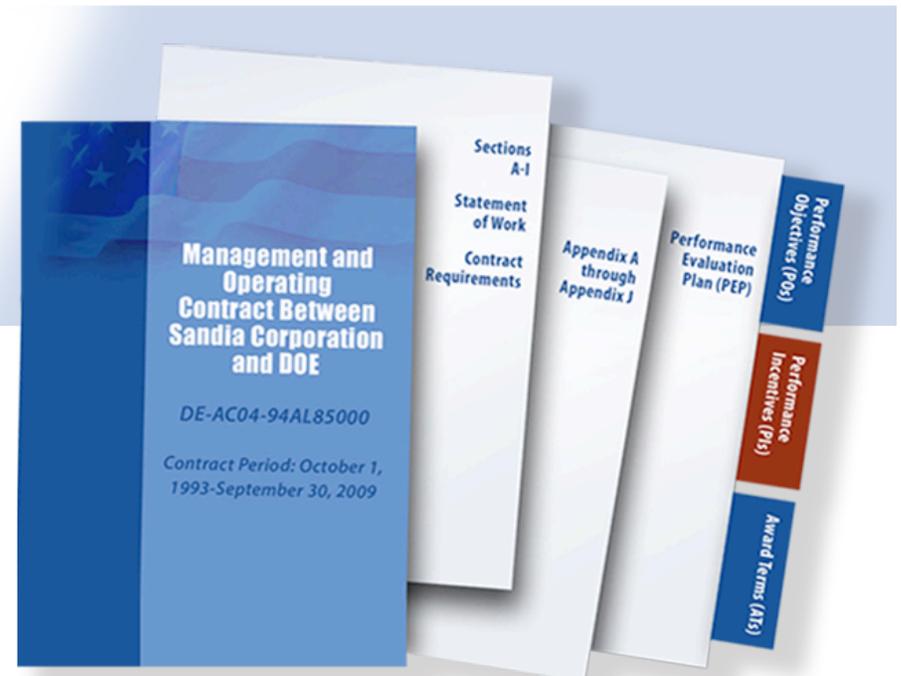
- AT&T: 1949–1993
- Martin Marietta: 1993–1995
- Lockheed Martin: 1995–Present



Government-Owned
Contractor-Operated



MANAGED FOR DOE BY SANDIA CORPORATION
A LOCKHEED MARTIN COMPANY



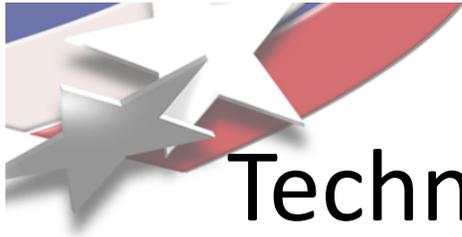
Federally
Funded
Research &
Development
Center



Four Mission Areas

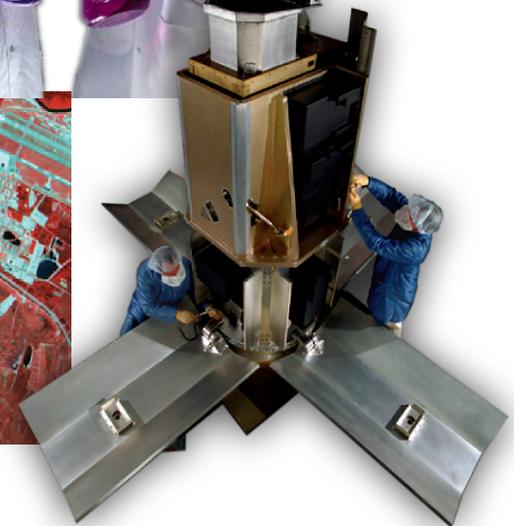
- Nuclear Weapons
- Defense Systems and Assessments
- Energy, Resources and Nonproliferation
- Homeland Security and Defense





Technologies for National Security

- We develop technologies to:
 - Sustain, modernize and protect our nuclear arsenal
 - Prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction
 - Provide new capabilities to our armed forces
 - Protect our national infrastructures
 - Ensure the stability of our nation's energy and water supplies.
 - Defend our nation against terrorist threats



1/30/2010

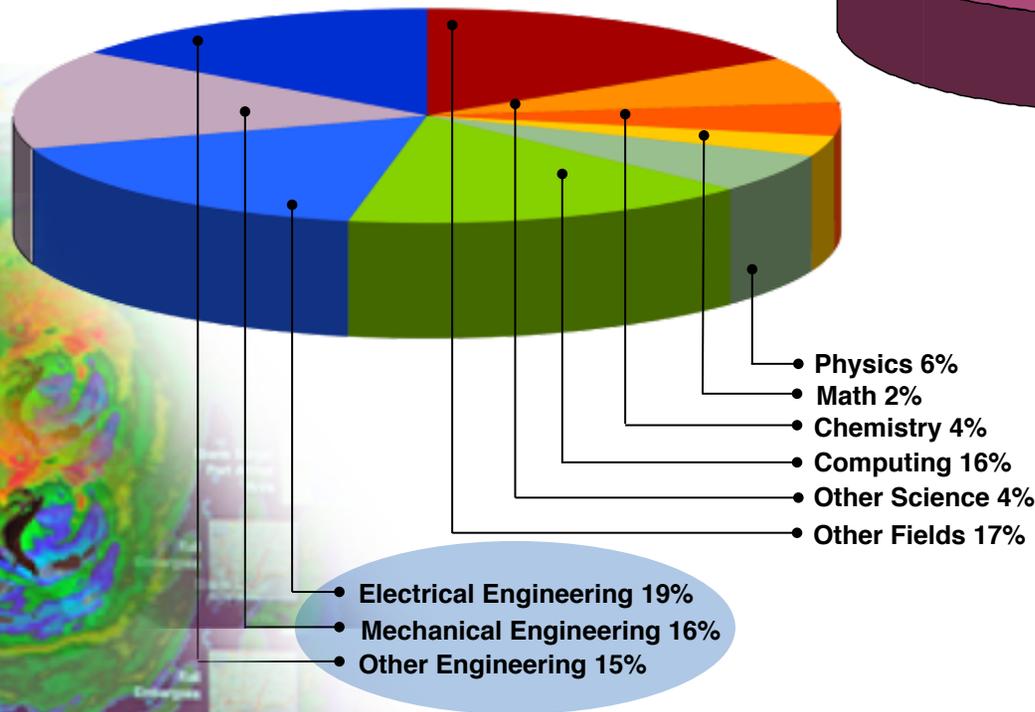
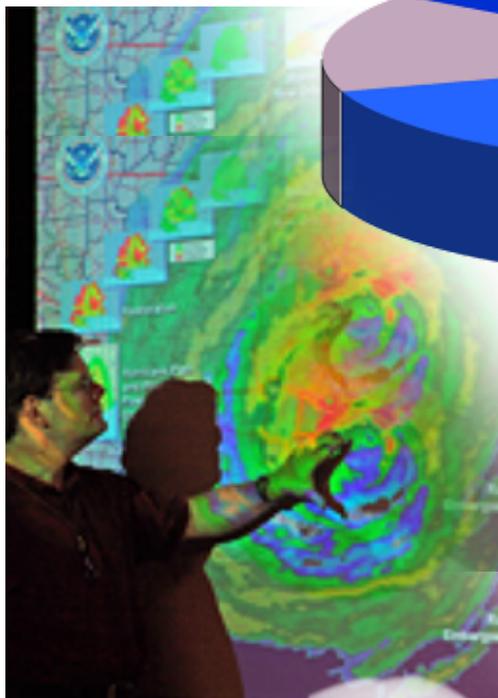
Janine Bennett/UC Davis Pathways Symposium



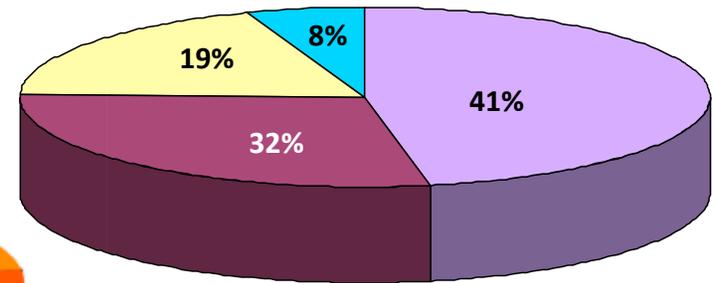
Sandia's People and Budget

- On-site workforce: 11,415
- Regular employees: 8225
- Gross payroll: ~\$900 million

Technical staff (3,850) by discipline:



FY09 Operating Revenue
\$2.2 billion



- Nuclear Weapons
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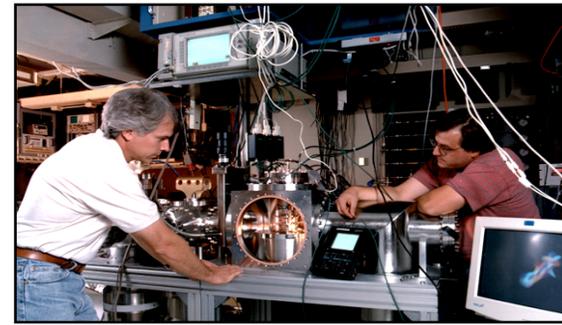
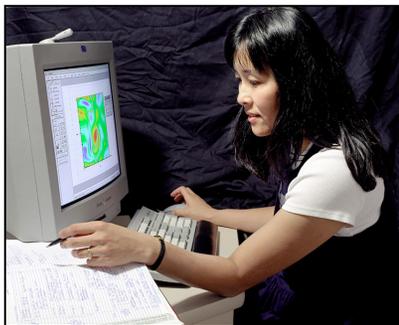




What I do at Sandia

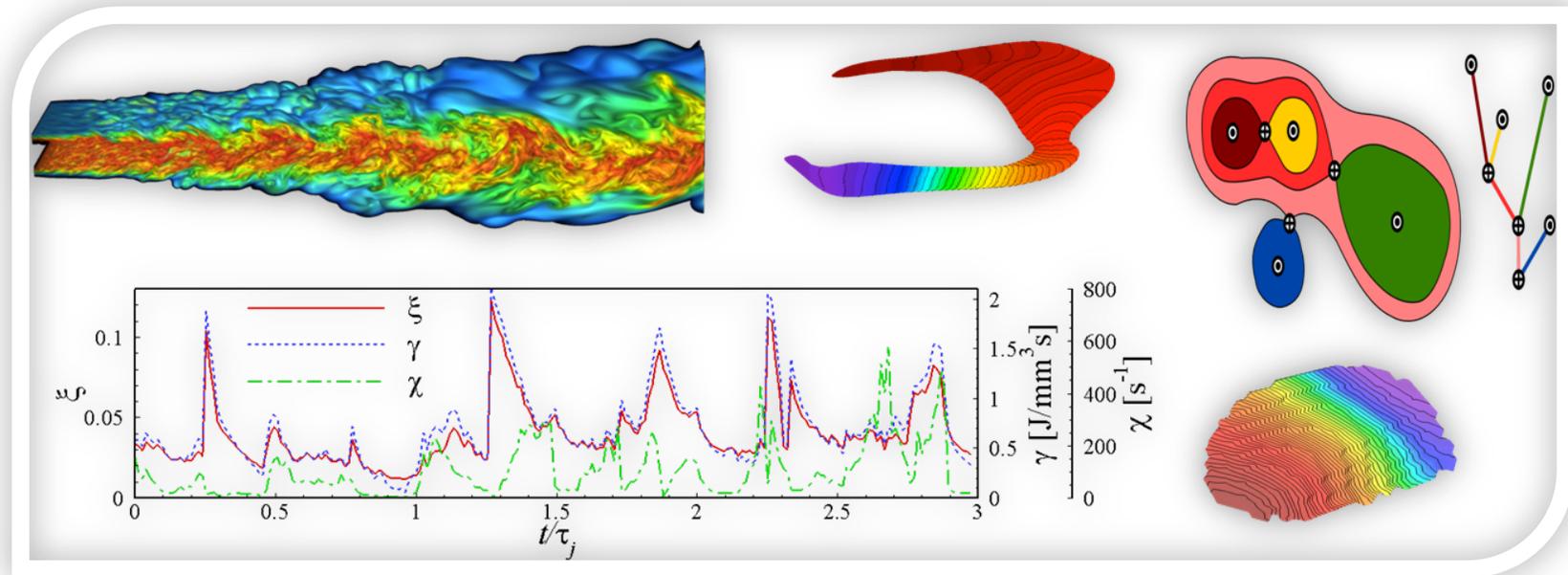


A DOE user facility dedicated to energy science and technology for the twenty-first century





What I do at Sandia





Benefits of working at a National Lab

- Research problems important to national interest
- Project development
- Project management
- Focus on collaborations
 - Industry collaborations
 - University collaborations
 - Mentoring students & postdocs
 - Guest lecturing/Adjunct faculty
 - Intra- and Inter- lab collaborations



Interviewing at a national lab

- Full day or multi-day interviews
- Give a 1 hour talk regarding your research
- Meet with staff and managers in a number of departments



General interview advice

- Practice, practice, practice!
 - Mock interviews
- Apply for many jobs
 - Interview at those places that you care about least first!
- Specialize your CV/resume for each position
 - Keep a master CV that includes everything , but specialize career objectives & research interests
 - Don't pad your resume
 - Don't include things you aren't prepared to discuss in depth



Advice on job search

- Think outside the box – lots of online searching
- Internships can provide
 - Insight into company culture
 - Great contacts!
- Leverage contacts – it can be tough to get in through the front door
 - Career center
 - Professors
 - Friends
 - Internships



Advice for first year

- If mentoring is available take advantage of it
- Don't hesitate to ask questions
- Attend seminars
- Get to know your colleagues
 - Classes, sports clubs, brown bag lunches, social events, etc.
- There will be politics wherever you go – don't let that discourage you
- Determine the measures of success
- Have fun!