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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 (254)
No

lawrencium 103 (259)
Lr

mendeleevium 101 (258)
Md

emilium 99 (252)
Es

californium 98 (251)
Cf

fermium 100 (257)
Fm

berkelium 97 (247)
Bk

americium 95 (243)
Am

plutonium 94 (244)
Pu

technetium 43 (98)
Tc

curium 96 (247)
Cm



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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 (now in interstellar space), the New Horizons (after flying past Pluto is now on its way to the Kuiper Belt object (KBO) 2014 MU69), 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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