Laboratory program helps small businesses

June 6, 2011

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, June 6, 2011—The New Mexico Small Business Assistance (NMSBA) program is ready to help small New Mexico enterprises overcome technical challenges. The free program, run jointly by Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories, leverages the laboratories' expertise and capabilities to promote regional economic development.Although small businesses need not be technology-based to apply, the challenges they face must be potentially solvable using Los Alamos or Sandia resources and expertise, and reasonably priced assistance from the private sector must not be available.Individual small businesses can request assistance year-round at www.NMSBAprogram.org. Two or more businesses that share a common technical challenge may jointly seek assistance through the annual "leveraged projects" selection process.The deadline to submit pre-proposals for calendar year 2012 leveraged projects is Friday, July 8. Leveraged project pre-proposals must be submitted online to http://www.nmsbaprogram.org/leveraged_assistance_form.Leveraged projects should seek to help two or more New Mexico small businesses solve a shared technical

challenge and must be completed within one year. Funding is competitive and ranges from $20,000 to $100,000 per laboratory. Projects that are well-defined, achievable, and relevant to the problem faced by the business collective have a greater chance of being funded.Pre-proposals will be evaluated according to their expected economic impact and benefits for the small businesses, availability of private-sector funding, and their potential for enhancing the capabilities of either or both laboratories.If a pre-proposal has been approved, applicants will be asked to submit a full proposal, which includes providing additional information and making a presentation. The information will be due in early August, and the presentation will take place in late August. Those submitting proposals that are selected for 2012 funding will be notified during the first week of September.For more information and details on the pre-proposal requirements, contact Lisa Henne, (505) 667-1710 at Los Alamos or Jenni DeGreeff, (505) 844-9623 at Sandia.