



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Statement by New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson regarding the announcement by the University of California, Bechtel National Inc, BWX Technologies, Inc., and Washington Group International on their partnership to prepare for the competition to bid to manage Los Alamos National Laboratory.

I applaud the University of California, Bechtel National Inc, BWX Technologies, Inc., and Washington Group International for creating a strong team to prepare for the Los Alamos National Laboratory competition. This team combines the scientific strengths of the University of California with the strong management and operational practices of Bechtel, BWXT and WGI. From my days as Energy Secretary, I know from personal experience that the past performances of these team members bodes well for their ability to effectively manage Los Alamos into the future.

I am particularly pleased that New Mexico institutions of higher education will play a key role in the future scientific management of Los Alamos. New Mexico universities, including University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University and New Mexico Institute for Mining and Technology, have a tremendous wealth of scientific and technological resources and today's partnership ensures that they will be key players in the future of LANL.

Last November, I met with the UC Regents and urged them to secure an industrial partnership to complement their unparalleled excellence in science and technology. This team does just that.

Recently, some members of Congress have questioned the value of Los Alamos National Laboratory. As a former member of the House of Representatives, former UN Ambassador, former Secretary of Energy and now Governor of New Mexico, I can say unequivocally that Los Alamos National Laboratory is a national treasure, a scientific

jewel and critical to our homeland security. The history of our country and the struggle for peace in the world over the past six decades is a powerful testament to the necessity of this great laboratory and the patriotic dedication of its employees.

This new management team, led by UC and Bechtel, will allow Los Alamos to continue the proud 60 year history of scientific and technological achievement that is the hallmark of this national laboratory. I am equally confident that this strong partnership can compete vigorously for and win the next management contract.

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