



Conference focuses on Directed Energy in New Mexico

City of Albuquerque proclaims Jan. 6th Directed Energy Day, the city's first proclamation of the year.

Albuquerque (January 14, 2010) — Industry experts, government officials, federal and state legislators, economic development representatives and those working in the directed-energy industry gathered for the 1st conference on the importance and challenges of the directed energy (DE) industry in New Mexico. The “Bridging the Gap” conference took place on January 6th in Albuquerque with over 120 attendees. The conference was sponsored by nmOptics, Applied Technology Associates, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Northrop Grumman and the Boeing Company. Cosponsors included ACI, AED, DEPS, LANL, PACA, SNL and TVC. In addition, there were over 20 exhibitors.

Speakers included Congressman Martin Heinrich, Congressman Ben Ray Lujan, Cindy Kaiser and Susan Thornton of the Air Force Research Lab. Panel Moderators, former governor, Dr.

Garrey Carruthers, Lee Gutheinz, former Boeing Executive and Sherman McCorkle of TVC and Kirtland Partnership, led spirited discussions.



Speaker and panelist, Cindy Kaiser of AFRL

Panelists included: Jim McNally, ATA; John Sandvig, Boeing; James Rothenflue, Lockheed Martin; David Mordaunt, Northrop Grumman; Charlie Bice, Raytheon; Tom Bowles, Science Advisor to Governor Richardson; Bob Walton, AED; Beverlee McClure, ACI; Hal Morgan, SNL; Rob Dye, LANL; Fred

Mondragon, Secretary, New Mexico Economic Development; Luke Lester, UNM; Kenneth White, NMSU; Tony Hostutler, AFRL; Mario Burgos, Burgos Group; and Edward Pogue, Boeing.

At the conference, Albuquerque's Director of Economic Development, John Garcia, on behalf of Mayor RJ Berry, proclaimed January 6th as Directed Energy Technology Day in Albuquerque, the city's first proclamation for 2010.

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The Joint Technology Office exhibit, one of 20 exhibitors

“Directed energy is an economic platform for New Mexico today and tomorrow.”

-Cindy Kaiser, Chief Engineer, Directed Energy Directorate, AFRL

The focus of the conference was to identify and discuss impediments that hinder the development of directed-energy technology. A national leader in directed-energy, New Mexico has the largest concentration of directed-energy expertise in the country and is well positioned to become a world leader in the technology. It is second only to California in the number of employees working in the industry. The state has a large federal presence with three federal laboratories and four military bases that work on directed energy, as well as, nationally known companies such as Applied Technology Associates, Boeing, Raytheon, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman and is headquarters for the Directed Energy Professional Society (DEPS).



Panelists speak to over 120 attendees at the first “Bridging the Gap” conference

producing directed-energy prototypes, according to Susan Thornton, Senior Executive Service Director for the DE Directorate at AFRL. Speakers commented that DE needs further investment by government and industry, as well as demonstration programs that show the utility and effectiveness of DE technology to address threats to our nation’s security. The state

needs to focus on workforce development, in particular programs in science, technology, engineering and math for K-12 students, as well as its pipeline programs such as AFRL’s La Luz Academy, according to the state’s education experts and legislators.

Dr. Jim McNally, Applied Technology Associates and chairman of nmOptics, concluded the conference by stressing the importance of establishing the necessary policies to integrate DE weapons into the operational inventory that is available to war fighters.

The New Mexico Optics Industry Association was founded in 1999 and has over 60 members. The association holds meetings, executive round tables and conferences for the benefit of its members and the high-tech community.



Speaker Congressman Ben Ray Lujan

“Directed energy is an economic platform for New Mexico today and tomorrow,” according to Cindy Kaiser, chief engineer at the AFRL, Directed Energy Directorate.

According to industry experts at the conference, there is a gap between the technology developments and the commercialization of DE products for the marketplace. One of the reasons for this gap is the cost of