



ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT

**Contact:** Chris Chaffin  
[Chris.Chaffin@edd.nm.gov](mailto:Chris.Chaffin@edd.nm.gov)  
(505) 490-7962

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Cabinet Secretary Rob Black  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary Isaac Romero

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

August 22, 2025

## **New Mexico is Candidate for Cutting-Edge Hypersonic Rocket Motor Facility**

**SANDOVAL COUNTY, N.M.** — A cutting-edge defense technology company is evaluating Sandoval County, New Mexico, for a major new investment — an ambitious project that, if it moved forward here, could bring hundreds of high-paying jobs and reaffirm the state's critical role in national security.

The proposed project, undertaken by Castelion Corporation, headquartered in Torrance, California, would create a 1,000-acre rocket motor production facility for the manufacturing and testing of next-generation hypersonic systems. While the project is still under consideration and other out-of-state sites remain in play, initial county and state projections estimate that Phase One could generate more than \$659 million in economic output over the next decade in New Mexico.

"New Mexico has long been a cornerstone of American innovation and defense; winning this project would continue that tradition," said **Rob Black, Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Economic Development Department**. "If our state is ultimately selected, this would mean high-tech jobs, significant investment, and the kind of advanced manufacturing that keeps New Mexico on the map for national security and economic opportunity alike."

Founded with a mission to restore the U.S. industrial base for defense, Castelion aims to produce hypersonic systems at scale to help the U.S. and its allies deter global threats and prevent conflict. Phase One of the project could see an investment of over \$101 million and up to 300 new engineers, technicians, and executives hired at the site with salaries averaging over \$100,000 per year.

Local and regional collaboration has been essential to advancing New Mexico's candidacy, including efforts by Sandoval County, the Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance (AREA), Sandoval Economic Alliance (SEA), and state and federal officials.

"This kind of project reflects the type of industrial development that strengthens our local economy while contributing to national priorities," said **Sandoval County Manager Wayne Johnson**. "It's the result of months of focused work and cooperation across agencies."

"Coordinated efforts like this are a powerful example of how our region and state can win when the public and private sectors work together with focus and determination," said **Chad Matheson, Interim President & CEO of the Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance**. "This investment could deliver high-quality jobs, significant capital investment, and strengthen our position as a premier destination for defense technology and research and development investment."

This project has undergone extensive reviews by Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories, both of which concluded that site and safety plans meet the highest federal and scientific standards. The facility will also implement stringent environmental monitoring and 24/7 on-site security to ensure the safety of the surrounding community.

If New Mexico is selected, the company's presence could grow to employ over 1,000 people by 2035, with additional capital investments potentially exceeding \$150 million.

###

*providing a place for businesses to thrive. EDD's programs contribute directly to this mission by funding workforce training and infrastructure that supports business growth, helping every community create a thriving economy.*

---

New Mexico Economic Development Department  
[EDD.NewMexico.gov](http://EDD.NewMexico.gov)



New Mexico Economic Development Department | 1100 South St. Francis Dr Joseph M.  
Montoya Building | Santa Fe, NM 87505-4147 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)