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Castelion breaks ground on Project Ranger in Rio Rancho, creating 300 high-paying jobs
Castelion will invest \$220 million in the new campus

RIO RANCHO — Castelion, a defense technology company, today broke ground on a 1,000-acre manufacturing campus — known as Project Ranger — in Sandoval County, reinforcing New Mexico's position at the forefront of defense innovation.

The groundbreaking marks the next phase of a \$220 million private investment expected to generate of \$650 million in economic output over the next decade and create 300 high-wage jobs for New Mexicans. The campus's first building will be completed this summer, with all 21 buildings complete and ready for production by the end of 2026.

"When it comes to the technologies that keep our nation safe, New Mexico leads," said **Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham**. "This facility brings hundreds of high-paying jobs and strengthens our advanced manufacturing base because companies like Castelion know that we have what it takes — the workforce, the expertise and the infrastructure to deliver."

At the new campus, Castelion will produce solid rocket motors, conduct static tests and assemble components to produce finished rounds. The company has designed its testing procedures to minimize noise and ensure safety for the surrounding neighborhoods.

"We chose New Mexico for its unparalleled technical talent and history of scientific achievement," said **Bryon Hargis, CEO and co-founder of Castelion**. "Project Ranger represents a renaissance in American manufacturing, delivering the advanced systems our country needs. We're proud to partner with a community that has powered some of our nation's greatest leaps forward. We have a bright future together."

"Today marks the continued evolution of New Mexico's innovation economy, demonstrating that New Mexico is the next frontier for technologies that are essential for our economy and our national security," said **Rob Black, cabinet secretary of the New Mexico Economic Development Department**. "Castelion also adds a new layer of career opportunities for the next generation of New Mexicans who can add building really cool rockets as a potential career in their home state."

"I'm pleased to welcome the groundbreaking of Castelion's new manufacturing facility in Sandoval County that will strengthen our national security, grow our state's economy, and create over 300 permanent jobs that New Mexicans can build their families around," said **U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich**. "This is a great example of what New Mexico does best: Developing cutting-edge science and technology and manufacturing it right here in our state."

"I am very excited and grateful for Castelion to be incredible partners with us to help our nation stay ahead of our competitors when it comes to national security," said **New Mexico State Senator Jay Block**. "This company will be critical to catch up and pass China and Russia in hypersonic technologies. This is a race we cannot lose."

Local and regional collaboration was essential to the decision by Castelion to build this campus in New Mexico, driven by efforts from Sandoval County, the City of Rio Rancho, the Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance (AREA), Sandoval Economic Alliance (SEA) and state officials.

"Sandoval County is committed to providing the services necessary to assist Castelion in the successful build and operation of its newest rocket manufacturing facility," said **Wayne Johnson, Sandoval County manager**. "We are ready to bring this project forward with a company dedicated to strengthening national security. Our qualified workforce is eager to join the Castelion team, and we are pleased for all these great new jobs on this side of the river."

“Castelion and Sandoval County continue New Mexico’s legacy and leadership in technology and defense, and we are proud to be a partner in this endeavor,” said **Jordan Juarez, Sandoval County Commission chair**. “This company has the vision, expertise and experience in our country’s defense program; and Sandoval County can provide the high-tech talent, land and logistics to support its efforts. Together, we are strengthening New Mexico’s role in national security.”

“Castelion’s decision to invest here reflects the strength of our assets, the depth of our talent and the collaborative leadership that makes New Mexico competitive on a national scale,” said **Chad Matheson, interim president & CEO, Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance (AREA)**.

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