

House Armed Services Committee
Leger Fernandez, Teresa(D-NM) - Community Project Funding Requests

ID	Request Project Name	Recipient Name	Request Member's Request (in thousands, \$000)
84	Directed Energy Research and Education for Workforce Development	University of New Mexico	\$2,500

Request ID: 84			
Project Name:	Directed Energy Research and Education for Workforce Development	Request Nature:	Community Project Funding
Member Name:	Leger Fernandez, Teresa(D-NM)	Member's Request: (in thousands, \$000)	\$2,500
Justification:	<p>The funding provided for the Directed Energy Center will allow UNM to boost its collaboration on Directed Energy (DE) with the Department of Defense, especially with the Directed Energy division of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and the Joint Directed Energy Transition Office (DE-JTO). There is a growing need for enhanced collaboration between universities and defense laboratories in this area to achieve higher power and more intelligent sources of Directed Energy, which is directly tied to the national security of the United States. There is also an increasing demand for technical workforce development in this area, especially at UNM, given its proximity to the Directed Energy division at Air Force Research Laboratory. This will also feed into the pipeline in Directed Energy and related technologies at Los Alamos National Laboratory.</p>		
Project Purpose:	<p>Directed Energy (DE) lasers and microwaves are a technology that offers the ability to deliver energy to a target at the speed of light on an iterative basis. Advances in pulsed power technology, batteries, capacitors, and electronics have all contributed towards making Directed Energy a reality. The University of New Mexico (UNM) has the top University research program in DE microwaves in the country. It has just recently established a Directed Energy Center which gives equal prominence to DE lasers. This Center of Excellence is highly aligned with the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate (RD), and will train the next generation M.S. and Ph.D. workforce. This seed funding is needed to further develop the necessary research, technology, and local workforce to capitalize on the existing potential at the University of New Mexico and its branch campuses in Gallup, Taos, Los Alamos, and Valencia.</p>		
Member Website Link:	https://fernandez.house.gov/services		
Project City or County:	Albuquerque	Project State:	NM
Recipient Name:	University of New Mexico	Recipient Mailing Address:	UNM Center for High Technology Materials 1313 Goddard SE Albuquerque, NM 87106

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Rogers:

I am requesting funding for Directed Energy Research and Education for Workforce Development in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of New Mexico, located at the University of New Mexico Center for High Technology Materials, 1313 Goddard SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106.

The funding would be used for research, development, testing, and evaluation, supporting education and workforce development, of directed energy technology. Directed energy technology offers an additional tool to the U.S. military that supports our national security mission while minimizing the need to use bombs and other potentially more destructive weapons.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa Leger Fernandez".

Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress

