

Sandia Lab News

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Z-Beamlet lab wins R&D Magazine 'Special Mention' award

The Z-Beamlet facility in Sandia's Area 4 has won a special mention for engineering in *R&D Magazine's* 36th annual competition for the renovated laboratory of the year.

The award was announced on March 20 at the Pittcon Conference in New Orleans. A description of the project will be included in a Lab-of-the-Year section of the May 2002 issue of *R&D Magazine*.

The panel of judges included architects, researchers, equipment suppliers, lab design consultants, and editors of the magazine.

"I'm very pleased," says John Porter (1673), manager of the Z-Beamlet facility. "It always feels good to be recognized for hard work."

Mike Hurst (1673), Z-Beamlet operations coordinator, will journey to New Orleans to receive the award, a plaque. "It's a public recognition of his hard work in helping to bring it all together. He was kind of the glue," says John.

Says VP Al Romig (1000), who first suggested entering the lab in the competition, "It was such a significant achievement — to take one of the world's most powerful lasers from Lawrence Livermore and move it to Sandia to provide important diagnostic capabilities for the Z machine. With a near-miraculous team effort led by John Porter, our folks in Area 4 were able to take what had formerly been a warehouse and turn it into a high cleanliness facility to house this large, complex laser. We're delighted the renovated lab won the special mention."

— Neal Singer

Massive MESA project advances to next step \$68 million arrives to fund equipment, utility relocations

By Neal Singer

On a cold day in February, MESA program director Don Cook (1900) stands with his hands in the pockets of his black overcoat, looking through a chainlink fence at two huge front-end loaders digging up the field west of Bldg. 897 at the southeast corner of Area 1.

Sixty-eight million dollars will come in this year from the NNSA to push further forward a \$423 million project expected not only to

renovate much Sandia physical plant and equipment but also revive any flagging Sandia spirit (if any still remains to be energized post-9/11).

"This is where the Weapons Integration Center will be — three stories, with 181 weapon engineers," Don says. Gesturing to the east of the Microelectronics Development Lab, he says, "There is where the MicroFab will be, with new cleanrooms and equipment to replace CSRL [the Compound Semiconductor Research Laboratory]."

"The pedestrian walkway will be here where we're standing. We'll have a Starbucks and maybe a cafeteria."

Pointing north of MDL, he indicates the site for the upgrade of major support systems, and in MDL, the installation of the latest equipment for producing radiation-hardened circuitry.

"We've already paid \$9 million for rad-hard
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DON COOK at MESA site.

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