LLNL’s Economic Impact

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), located in Livermore, California, is a research and development facility for science and technology solutions to some of our nation’s greatest challenges. Managed by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS), LLNL has an annual budget of nearly $3.3 billion and has roughly 9,300 LLNS employees. It is largely funded by the Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration.

LLNL’s economic impact in California manifests through payroll to employees and procurements awarded to local companies. The Laboratory stimulates commercial activity through the transfer of its technologies to licensees ranging from startups to FORTUNE 500® companies. LLNL also develops research-based public-private partnerships to improve business access to world-class scientific capabilities to help them improve their technologies.

In fiscal year 2023, LLNL awarded more than $1.26 billion in procurements to businesses, both in California and across the nation, for a broad range of products and services that support the Laboratory’s overall mission. From 2018 to 2022, nearly $905 million worth of products containing LLNL technology have been sold worldwide.

California Success Stories

DYNA3D: Developed at LLNL by John Hallquist, this software analyzes and visually portrays the effects of stresses on computer-generated 3-dimensional objects. Hallquist launched Livermore Software Technology Corporation (LSTC) in Livermore, California and matured the original software into LS-DYNA. The automobile industry, among others, uses LS-DYNA to simulate crashes and conduct safety testing. LSTC was sold to ANSYS Inc. in 2019 for $775 million.

Micro Impulse Radar (MIR): Pioneered at LLNL, MIR single-handedly revolutionized radar technology. A compact, low-power, low-cost, short range radar system, it is used around the world in a wide range of applications. For example, MIR operates automatic doors or gates, serves as a motion detector for alarm systems, and enables automobile blind-spot detection and anti-crash systems.

DNA-TRAX: Foodborne diseases cost the U.S. an estimated $150 billion annually. SafeTraces, Inc. licensed an LLNL-developed spray-on DNA-based barcode technology that can track the source of contaminated food in the supply chain in just minutes rather than days or weeks. SafeTraces aims to reduce food safety concerns such as contaminated and counterfeit food.

LLNL FY23 Fueling California’s Economy

PROCUREMENTS BY COUNTY (Top 10)

- Alameda $83M
- Contra Costa $69M
- Orange $24M
- Los Angeles $16M
- San Diego $13M
- San Mateo $11M
- Santa Clara $137M
- San Francisco $12M
- San Joaquin $24M
- Marin $24M

$453 M
CA PROCUREMENT AWARDS

$1.26 B
TOTAL PROCUREMENT AWARDS

- 73 companies with active commercial licenses, 36 based in California
- $1.38 billion total California payroll
LLNL as a Business Partner

The Laboratory focuses on innovation initiatives that will develop public-private partnerships and grow high-technology business opportunities in the Tri-Valley and greater San Francisco Bay region. Furthering these goals are LLNL’s relationships with regional organizations such as the California Clean Energy Fund, the Bay Area Council, East Bay Economic Development Alliance, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and the Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group.

LLNL’s Innovation and Partnerships Office (IPO) spearheads the Laboratory’s engagement with industry. Whether through technology commercialization, encouraging entrepreneurship, or business development activities, the primary mission is to grow the economy by advancing the development and commercialization of scientific discoveries.

IPO has active commercial licenses with 73 companies as well as dozens of cooperative research and development agreements (CRADAs). Licensing and royalty income topped $5.9 million in FY23, while roughly $905 million worth of products based on LLNL technology have been sold since 2018. LLNL-licensed technologies have enabled the launch of numerous new businesses that help drive economic growth locally, regionally, and beyond. Additionally, the Laboratory participates in events and organizations that support technology innovation and business development. Here are some examples:

- **University Partnerships:** LLNL and Stanford University collaborate to create multi-scale models and prototype devices for the electromechanical production of chemicals from CO\textsubscript{2}. The project aims to improve carbon capture, storage, and utilization technologies to help reduce CO\textsubscript{2} and reliance on fossil fuels.

- **Industry/Non-Governmental Organizations:** The High Performance Computing for Energy Innovation program (HPC4EI) offers U.S. industry access to LLNL’s superior computing power to improve their global competitiveness. LLNL works with Santa Clara materials engineering firm Applied Materials to improve a process for depositing thin-film materials on wafers used in LED lights.

- **Community Partnerships:** LLNL supports the i-Gate innovation hub, located in the city of Livermore, California, for regional entrepreneurs.

- **State Government Partnerships:** The California Energy Commission funded an LLNL effort to reduce the cost of water desalination and increase water reuse to help California through future droughts.

Expanding Partnerships

The Advanced Manufacturing Lab (AML) is a collaborative hub for developing next-generation materials and manufacturing technologies. The 13,000-square-foot facility is located in LLNL’s growing Livermore Valley Open Campus and features two laboratories (a reconfigurable “wet” chemistry lab and a “dry” instrument lab), a collaboration space, conference area, and support rooms with potential for future expansion.

Expanding on LLNL’s existing infrastructure and expertise in materials science, engineering, and additive manufacturing, the AML combines high-performance computing, modeling, and simulation to rapidly advance research into emerging manufacturing technologies.