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For Immediate Release
October 23, 2012

Navajo President Signs MOU with Sandia National Labs



President Ben Shelly (left) and Sandia National Laboratory President Paul Hommet (right) sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the two entities setting forth collaboration for Navajo Nation resource protection and development.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Sandia National Laboratories last Friday during a signing ceremony at the Navajo Nation Museum.

“Through the leadership of the Navajo Nation and the Department of Energy, we are able to have the national lab’s scientist and engineers to work alongside the Navajo Nation, supporting the critical needs in areas of energy development and technology deployments,” President Shelly said.

The MOU calls for collaboration between the two parties to address such issues at economic development on the Navajo Nation, technical assistance from Sandia, develop strategies regarding Navajo's natural resources, and develop communication between the Navajo Nation, Sandia National Laboratories and other national laboratories under the Strategic Technical Tribal Technology Team.

"We are paving the way to great progress," President Shelly said.

Paul Hommet, president and director of Sandia National Laboratory, said the labs are committed to helping the Navajo Nation.

"(The MOU) reflects our pledge to a continued partnership," Hommet said.

President Shelly said he envisions the use of the MOU to help the Navajo Nation create jobs on the Navajo Nation.

"Right now this is my priority we need to adhere to. We need to bring employment and we need to bring revenue to the Nation," President Shelly said.

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