Lockheed Martin To Test SBInet Solution At New Mexico Tech Playas Training Center

Real-World Test Environment Provides Significant Advantage to Address DHS Challenges

Lockheed Martin will use New Mexico Tech's Playas Training and Research Center as an environmental test bed for its SBInet solution through an agreement with the state-sponsored research university.

"Rigorous testing of the technology is a critical aspect of crafting a SBInet solution that measurably increases the security of our borders," said Jay Dragone, vice president, Homeland Security Programs. "In New Mexico Tech's Playas Training and Research Center, we have the perfect test environment, one that helps to ensure that our sensors and systems stand up to the extreme physical conditions of the southern border."

"The Playas Training and Research Center mission focuses on providing training, research, development, testing and evaluation opportunities for programs related to homeland security, defense and energy reliability," Van Romero, vice president of Research and Economic Development at New Mexico Tech, remarked. "Through this collaboration with Lockheed Martin on its SBInet solution, we can significantly contribute to strengthening this country's security and enhancing safety for its citizens."

In addition to embedding and testing its sensor technology, Lockheed Martin will also use the Playas for training opportunities and fielding tactics. "We're confident that by leveraging the knowledge that stems from this test bed, Lockheed Martin can offer Customs and Border Protection a solution for border control that will be operationally successful," added Dragone.

The Playas Training and Research Center is a 650-acre township owned by the university, just 20 air miles from the U.S.-Mexican border. Located between the Animas and Little Hatchet mountain ranges and overlooking the Playas Valley, the center is a ghost town composed of more than 250 homes, six apartment buildings and several community centers. Developed and operated by New Mexico Tech's Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center, the Playas has served as a training ground for antiterrorism groups, law enforcement and first responders.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin employs about 135,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services.

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