

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/12/07

SPONSOR Altamarano LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE NM Tech Energetic Materials Research Center SB 516

ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$570.0	Recurring	General Fund

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 516 requests an appropriation of \$570,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NM Tech) for expenditure in FY07 and FY08 for expansions and upgrades at the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center.

This bill includes Section 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE.--It is necessary for the public peace, health and safety that this act takes effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$570,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund. This bill requests an increase in recurring funds in the amount of \$570,000. According to the director of planning, the funds are needed to begin a program to avoid losing federal funding. The bill declares an emergency for public safety in order to allow spending of the funds in current FY07. Most of these funds are for physical facilities and to expand the EMRTC program.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center (EMRTC), affiliated with New Mexico Tech, are internationally recognized and has over fifty years of expertise in explosives research and testing.

EMRTC specializes in the research, development, and analysis of energetic materials for both corporate and government clients.

According to the New Mexico Tech website (<http://www.emrtc.nmt.edu/>), as one of several research divisions of New Mexico Tech, EMRTC has access to University faculty with experience in a wide variety of scientific and technical disciplines. EMRTC's 40-square-mile field laboratory contains over 30 test sites, gun ranges, storage sites, and other research facilities, allowing for a complete spectrum of research and testing activities.

EMRTC specializes in the following areas of research and development:

- Computer simulations
- DOT and UN hazards classification
- Environmental assessments
- Insensitive munitions testing
- Light gas gun experiments
- Mine detection evaluation
- Non-ideal explosives research
- Ordinance testing
- Reusable blast test fixture programs (joint venture with the FAA)
- Rocket engine testing
- Sled track experiments
- Vulnerability/Survivability analysis
- Warhead characterization
- Warhead development

EMRTC offers research opportunities in a variety of engineering and scientific disciplines. EMRTC also employs undergraduate and graduate students through New Mexico Tech. Students work as regular employees, as interns for those programs which require it, and as research assistants.

This proposal for additional funding was submitted to the HED by NM Tech for review, but was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08. The bill's appropriation is \$570,000, whereas NM Tech's proposed amount was slightly less at \$568,500. HED recommends that this program be funded at the FY07 recurring level of \$766,800, with no additional funding for FY08.

GM/nt