



Southwest Research Institute Profile

Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, is one of the oldest and largest independent, nonprofit, applied research and development (R&D) organizations in the United States. Founded in 1947, SwRI provides contract research and development services to industrial and government clients. The Institute is governed by a board of directors, which is advised by approximately 100 trustees.

SwRI consists of eleven technical divisions that offer multidisciplinary, problem-solving services in a variety of areas in engineering and the physical sciences. Nearly 2,000 projects were active at the Institute at the close of fiscal year 2003. These projects were funded almost equally between the government and commercial sectors. SwRI's total revenue for this fiscal year was \$355 million. During 2003, SwRI provided more than \$4 million to fund innovative research through its internally sponsored R&D program.

A partial listing of research areas includes antennas and propagation; automation, robotics, and intelligent systems; avionics and support systems; bioengineering; chemistry and chemical engineering; communications systems; corrosion and electrochemistry; Earth and planetary sciences; emissions research; engineering mechanics; fire technology; fluid systems and machinery dynamics; and fuels and lubricants. Additional areas include geochemistry and mining engineering; hydrology and geohydrology; space science and engineering; materials sciences and fracture mechanics; modeling and simulation; nondestructive evaluation; oil and gas exploration; pipeline technology; surface modification and coatings; training systems and simulators; and vehicle, engine, and powertrain design, research, and development.

SwRI initiates contracts with clients based on initial consultations and prepares a formal proposal outlining the scope of work. Subject to client wishes, programs are kept confidential. Intellectual property resulting from contract research is generally assigned to the client.

SwRI's headquarters occupy almost two million square feet of office and laboratory space on a 1,200-acre site in San Antonio. The Institute has technical offices and laboratories in Atlanta, Georgia; Boulder, Colorado; Dayton, Ohio; Fort Hood, Texas; Ogden, Utah; Huntsville, Alabama; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Orlando, Florida; Rockville, Maryland; and Warner-Robins, Georgia. SwRI provides environmental monitoring expertise at munitions demilitarization sites at the Umatilla Army Depot at Hermiston, Oregon, and the Pine Bluff Chemical Depot at Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

At the close of fiscal year 2003, the staff numbered 2,710. This number includes professionals who hold 198 degrees at the doctorate level and 328 at the master's level.



In 2003, staff members published 462 papers in the technical literature; made 356 presentations at technical conferences, seminars, and symposia around the world; submitted 73 invention disclosures; filed 54 patent applications; and received 40 patent awards. The Institute supports professional development of its staff through onsite technical and training courses and tuition reimbursement.

Southwest Research Institute holds more than 700 patents, has earned 26 R&D 100 awards, and has been inducted in the U.S. Space Foundation's Space Technology Hall of Fame. Several divisions within SwRI have achieved ISO 9001 or ISO 9002 certification and ISO/IEC Guide 25 accreditation. The Ford Motor Company has designated the Institute a Tier 1 product development engineering services supplier and has awarded the Institute its Q1 award. In 1999, the Institute received its second Department of Defense James S. Cogswell Outstanding Industrial Security Achievement Award.

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