



*Being recognized as a Best Place to Work reflects the culture our 600+ employees create every day. Their commitment to one another, our members, and our communities is what makes Sunward a special place.*

Steph Sherrodd, President & CEO, Sunward

### COMPANY, ORGANIZATION & PARTNER NEWS

#### Sunward Wins ABF's Best Places to Work Award

Sunward Federal Credit Union, with a branch in the SS&TP, is one of 43 companies named as 2026 Best Places to Work in New Mexico by Albuquerque Business First, and one of only five in the extra-large category (200+ employees). ABF's Best Places to Work finalists were selected from over 100 nominations. This award recognizes the top companies in our region for creating an engaging and energizing workplace environment and culture for their employees. Sunward was built by and for employees of Sandia National Laboratories serving members across the Southwest and in Livermore, California. The credit union will be celebrated alongside all other honorees at an awards ceremony on August 13 at Sandia Resort & Casino.



#### Dragon Lady Lands at Nuclear Museum

The former spy aircraft, the Lockheed U-2 Dragon Lady, is now on display in Heritage Park at the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History. It took several days of rebuilding by Worldwide Aircraft Recovery, a team based in Bellevue, Nebraska, specializing in aircraft disassembly and reassembly. The Dragon Lady is a single-engine, single-seat aircraft that has been used for intelligence gathering from altitudes above 70,000 feet since the 1950s. The Museum has the largest aircraft collection for public viewing in the state of New Mexico.



#### AV Awarded \$20 Million AFRL Contract

AV has secured a \$20 million, 39-month Ceramics Advanced Materials and Processes contract from the Air Force Research Laboratory to develop next-generation ceramic and ceramic matrix composites supporting the U.S. Air and Space Forces. From its SS&TP facilities, AV will leverage advanced additive manufacturing, 3D printing, and sensor integration to create lightweight, thermally resilient structures for high-speed vehicles, turbine engines, rocket propulsion, and armor. The research will advance material synthesis, fabrication, characterization, and modeling, enabling real-time health monitoring and multifunctional ceramics for aerospace, space, energy, and defense applications.



#### Excelligent Expands with Two New NNSA Contracts

Excelligent is expanding its footprint with two new contract partnerships supporting the National Nuclear Security Administration. The company joined the Parsons Cooperative Teaming Arrangement under the Enterprise Construction Management Services 3 contract, enhancing construction management, project controls, and mission-critical support across NNSA. Excelligent also became a subcontractor with Vector Resources under the Technical, Engineering, and Programmatic Services III Blanket Purchase Agreement, broadening its role in NNSA programs and modernization initiatives. These partnerships strengthen capabilities in weapons systems project controls, engineering, and program support, better positioning the teams to meet NNSA's evolving mission requirements.

