

Gerry Yonas

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Dr. Gerold (Gerry) Yonas is Vice President and Principal Scientist at Sandia National Laboratories, a subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corp.

In 1999 he initiated Sandia's Advanced Concepts Group. Four years earlier, he became Vice President of Systems, Science, and Technology. In 1991 he became Vice President of Systems Applications and focused on strategic leadership in new initiatives in global surveillance, battlefield sensors, and nonnuclear high-precision weapons. Dr. Yonas returned to Sandia in 1989 as Director of Laboratory Development.

In 1986 he joined Titan Corporation as President of Titan Technologies. From 1984–1986, he provided technical management, oversight, and strategic planning for the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO) during its formative years. In 1983 he was selected to Chair the Directed Energy Weapon Panel of the "Fletcher" study forming the basis for the Strategic Defense Initiative Program. Later, he became the first Chief Scientist for the SDIO and its Acting Deputy Director. In 1972 he joined Sandia, where he initiated and directed the particle-beam fusion program, particle-beam weapon program, advanced-simulation development, and applications activities, as well as development of Sandia's Pulsed Power research capability which remains one of the world's premier pulsed-power research and applications centers. In 1967 he joined Physics International and was responsible for investigating the physics of high-power electron beams. Before then, his career began in 1962 as senior scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he was responsible for original research in magneto fluid dynamics and solar physics.

He has published extensively in the fields of intense particle beams, inertial confinement fusion, strategic defense technologies, and technology transfer. He received the BEAMS prize, the Peter Haas Award by the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers, the Fusion Power Associates Leadership Award, and the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service for "exceptionally meritorious service to his country by significant contributions to the nation's Strategic Defense Initiative." He holds a U.S. Patent for a Relativistic Electron Beam Accelerator concept. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. A member of Sigma Xi and Tau Beta Pi, he serves on the U.S. Special Operations Command Science Panel, the U.S. Army Science Assessment Group, the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Technical Advisory Group, and the Center for Strategic & International Studies Commission on Global Aging. He serves on the Advisory Council of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Cornell University, and the Electrical and Computer Engineering Advisory Council at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Yonas received a B.S. in Engineering Physics from Cornell University, a Guggenheim fellowship for graduate study at California Institute of Technology, and a Ph.D. in Engineering Science and Physics.