

# 'Sci-fi to real life': US invests \$17 million in laser tech

August 23 2017, by Susan Montoya Bryan

---

The U.S. Defense Department is investing \$17 million in high-powered laser technology that has the potential for practical uses on the battlefield, from destroying enemy drones to disrupting communication systems.

U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich announced the funding during a news conference Wednesday at a Boeing lab in Albuquerque, where many of the innovations needed to track targets and control the intensity of the high-powered lasers were developed.

A member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the New Mexico Democrat said the biggest challenge has been getting colleagues in Congress and others to realize that the lasers are no longer [science fiction](#) but rather critical tools that the U.S. military can use in difficult situations.

He says the [laser](#) weapons systems are small and portable and would be more economic for the military to operate.

© 2017 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: 'Sci-fi to real life': US invests \$17 million in laser tech (2017, August 23) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-08-sci-fi-real-life-invests-million.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is

provided for information purposes only.