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J. Pace VanDevender is Vice President Emeritus of Sandia National Laboratory. Prior to his retirement in 2005 to have more time for energy research, Dr. VanDevender served as Vice President of Science & Technology and Partnerships and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at Sandia National Laboratories.

He has contributed technically to Pulsed Power for thermonuclear fusion, especially water-dielectric switching, magnetic flashover inhibition, self-magnetically insulated power flow in vacuum, and the architecture of superpower generators like the Particle Beam Fusion Accelerator II, which is now adapted to z-pinches and called Z. In 1991 he received the Department of Energy's Lawrence Award for Physics for those contributions.

Dr. VanDevender is a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and a Fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He earned a Ph.D. in Physics from the Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, England in 1974, where he was a Marshall Scholar; an M.A. in Physics from Dartmouth College in 1971; and a B.A. in Physics from Vanderbilt University in 1969.