SOUNDS.IM

The quietest rooms

Orfield's phrase, a 2015 Guinness average of -20.35 dBA, and a missing minus left as written.

Typographic only. No photographs inside. Official wording from Orfield Laboratories and Guinness World Records, re-opened 18 November 2026.

Point	Official wording
Orfield's phrase	Orfield Laboratories, on its home page, describes the firm as otherwise known as "The Quietest Place on Earth," the world's only independent, multi-sensory design research and consulting laboratory, offering testing services since 1971. The phrase is quoted here as the laboratory's branding, not as a current Guinness title.
What an anechoic chamber is	Guinness, in 2015, defined an anechoic chamber as a room insulated from exterior sources of noise and designed to completely absorb reflections of sounds inside.
The 2015 title	Guinness World Records, on 2 October 2015, said Microsoft had created the Quietest place on Earth at their headquarters in Redmond, Washington, USA, with an average background noise reading of -20.35 dBA (decibels A-weighted).
The test results, as written	Two tests were carried out by professional independent sound specialists and the test results were "20.6 dBA and -20.1 dBA." The missing minus on "20.6 dBA" is left as written. Those tests, Guinness said, were a considerably better figure than the creators' hope for -16 dBA.
The previous marks	The new mark bettered the record of -13 dBA recorded at the Anechoic Test Chamber at Orfield Laboratories, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, in October 2012. The record was first set in 2004 at only -9.4 dBA.
A dated companion	A Microsoft News Center video page dated 1 October 2015 is titled "What goes on inside the world's quietest place? (Inside B87)." It is a dated companion, not a second table of official figures.

A short quiz

1. What average background noise did Guinness report for the 2015 Microsoft chamber?
2. How are the two test results written on that Guinness page?
3. What previous Guinness mark, and where, does the same page record for October 2012?

Answers. -20.35 dBA. "20.6 dBA and -20.1 dBA," as written. -13 dBA at Orfield Laboratories, Minneapolis.

Wording from the Orfield Laboratories home page; Guinness World Records, "Microsoft lab sets new record for the world's quietest place," 2 October 2015; and a Microsoft News Center video page, 1 October 2015; re-opened 18 November 2026. sounds.im is independent of those organisations. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.