

Governor Bill Richardson Unveils New Effort To Transform New Mexico Research Into High-Tech, High-Wage Jobs

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Contact: Cathy Ann Connelly
505.476.3747

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today joined New Mexico's 12 premiere research facilities in signing an historic memorandum of agreement (MOA) designed to turn "intellectual property" into jobs for New Mexicans.

"Never before have these institutions formally come together to collaborate and turn research and expertise into commercial revenue," said Governor Richardson, "and in so doing not only benefit themselves, but all of New Mexico."

"The Technology Research Corridor (TRC) initiative sets an ambitious new agenda for our economic development efforts," Governor Richardson added. "Taking bold steps such as this are imperative as we build a high-tech, high wage, prosperous New Mexico economy." Governor Richardson pointed out the state's aggressive economic development efforts have already resulted in over 1,000 new higher-paying jobs generated in New Mexico in just the last four months.

"Vance Coffman, president of Lockheed Martin, gave us the nonprofit Technology Ventures Corporation (TVC) ten years ago this week," said Rick Homans, New Mexico Secretary of Economic Development. "This is the group, led by Sherman McCorkle, which has been the catalyst for today's alliance among our research institutions - institutions with leaders who also wisely see the potential in working together to increase their bottom-line effectiveness," he said.

"It is an alliance that is viable in part due to TVC's stellar track record of successfully turning intellectual property into commercial reality," said Secretary Homans. During the past decade, TVC's efforts have resulted in the launch of 49 new high tech businesses, the creation of more than 5,600 New Mexico jobs, and \$340 million in investment into the state.

Research commissioned by TVC identified four specific "opportunity clusters" which are a product of the blended core competencies of the 12 research institutions. Studies show these collaborative areas are ripe with ideas ready to be jointly patented and turned into money-making business opportunities, he said (*see end of release for area definitions*).

"TVC has already identified areas to go after to produce revenue generating businesses and workforce jobs," said Secretary Homans, "And they have also assigned a dedicated, full-time individual, Dr. Charles Whitehurst, to focus on getting these ideas and technologies into the marketplace," he said. "With TVC's track record, the collaboration in place, technologies

identified, and a staff person already assigned, we anticipate identifiable gains in new businesses and jobs for New Mexico out of the Corridor concept in just the next few years,” said Secretary Homans.

In addition to securing patents and getting joint technology commercialized and into the marketplace, Whitehurst’s responsibilities will also include helping the 12 research institutions to collectively submit requests for new funding for cooperative research - an effort again aimed at maximizing the positive benefits from blended core competencies and research capabilities.

“This is a specific effort where the State of New Mexico as well as our very supportive Federal delegation will zero in to make sure we are competitive when it comes to securing expanded joint research funding from entities such as the Department of Energy, Department of Defense, National Institute for Health, as well as other foundations and government agencies,” said Governor Bill Richardson.

The MOA is being signed by the following 12 New Mexico research facilities, listed in alphabetical order:

- Air Force Research Laboratory, Space Vehicles Directorate- Joseph Sciabica, Deputy Director
- Air Force Research Laboratory, Directed Energy Directorate- Mark Stephen, Acting Director
- Los Alamos National Laboratory- Donna Smith, Division Leader
- National Center for Genome Resources- Miguel Rios, Interim President & CEO
- New Mexico State University- Dan Dwyer, Vice Provost for Research
- New Mexico Tech- Daniel H. Lopez, President
- Sandia National Laboratories- Joan Woodard, Executive Vice President and Deputy Director
- Santa Fe Institute- Ellen Goldberg, President (change in presidency occurring)
- The MIND Institute- Kathy Burrows, Executive Director
- University of New Mexico- Terry Yates, Vice Provost for Research
- University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center- R. Philip Eaton, Vice President for Health Sciences
- White Sands Missile Range- Col. Lawrence Sowa, Commander