



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON JUMP STARTS REBIRTH OF ROSWELL BUS MANUFACTURER

Project Means Hundreds of New, High Wage Jobs for Roswell

ROSWELL, NM -- Governor Bill Richardson announced today that Roswell bus manufacturer Millennium Transport will reopen the Volvo/Nova Bus plant and start hiring workers to roll out a new production line.

“Today – with the endorsement of the State Investment Council – we’re investing in the people of Roswell,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “I’m proud to be here and to have the privilege to announce that Roswell is back in the bus business.”

Millennium is expected to create more than 400 jobs in the next five years, and will hire 250 employees in the next few months. Including benefits, wages are expected to start at more than \$30,000, which is above the average salary in Roswell.

The effort to revive the bus company was lead by the Roswell community. The state is purchasing a two million dollar mortgage interest on the building, facilities, and equipment owned by Volvo and formerly used by Nova Bus Company. The investment, in combination with additional financing from the city of Roswell and Pioneer Bank, will allow Millennium to take over from Nova Bus, which shut down operations last year. At its peak of production, Nova had more than 850 employees and a \$28 million annual payroll.

Millennium has already lined up some significant work orders that will keep them busy from day one of operations near the start of 2004. Millennium initially plans on producing “high floor” buses (passengers climb steps to board), known to be reliable and heavy-duty. Within a few years, the company plans to design, engineer and produce the more popular “low entry” buses (no steps), as well as set up a service operations center and parts depot.

Governor Richardson noted that New Mexico’s economy continues to grow, despite the jobless economic recovery at the national level.

“New Mexico is one of the top three states in the country in job creation,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “I announced the creation of 300 new jobs yesterday in Albuquerque. And with this new investment in Roswell, we can count on 400 jobs over the next five years.



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“We’re also one of a handful of states with a budget surplus, and we’re one of the few states where median household income rose during the past year.

“We’re on a roll. We must keep the momentum going to continue to lead the nation in creating high-wage jobs,” Governor Bill Richardson said.

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