



## State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

For Immediate Release  
Dec. 30, 2004

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### **Governor Bill Richardson Credits State's Recruitment Efforts for New Jobs**

*New Mexico Partnership has successful year, recruiting six companies and 1650 jobs*

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today praised the New Mexico Economic Development Partnership for successfully recruiting six companies and 1,650 jobs to New Mexico during 2004.

"We're on a roll," said Governor Bill Richardson. "After two years of tax cuts and aggressive recruitment efforts, we are landing good jobs for New Mexico communities.

"With help from the Economic Development Partnership, New Mexico continues to be in the top 10 in the nation in job growth and ahead of the national average in personal income growth. This growth is happening because of our competitive tax structure and aggressive jobs strategy."

Nearly 40,000 more New Mexicans are earning paychecks since Governor Richardson took office in 2003. The unemployment rate has dropped dramatically - from 6.8 percent to 5.2 percent - since the Governor was elected. The rate continues to be below the national average.

The New Mexico Economic Development Partnership, which was authorized by the 2003 Legislature, and operates under a sole source contract with the New Mexico Economic

Development Department, has developed 548 qualified leads and sponsored 42 site visits by companies seriously considering New Mexico for relocation or expansion.

“Thanks in large part to the Partnership, last week we announced one of the biggest economic deals in New Mexico’s history with 700 good paying jobs coming to Los Lunas,” said Rick Homans, secretary of the Economic Development Department. “We want to continue creating opportunities like that for New Mexico.”

“With the support of the Governor and Secretary Homans and the close cooperation of local economic developers, we’re beginning to see success after success and that means more good paying jobs for New Mexicans,” said Jim Colson, President of the New Mexico Economic Development Partnership.

The following are companies that the New Mexico Economic Development Partnership helped bring to New Mexico:

- **Los Lunas:** Merillat Industries, a national cabinet maker, is planning a \$67 million, 260,000-square-foot manufacturing plant in Los Lunas that would employ 700 people when it is operational by fall 2006.
- **Rio Rancho:** Aero Mechanical Industries, Inc. will locate an FAA certified repair station and manufacturing facility in New Mexico, bringing 150 new jobs to Rio Rancho. The average pay for employees will be \$17.00 per hour or \$35,000 a year not including.
- **Taos:** CiDirect of Harlan, IA has selected Taos as the site for its 150-employee bilingual customer support center. Salaries will average \$10.50 an hour, plus benefits and performance bonuses. The company will invest \$2.8 million in a new facility, including the building, plus equipment, furniture and fixtures.
- **Albuquerque:** American Utilicraft Corporation’s plans to build its cargo plane assembly plant at the Double Eagle II Aviation Park in Albuquerque. The company projects the plant will employ as many as 400 people in the next three years, with an average salary of \$30 an hour.
- **Albuquerque:** United Concordia Dental United Concordia has decided to open a new customer support center in Albuquerque that will employ 125 people in the next three years. The average starting wages are \$12.15 per hour, with benefits.
- **Albuquerque:** Thompson Elite will build a 45,000 square foot software support center with a total capital investment is \$10 million and will create 125 jobs in next three years, with an average annual salary of \$40,000.