



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Says Agreement With Solar Leader Sharp Corporation To Develop Clean Energy Products Will Create New Jobs For New Mexicans

TOKYO, JAPAN - Governor Bill Richardson today announced an agreement with Sharp Corp., the world leader in the global production of solar cells, to jointly develop advanced clean energy technologies in New Mexico.

Governor Richardson and Sharp Corporation officials released a joint statement today following the official signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

“New Mexico can and will become the world leader in the development of renewable energy technology. This agreement is a giant step towards achieving that goal,” Governor Richardson said. “I believe this relationship will create new jobs and new opportunities for New Mexicans. This will put our technology resources to work to diversify the world’s energy sources.”

The agreement states that Sharp “will be able to make New Mexico investments such as research and prototype manufacturing facilities to meet its corporate agenda.”

The agreement comes as a result of a trip to Sharp headquarters in Osaka last September by New Mexico Economic Development Secretary Rick Homans, where he outlined the

Governor's commitment to renewable energy and the state's capabilities with solar and hydrogen fuel cells.

Sharp executives later visited the state, met with Governor Richardson, and spent two days being briefed by scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, and New Mexico State University.

"It's good news for New Mexico that the world leader in the solar industry wants to turn our solar and fuel cell technology into commercial products," Homans said. "Sharp will make money, and we will create jobs. This is a win-win for both of us."

The MOU states that Sharp has "immediate interest" in three projects, including the development of advanced fuel cell technologies, the advancement of photovoltaic system technologies "including reliability, durability, calibration, and advanced applications) and agricultural applications.

"The Economic Development Department will help Sharp access our cutting edge technologies in solar, photovoltaics and hydrogen fuel cells," said Homans. "This partnership reinforces the Governor's executive order that New Mexico will be a 'Clean Energy State,' and it will solidify our leadership in this area."

Sharp intends to work primarily with Sandia and Los Alamos national labs, and New Mexico State University, but will be open to considering other collaborations, Homans said.