



Governor Bill Richardson Applauds American Utilicraft's Plans to Locate New Aircraft Manufacturing Plant in New Mexico

Double Eagle II Airport facility will employ up to 400

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SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today applauded American Utilicraft Corporation's announcement today that it is seeking to build its cargo plane assembly plant at the Double Eagle II Aviation Park in Albuquerque.

Governor Richardson joined company officials to announce that the company has signed a letter of intent with the City of Albuquerque to lease facilities at the West Side location. 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.

"Today marks another milestone in our efforts to attract the next generation of aviation companies to New Mexico," said Governor Richardson. "We welcome entrepreneurial companies like American Utilicraft, and we will do everything we can to help them open their businesses in our state."

The Atlanta-based company is developing the FF-1080, a plane designed specifically to carry containerized cargo in an un-pressurized body. The plane has been in development for 13 years and has received an endorsement from the Federal Aviation Administration.

"American Utilicraft's decision to come to New Mexico is a vote of confidence in our state as an aviation center," said Rick Homans, New Mexico Secretary of Economic Development. "With Eclipse, Aviation Technology Group and now American Utilicraft, we are truly on our way to building a strong aviation industry cluster."

Governor Richardson commended Albuquerque Economic Development and the New Mexico Economic Development Partnership for their efforts to assist American Utilicraft in making the move. Company officials said they are looking at rural and tribal communities in New Mexico as possible locations for sub-assembly plants.

30