



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson hopeful after productive economic development pitch in Japan

Japanese space program considers New Mexico State University initiative

TOKYO, Japan - Governor Bill Richardson today announced an agreement in principle between Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and New Mexico State University to collaborate on a space robotics initiative.

Governor Richardson and Economic Development Secretary Rick Homans pushed for the space robotics initiative during a meeting this week with Keiji Tashikawa, president of JAXA, which is Japan's version of NASA. JAXA officials said they would meet soon to work out the details of the initiative.

"New Mexico State University has a proud reputation as a hotbed for engineering innovations," Governor Bill Richardson said. "I was happy to help push this space robotics initiative along. NMSU is perfectly positioned to play a key role in the commercial development of space robotics."

The university proposed the collaboration with JAXA. Governor Richardson said the Japanese agency indicated its interest in working with NMSU.

During his economic development and Trade Mission in Tokyo this week, Governor Richardson also convinced a group of engineers from the Central Japan Railway to visit New Mexico and explore the superconductivity technology being developed at Los

Alamos National Laboratory. Central Japan Railway operates the successful Maglev, or “bullet” train in Japan. Toshiyuki Kasai, Chairman of the railway, expressed his interest in possibly partnering with New Mexico on superconductivity technology.

Governor Richardson and Secretary Homans also held a productive meeting with Sumitomo Mitsubishi Silicon Corporation, or SUMCO, about the status of its successful operations in New Mexico. The supplier of silicon wafers for the production of semiconductors, is a major Japanese company that has operated a facility in Albuquerque since 1995. Governor Richardson and Secretary Homans reviewed a number of state economic development and tax incentives that are available to companies like SUMCO that consider expanding in the state.

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