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Governor Bill Richardson Applauds Groundbreaking of Major Mexican Economic Development Project

Mexico's largest maquiladora is expected to spur economy in southern New Mexico

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today applauded the groundbreaking of a major economic development in Mexico adjacent to Santa Teresa, New Mexico. Foxconn, a Taiwanese industrial giant with more than 500,000 employees worldwide, has begun construction on what will be Mexico's largest maquiladora in Jeronimo, Chihuahua.

“This is one of many mutually beneficial projects that I and my economic development people have worked with Chihuahua officials to carry out,” Governor Richardson said. “This is the kind of economic development that is going to bring the New Mexico-Mexico border to the forefront of international trade and development.”

The Foxconn facility will employ as many as 9,000 workers initially when it opens by late February 2009. It will produce computers, laptops and servers. It is planned to expand over the next four years to a total payroll of more than 30,000 persons – making it the largest maquiladora plant in all of Mexico. It will cover nearly 500 acres and include more than 1.2 million square feet of structures.

“The Ciudad Juarez-El Paso-Southern New Mexico industrial zone is one of the largest and most dynamic border industrial zones in the world,” Economic Development Secretary Fred Mondragon said. “This project will create enormous new opportunities for New Mexico to strengthen our border economy.”

Foxconn and Ciudad Juarez Mayor Jose Reyes Ferriz commended New Mexico and Governor Richardson for their support in developing the project. Chihuahua has committed to constructing a new multi-lane road from northern Ciudad Juarez to Jeronimo by early next year.

It is anticipated that the Foxconn facility will result in suppliers and logistics companies locating facilities in Santa Teresa and significantly increase commercial traffic through the Santa Teresa crossing. The maquiladora will require new housing for workers and management in both Jeronimo and the Santa Teresa areas.