

For Immediate Release
Contact: Rorie Hanrahan,
505.476.3747

New Report Puts New Mexico in Winning Circle for Nanotechnology Development

SANTA FE-- January 27, 2006. Lux Research, a New York consulting firm, ranked New Mexico number five in its ability to develop the state's economy through Nanotechnology, announced NMEDD Secretary Rick Homans. The report, Benchmarking U.S. States for Economic Development from Nanotechnology, notes that the US as a whole is investing as much in Nanotechnology as it did in the space race - and the stakes are equally high.

"Multiple stakeholders - including state and local officials, federal representatives, large corporations, start-ups, investors, and universities - have a vested interest in making nanotechnology efforts succeed," said Lux' Managing Director F. Mark Modzelewski. "Biotechnology created more than 400,000 jobs from 1979 to 1999. Nanotechnology promises a far greater economic impact because it can affect not just biologically derived products, but all manufactured goods. Also, it's not just new jobs that are at risk from nanotech; existing ones in industries impacted by nanoscale science are on the line as well."

New Mexico's ranking puts it ahead of such tech powerhouse states as Texas, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and North Carolina. The announcement comes during the week that the state's new Microsystems and Nanotechnology Partnership (MiNaTep) was launched. This partnership of business, academic and research institutions was created to drive commercialization of these technologies forward in order to create new opportunities and higher wage jobs for New Mexicans. MiNaTep was initiated by Governor Bill Richardson and Economic Development Department's Office of Science and Technology, lead by Mike Orshan.

"We're putting the building blocks in place for a twenty-first century New Mexico economy," said Rick Homans, Economic Development Department Secretary. "I am delighted that Lux Research's report shows we are moving in the right direction."

The report says that the leading states, including New Mexico, have three things in common:

1. Involve all relevant stakeholders in developing nanotechnology initiatives
2. Focus on commercialization from the outset
3. Play to the state's strengths

"This is exactly the playbook for New Mexico's efforts in Nanotechnology," said Dr. Andres Salazar, PNM Chair in Microsystems, Commercialization and Technology, and the senior advisor to MiNaTep. "I applaud the Governor's initiative in creating this partnership as we develop new and exciting opportunities for the state."

The top ten states for Nanotech economic development, according to the Lux Research report are:

1. Massachusetts
- 2 California
- 3 Colorado
- 4 Virginia
- 5 New Mexico
- 6 New Jersey
- 7/8 Connecticut, Maryland (tie)
- 9 Illinois
- 10 New York

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Rorie Hanrahan
Communications Director
New Mexico Economic Development Department
1100 St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505
505.476.3747 office
505.670.9295cell
505.827.0328 fax