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GOVERNOR

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Governor Susana Martinez Announces 140 New Jobs in Roswell, Expansion of International Aircraft Company

Roswell, NM -Today, Governor Susana Martinez announced that Aircraft Technical Support (ATS), a Florida-based international aviation service and support company, will expand its Roswell operations and expects to hire 140 new workers in the next year. ATS chose New Mexico for its expansion, not only because of Roswell's climate and low humidity, but also because of the state's improved business environment.

"We're working hard to diversify our economy, and our aviation and aerospace industry is vital to these efforts," said Governor Susana Martinez. "Through bipartisan efforts, we have worked to create opportunities to attract new jobs and investments to New Mexico by reducing the burden on job creators like ATS. Additionally, we have invested in programs like the Job Training Incentive Program, which helps businesses lower their costs to train workers and provides New Mexicans with skills needed to advance their careers and increase salaries."

Since locating to New Mexico late last year, ATS has created 14 jobs with assistance from the New Mexico JTIP. The company was approved in June for more than \$310,000 in funding to hire and train more New Mexico workers.

ATS occupies a 62,000-square-foot building on 8 acres at the Roswell International Air Center and has leased an additional 7 acres. ATS plans on expanding in the near future by building a warehouse and servicing shop, and is considering a hangar for the aircraft.

"As a fast-growing company, expanding from Florida, we were looking for a climate-favorable area with the space available for aviation infrastructure," said Amer Machlah, president of ATS. "Roswell had exactly what we were looking for, and we are proud to partner with the state to create new jobs."

Earlier this week, Governor Martinez announced that ARCA Space Corporation, which originally started in Romania and located its headquarters to New Mexico in 2014, will build a testing and manufacturing facility at the Las Cruces Airport, creating 100 new jobs. The very same day, the Governor announced that manufacturing company Solaro Energy would be expanding its operations in Socorro by doubling its production and creating 25 new jobs.

Today's announcement comes just days after the U.S Department of Commerce ranked three New Mexico cities among the top five U.S. metro areas for export growth. Earlier in the year, the Department of Commerce announced that New Mexico leads the nation in export-related job growth at 107 percent for 2014, well ahead of the next-closest state. And just weeks ago, New Mexico made a big leap in CNBC's "America's Top States for Businesses" rankings, jumping from 37th to 24th in the country. The improvement is tied for the best in the nation.

Governor Martinez's economic reforms continue to show results for New Mexico. These reforms include instituting a single-sales factor for manufacturing, curbing tax pyramiding (which often resulted in the double or triple taxation of goods), and reducing the business tax rate by 22 percent. Following these reforms, renowned professional services firm Ernst & Young recognized New Mexico as the best state in the west for manufacturing, up from third worst in the region before Governor Martinez took office.

In March of 2014, Governor Martinez eliminated the sales tax on the purchase of aircraft over 10,000 pounds, a move that is spurring growth in New Mexico's aviation industry. The Governor also recently established hearing officers independent of the state's tax department to give businesses a fair shake, and signed into law a bipartisan jobs package following the 2015 special legislative session. The package contains targeted incentives designed to recruit new businesses to New Mexico, making it easier for small businesses to get off the ground and grow, expands trade and commerce along the state's southern border, and increases employment in the technology sector.

"We continue to pursue new investments and help grow our existing businesses, because economic-base jobs that export products or services help diversify our economy and bring new money into our state," said Economic Development Secretary Jon Barela. "ATS is a great example of how we can bring in new jobs by being a conducive place to operate, which also contributes to New Mexico's overall economic health."

ATS was founded in Coral Springs, Florida, in 1999, where they provide aircraft storage, maintenance, demolition, recycling, reactivations, purchasing, and sales of airframes for many global air carriers. The company also has operations in Dubai and the United Arab Emirates.

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