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Canon Information Technology Services Announces 150 New Jobs in Albuquerque

Albuquerque, NM – Canon Information Technology Services, Inc. (Canon ITS) announced today it is locating an advanced technical support center for Canon Information Technology Services, Inc. (Canon ITS) in Albuquerque.

Governor Susana Martinez joined Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry, County Commissioner Maggie Hart-Stebbins and Doris Higginbotham, president, Canon Information Technology Services, Inc announced the opening of the new facility. Canon ITS will hire 150 employees for their new facility, located at 4041 Jefferson Plaza NE in Albuquerque. Canon ITS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Canon USA, world famous for its cameras, printers, copiers, and other office and consumer products.

"We thank Canon, an internationally-renowned company, for choosing Albuquerque for the site of their new technical service center and creating jobs for New Mexicans," said Governor Susana Martinez. "In addition to having a skilled workforce, our recently improved tax climate and incentives make New Mexico a great place for companies like Canon to operate and succeed. I also commend Mayor Berry and his leadership in creating a business-friendly city and for his partnership in recruiting Canon here."

Mayor Berry stated that, "We are tremendously pleased to have Canon, ITS a Global Fortune 500 company has selected Albuquerque as its newest site for their customer and technical service operations. Our talented workforce, strategic geographic advantages and the combined efforts of the City, State, and County were instrumental in attracting this great company to our great city." Mayor Berry met with Canon representatives when they first came to Albuquerque earlier this year, at an event hosted by Albuquerque Economic Development, Inc. (AED). He later flew to New York and met with company executives in June.

As Canon ITS was searching several states for their second U.S. facility, chief among their site selection criteria were risk management factors and bilingual language skills. They were impressed with Albuquerque's great climate and lack of natural disasters, along with the ability to service multiple time zones. The quality, experience and bilingual capabilities of the workforce were big pluses, as Canon can now expand its national customer service options in both English and Spanish.

"The new support center in Albuquerque is a symbol of our commitment to U.S.-based customer service," said Yuichi Ishizuka, executive vice president and general manager, Imaging Technologies & Communications Group, Canon U.S.A. "We thank Mayor Berry and the City, the State of New Mexico

and Bernalillo County for presenting us with a generous grant, which will help us execute the customer support center successfully."

Albuquerque Economic Development, Inc., managed the collaborative effort to bring Canon ITS to New Mexico. Steve Maestas, Chairman of Albuquerque Economic Development, Inc., praised the collaborative effort that successfully landed the project. "The community and state prosper when we are aligned, working together with a single purpose. Canon is an internationally respected leader whose expansion to Albuquerque is important to our goal of attracting the world's finest companies."

Bernalillo County Commission Vice-Chair Debbie O'Malley expressed support for the job creation potential of the project. "Bernalillo County is pleased to be part of the partnership that attracted Canon and its one hundred and fifty (150) new jobs to Central New Mexico. I know there are many qualified, talented New Mexicans who are excited about filling those positions and joining in Canon's long tradition of excellence," said O'Malley.

The State of New Mexico joined the City and Bernalillo County in putting together a package to finalize Canon ITS's location decision. Together, the three government entities will contribute \$600,000 (\$200,000 each) toward building renovation expenses, which will be processed as a Local Economic Development Act project (subject to City Council and County Commission approval). The company also is considering the State's Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP), which pays a partial reimbursement to companies for training new employees.

The company plans to start renovations in late 2013 on their 34,000 square foot space in the North I-25 corridor, with operations beginning in Spring, 2014. Hiring will commence in early 2014, with plans to hire up to 100 employees in the first 12-18 months. Positions include a variety of levels of technical and customer support staff, as well as management, supervisory, and support personnel. The average salary is expected to be \$35,000 per year, including benefits.

Tom Jenkins of REA—Real Estate Advisors (NM) represented Canon ITS in the transaction, and Scott Throckmorton of Argus Investment Realty (NM) represented the building owner.

Canon Information Technology Services, Inc., is headquartered in Chesapeake, VA. Canon USA is headquartered in Melville, NY.

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