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Governor Susana Martinez Announces 25 New Jobs in Socorro, Expansion of Energy Manufacturer

Solar Manufacturer Moved to New Mexico from California in 2012

Socorro, NM - Today, Governor Susana Martinez announced that manufacturing company Solaro Energy is expanding its operations in Socorro by doubling its production and creating 25 new jobs. Solaro, a solar energy manufacturer, moved its operations to New Mexico from California in 2012 in part because of the state's improved business climate.

"We want New Mexico to be a state that rolls out the welcome mat for companies across the globe, and at the same time help small businesses grow. Over the last four years, we've strived to do just that by creating a better climate for job creators that allows them to grow and invest right here in our state," Governor Martinez said. "We're proud that Solaro Energy not only moved its operations to our state, but is experiencing so much success that it is expanding and hiring more New Mexicans."

Earlier in the day, 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. Since leveling the playing field by enacting a single-sales factor for manufacturing and eliminating the tax pyramiding that previously resulted in the double or triple taxation of manufacturing products, Ernst & Young named New Mexico the best state in the West for manufacturing.

"We could not be happier about our decision to locate in New Mexico and set up in Socorro," Dennis Grubb said. "Our partnership with Governor Martinez and Secretary Barela has been incredible, and we appreciate the efforts to further improve the business tax climate since our location to New Mexico."

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.

"New Mexico continues to move in the right direction for job growth with 33 consecutive months of year-over-year job growth and the diversification of the private sector," Secretary Barela. "We are on the right track and look forward to more announcements in the coming months."

The New Mexico Economic Development Department will contribute \$250,000 in Local Economic Development funds toward the construction of Solaro Energy's new 20,000 sq. ft. building. Solaro

Energy, Inc. is the manufacturer of a variety of residential and commercial solar powered lighting and solar-powered attic ventilation products.

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