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For Immediate Release

DOE's Technology Transfer Program Thriving in Carlsbad

CARLSBAD, N.M., June 16, 1997 – More than 3,000 companies, universities, government agencies and nonprofit organizations have used the Internet System on their computers to obtain, at no cost, taxpayer-funded technology developed through the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Carlsbad Area Office. The Carlsbad Area Office administers the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and the National Transuranic Waste Program.

Several women-owned, small businesses are among the recipients of the government-developed technology. These same owners are finding the information exceptional and extremely valuable.

"Thanks so much for this valuable service you are providing," said Sylvia S. Gilpatrick, certified public accountant for Steward-Gilpatrick Enterprises in Portland, Ore. "It does make me think that we are really getting our 'tax dollars' worth."

Marian Smith Multer, president of MS Ventures in Stone Mountain, Ga., describes the WIPP technology as "very good stuff."

"Some of the concepts (from the WIPP Management and Supervisor Training Program) are being incorporated into a foremanship program currently being developed for a fire sprinkler industry association," said Multer.

It originally took the Carlsbad Area Office 17 months to reach the 1,000-mark, and another eight-and-a-half months to complete 2,000 technology transfers.

"Our increased knowledge and aggressive use of the Internet, coupled with an expanded product line, enabled us to reach the milestone of 3,000 transfers in only three months," said Patti Crockett, Technology Administrative Specialist with the Carlsbad Area Office. "At this rate, the 5,000-mark can't be too far in the future."

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The Carlsbad Area Office Technology Transfer Program is managed by the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division, the management and operating contractor for the DOE at the WIPP.

The program is designed to promote economic development and competitiveness in the private sector, improve the quality of organizational operations, enhance education and training, and ensure maximum return on taxpayer investment. The technology, which consists mainly of training materials, technical manuals, and managerial tools developed at the Carlsbad Area Office, is available at no cost to organizations for nonexclusive commercialization or internal use.

Among the diverse organizations in the United States taking advantage of the program are Gateway 2000; Bass Pro Shops, Inc.; 3M Corporation; Cedar-Sinai Medical Center; Vassar College; Lifetime Television Network; the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska; the Internal Revenue Service; the U.S. Postal Service; Motorola; Eli Lilly; and Pacific Gas & Electric.

Anyone wanting information on Carlsbad Area Office technology transfer opportunities may call Bill Keeley at (505) 234-7594, or reach him through the Internet at keeleyb@wipp.carlsbad.nm.us.

The WIPP is designed to permanently dispose of transuranic radioactive waste left from the research and production of nuclear weapons. Located in southeastern New Mexico, 26 miles east of Carlsbad, project facilities include disposal rooms excavated 2,150 feet (almost half a mile) underground. Transuranic waste consists of clothing, tools, rags, and other such items contaminated with trace amounts of radioactive elements, mostly plutonium.

The National Transuranic Waste Program administers nationwide generation/storage site programs for characterizing, transporting, packaging, storing, and disposing of transuranic waste. Defense-generated transuranic waste is temporarily stored at more than 30 small and large sites nationwide.

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