

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March, 18, 2005

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The International Business Accelerator and the City of Chihuahua Sign Agreement

Santa Teresa, New Mexico: The International Business Accelerator (IBA) of New Mexico announces a new trade assistance agreement with the City of Chihuahua. The agreement is designed for the IBA and the City of Chihuahua's economic development team to work together to provide international trade counseling services to each other's clients. Both groups have been working together since the new mayoral administration of Chihuahua City Mayor Juan Blanco took office in 2004. The signing of the agreement is the formalization of a program that is already producing successes. According to Mayor Juan Blanco, "This is a very effective relationship for the City of Chihuahua. We want to work with all areas of New Mexico including Albuquerque, Silver City and Las Cruces among others. Together we will provide the services that companies in our region need to be successful in the global market."

The signing of the agreement took place at the "New Business for a New Border" trade workshop held in Chihuahua City on February 25, 2005. This event, which was attended by more than 250 participants, was co-hosted by the IBA and the City of Chihuahua with several other partners. According to Jerry Pacheco, Executive Director of IBA, "Chihuahua City is a major player in North America, with some of the most attractive and exciting businesses in all of Mexico. Together, we will work to create trade bridges between Chihuahua City and New Mexico in order to convert the potential we always talk about into real successes."

The IBA is a program of the New Mexico Small Business Development Center Network, administered by the Silver City-Grant County Economic Development Corporation. It offers free international trade assistance to New Mexican and foreign based companies interested in the state. For more information about the IBA please visit www.nmiba.com or call 505-589-2200.

PHOTO:

MOU SIGNING OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CHIHUAHUA AND THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ACCELERATOR:



Photo caption: From left to right: Chihuahua Mayor Juan Blanco, Eduardo Valles, Chairman of Coparmex-Chihuahua, and Jerry Pacheco, Executive Director of the International Business Accelerator.