

December 13, 2001

Nevada Awards \$1.8 Million at Monthly Meeting

Carson City, Nevada -- At it's monthly commission meeting today, the Nevada Commission on Economic Development granted \$1.8 million in incentives to five companies.

Although incentives helped put General Motors over the top when deciding to build a new facility in Washoe County, Nevada, it was the region's "dedicated workforce" that contributed to cementing the deal. General Motors Service Parts Operations, a world class provider of aftermarket parts to GM dealers, will build a 404,000 square foot service parts warehouse that will provide parts to Idaho, Oregon, California, and Nevada. GM will break ground in January 2002 and at completion will hire 152 employees at an average hourly wage of \$27. GM will receive almost \$1 million in incentives for their new operations.

In July of 1995, VEKA Inc. expanded its operations from Pennsylvania into Nevada. VEKA, a manufacturer of PVC vinyl profiles sold to window manufacturers throughout Canada, the U.S., and Mexico, expanded to Nevada because of the incentives provided and its business climate. VEKA once again is looking to expand and chose to remain in Nevada rather than move to Texas because of the company's relationship with the state, its employees and proximity to California. To assist VEKA in its expansion, the Commission granted the company more than \$250,000 in incentives.

The Griffin Group, Inc. is also expanding their operations -- a shared service and financial processing operations for Cardinal Health Inc. After careful consideration of various locations throughout the U.S., The Griffin Group will expand their operations in the Las Vegas region. The company will purchase eight acres to build a 30,000 square foot facility to employ 75 full-time employees. To assist their efforts, the Commission granted The Griffin Group more than \$250,000 in incentives.

Lower operating costs, quality of life, and proximity to its customers were the primary reasons cited by HSS Systems LLC in expanding to Nevada. HSS Systems LLC is affiliated with HCA based in Nashville, Tennessee. HSS will located a "Far West Division" in Las Vegas to provide patient billing for hospitals in Nevada, California, Utah, Idaho, Washington, and Alaska. HSS was granted more than \$280,000 in incentives.

A manufacturer of pickup truck shells and toppers has decided to expand its business from Ohio into Nevada. Nevada's strong pro-business climate and the proximity to its California and Utah market helped A.R.E., Inc. make its decision. The 32-year-old business that started with "two guys in a garage" will build a 180,000 square foot facility and employ 150 in Fernley, Nevada. To help with the process, A.R.E., Inc. received more than \$150,000 in tax incentives from the Nevada Commission on Economic Development.

The Nevada Commission on Economic Development's goal is to diversify the state's economy by attracting new business to Nevada, assisting existing Nevada businesses in their expansion efforts, and supporting rural communities in their growth efforts. The Commission meets monthly to review applications for tax abatements and deferrals. The meetings are open to the public.