

ITS Resources Tracker

NPP Bundle: Public Transportation Operations
User Service:
Keywords: APTS
Tracker: Resources
Organization: Consortium, DUETS
Location: **Country:** United States **State:** New Mexico City:
Project Name DUETS (Demonstration of Universal Electric Transportation Subsystems)
Benefits:
Date: 09/09/94
Source: Hoover NewsAlert TM Article
Call No:
Description:

Hoover NewsAlert™ Article

DOT AWARDS \$3.7 MILLION TO NEW MEXICO CONSORTIUM FOR ADVANCED BUS TECHNOLOGIES

Released: 09/09/94 10:58AM / DJNS PR News Wire

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9 /PRNewswire/ - Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena today announced that a grant for \$3.7 million has been awarded to DUETS (Demonstration of Universal Electric Transportation Subsystems), a New Mexico Consortium.

The grant will be used to develop and test a clean-fueled electric-hybrid drive system with high-efficiency wheel motors and advanced electronic controls for future transit buses. The cooperative agreement is being funded by the Department of Defense's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) under an interagency agreement. The estimated total project cost is more than \$8 million, which includes a local contribution of \$5.2 million.

"New Mexico's Transportation Manufacturing Corporation (TMC) has done an excellent job of securing Technology Reinvestment Project (TRP) funding," Pena said. "I will continue to support the efforts of the TRP in order to help New Mexico's defense-oriented companies and laboratories make the transition from defense to commercial manufacturing and, at the same time, improve our nation's economy."

Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), while serving as chairman of the Armed Services Subcommittee, was the architect of legislation that created TRP in 1992.

The New Mexico:TMC will lead a team that will adapt military vehicle and aircraft subsystem technologies for commercial applications in mass transit buses.

The technologies will develop ultra-low emission mass transit vehicles which are compatible with the Intelligent Vehicle Highway System, and will reduce damage to roadbeds 10-20 percent by use of an advanced vehicle suspension system. Significantly reduced vehicle operating costs will result from these technologies. Members of the DUETS team include Sandia National Laboratories, Honeywell Inc., Kaman Electra-magnetic Corp., Davis Technologies and the New Mexico Economic Development Department.

The Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will jointly manage, oversee and actively participate in the project by supporting and attending review meetings and by maintaining frequent contact with the DUETS consortium project managers and other key program representatives.

FTA Administrator Gordon J. Linton said, "I am pleased to be part of an effort that will improve the quality of our mass transit systems. This has always been one of our goals."

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11:43 EDT

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