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NEWS RELEASE

Governor Whitman Helps Break Ground on Expansion at Organon, Inc. Emphasizes Partnership Between NJ and the Business Community

Governor Christie Whitman today helped Organon, Inc. break ground at their West Orange site, where the pharmaceutical company will expand its New Jersey facility. The expansion will create nearly 400 new jobs over the next ten years.

"Once again we are seeing the benefits of a partnership between government and business based on the mutual desire to create jobs and opportunities," said the Governor. "With companies like Organon and vital industries like pharmaceuticals telling the story, we can make New Jersey the economic model for the nation."

Organon received a Business Employment Incentive Program (BEIP) grant of over \$850,000 from the state that was instrumental in the company's decision to expand its facility in New Jersey instead of their Allentown, Pennsylvania facility. Since 1996, over \$120 million in BEIP grants have been awarded, funding more than 120 projects and creating more than 30,000 jobs.

"The kind of growth we are witnessing here in West Orange is being repeated all across the state," said Gov. Whitman. "In fact, the highly respected economic consulting firm WEFA recently reported that New Jersey has now had the fastest employment growth in the Mid-Atlantic region for the sixth straight year."

The West Orange site will expand its marketing, manufacturing, sales and research and development facilities and will create over 100 jobs in the first two years and nearly 400 jobs over the next ten years. The expansion is expected to be complete by summer 2000. Nearly half of the over 1,000 people employed by Organon in the U.S. work at the New Jersey facility.

Organon is a subsidiary of Akzo Nobel, Inc., a U.S. holding company for the Dutch based Akzo Nobel N.V. The company has developed and currently manufactures more than 200 drugs that are distributed in over 100 countries.

New Jersey has the largest concentration of pharmaceutical companies, earning New Jersey the nickname "the medicine chest of the world". The New Jersey pharmaceutical industry leads research and development on serious and life-threatening diseases including cancer, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, AIDS, and osteoporosis. In 1997, 17 of the 48 significant new drugs approved by the FDA originated in New Jersey.

Pharmaceuticals in New Jersey generate more than \$8.5 billion in annual economic activity and employ more than 60,000 workers at sites around the state.

