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NEWS RELEASE

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AT&T; to Create 1,500 Jobs in New Jersey By Expanding its Middletown Township Site

Gov. Christie Whitman joined AT&T; officials today at a groundbreaking ceremony in Monmouth County where the company by 1999 will be adding 1 million square feet to an existing facility that will become home to 1,500 new employees.

The Governor also announced that since June, the number of jobs in the state has increased by 3,400. New Jersey has experienced a net increase of 194,700 jobs in the state since January of 1994. Between June and July, the state's unemployment rate dropped .1 percent to 5.4 percent.

The AT&T; expansion is an example of progress and business growth in the state, she said. Once the $200 million expansion project is complete, the Middletown Township facility will be the largest of AT&T;'s 135 locations in New Jersey.

"By expanding this facility, AT&T; ensures that thousands of jobs will be kept right here in New Jersey where they belong," Gov. Whitman said. "When we talk about New Jersey being open for business, it is just as important for us to make sure that jobs stay here as it is to create new ones. AT&T; has long been part of the New Jersey business family and we are pleased with their continuing commitment to our state."

The expansion will happen in two phases.

During the first phase, one million square feet will be added to the 836,000 square-foot facility by 1999. When the first phase is complete, AT&T; will move 7,000 of its researchers and developers into the Middletown Township location which currently has 1,200 employees.

During the second phase, another million square feet will be added to the facility.

After both phases are complete, eight new buildings will have been erected at the 262-acre site located off Laurel Avenue, near Garden State Parkway Exit 114. The company will also build six parking garages.

"The expansion of our facility and the addition of up to 1,500 new employees reaffirms our commitment to New Jersey," said Jack McMaster, AT&T;'s Atlantic region president.

Commerce Commissioner Gualberto Medina said: "This project is an excellent example of what happens when state and local government work together to create jobs. Not only did we retain 6,000 jobs that were already here, but we were able to add 1,500 more good jobs to New Jersey. Middletown Township officials worked with us so that we could keep AT&T; employees in the state and help the company to expand."

AT&T; is one of the largest private sector employers in New Jersey, with 32,000 employees in the state. AT&T; is a leading world premier communications and information services company. The company has annual revenues of more than $52 billion and 130,000 employees.

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