

For Immediate Release

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TORC ROBOTICS AND DAIMLER TRUCKS NORTH AMERICA START TESTING IN NEW MEXICO

Autonomous Technology Group Creating New Jobs in Albuquerque

(ALBUQUERQUE, NM) – Today, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, Mayor Tim Keller and Albuquerque Economic Development, Inc. announced that Torc Robotics, a partner of Daimler Trucks North America, will extend its testing to New Mexico by building up a new testing center in Albuquerque. Expanding to a new location will support testing, collect data, and provide for more real world use cases towards the next generation of vehicles on public roads in New Mexico starting this fall.

“I welcome Torc Robotics and Daimler Trucks North America to Albuquerque,” said New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. “New Mexico is making incredible strides in our development of an advanced technology economic ecosystem. We are laser-focused on job creation as we sustain ourselves through the pandemic and economic crisis and look toward building back better than ever before on the other side. More and more innovative companies are establishing themselves here, and those deep roots will pay enormous dividends as we create more fulfilling careers for New Mexicans.”

Headquartered in Blacksburg, Virginia, Torc Robotics is a leader in autonomous vehicle software and integration solutions. The company, which has more than a decade of experience with heavy duty self-driving vehicles for safety-critical operations, partners with original equipment manufacturers and mobility companies to integrate the technology on their vehicle platforms.

“Torc Robotics and Daimler Trucks are global powerhouses in innovative trucking technology, and they are a perfect fit for Albuquerque. Partnerships like these have the potential to be real game changers for our city and we won’t let up, especially now during these challenging times. Industrial mobility and self-driving vehicles are the future of the auto/trucking industry, and companies can see that we’re in the fast lane as a center for advanced technology,” said Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller. “We’ve launched a robust strategy to make Albuquerque a global destination for mobility tech testing and manufacturing, building on decades of cutting-edge R&D in supporting sectors that include sensors, photonics/optics, cyber security, and propulsion systems. This is a great time for leading companies to make Albuquerque home.”

In 2019, Daimler Trucks acquired a majority stake in Torc Robotics. The companies are partnered in Daimler Trucks’ Autonomous Technology Group to commercialize self-driving truck technology. The Group oversees strategy and implementation of research and development, testing and validation, and the setup of operations infrastructure and network.

“While we have tested our system in New Mexico with other vehicles, we are very happy to be opening a test center for an ongoing self-driving trucks program,” said Michael Fleming, CEO of Torc Robotics.

“New Mexico offers a unique environment for testing, along a major long-haul trucking corridor that is critical to a large percentage of commercial freight activities.

Expanding to Albuquerque allows Daimler Trucks and Torc to continue to rigorously test, develop and deploy the system, expanding on-road-testing and subsequent data collection activities. Furthermore, the companies have already been collaborating closely with state and local government agencies to ensure that the testing and operation of these automated driving systems are executed as safely as possible.

“Albuquerque’s history as a well-known research and development hub, its long-standing reputation for being on the cutting edge of technological breakthroughs and its skilled workforce make it an ideal location for Torc Robotics,” said Eric Weinstein, Chair of AED. “We welcome Torc as Albuquerque’s newest employer, and thank both Torc and Daimler Trucks for their investment in our community and validation of the many assets our city provides to mobility companies. We look forward to their continued success here.”

In the Albuquerque self-driving truck testing center the team will be hauling simulated loads along select highway routes. Every automated run requires both a safety conductor and a highly trained safety driver certified by both Daimler Trucks and Torc Robotics. All safety drivers hold a commercial driver’s license and are specially trained in vehicle dynamics and automated systems.

Torc teams have been mapping routes in New Mexico to prepare for the on-road testing program and Torc is recruiting team members in the region. Positions include test engineer, safety conductor, safety driver trainer, site operation and office management.

The New Mexico Economic Development Department, City of Albuquerque Economic Development Department, New Mexico Trade Alliance and Albuquerque Economic Development, Inc. worked together to secure the project for Albuquerque.

For more information about Torc Robotics, visit www.torc.ai. For more information about the Daimler Trucks Autonomous Technology Group and associated activities, [visit Daimler’s website](#).

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