

For Immediate Release.

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Keter Plastic to Create up to 175 New Jobs in Belen
*\$36 Million Investment will Support Renovation of Existing Facility
and 60,000 Square-Foot Expansion in the Albuquerque Metro Area*

Belen, NM – Today, Governor Susana Martinez announced that Keter Plastic, an international manufacturer and market leader in quality plastic home and outdoor storage solutions, will expand its manufacturing operations to Belen. The company will create up to 175 new jobs and invest \$36 million to renovate and expand an existing facility.

New Mexico beat out California, Arizona, and Nevada for the expansion. The positions being created include manufacturing and production, technicians, engineers, managers and more.

“This is great news for Belen and yet another positive result from fighting to grow and diversify our economy,” Governor Martinez said. “On the heels of projects like Keter, Facebook, and others, we need to keep fighting for the bold reforms and critical tools that help us create more jobs – like our tax cuts and our closing fund.”

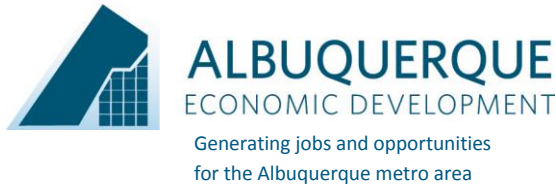
Keter Plastic belongs to the Keter Group, which operates 18 factories and two distribution centers in nine countries. The company sells its products in more than 100 countries worldwide.

“We’re excited to welcome another large-scale investment to Valencia County to create jobs here,” said Economic Development Secretary Matt Geisel. “Manufacturing jobs like

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these show what happens when we work together to make New Mexico more business friendly."

Through this new investment, Keter is purchasing, renovating and expanding the old Solo Cup facility in Belen. In addition, the company is acquiring an additional 14 acres to add at least 60,000 square feet to the current 25-acre, 165,000 square-foot building.

"We are proud to be making a long-term investment in New Mexico by placing our newest manufacturing facility in Belen," said Tony Jonas COO of Keter Plastic. "New Mexico's business friendly climate made the decision to come to New Mexico an easy one."

The New Mexico Economic Development Department will invest up to \$2 million in Local Economic Development Act funds in the expansion.

"We welcome Keter to Belen, and we thank them for their investment in our community, the jobs they will create and their commitment to be an engaging partner in our local economy," said Belen Mayor Jerah Cordova. "Keter found an ideal location using Belen's best rail infrastructure, nestling themselves among Belen's other national and international manufacturers. This project proves yet again that Belen is a leader in New Mexico manufacturing."

Through the expanded facility, and with use of Belen's existing rail spur, Keter will take in an estimated 60 to 100 tons of raw materials each day to produce 10 to 15 truckloads of patio furniture, outdoor sheds, and other products for shipment to national retail stores such as Home Depot and others.

"Keter's decision is great news for small businesses and the residents of Belen and Valencia County, as the company's new jobs, payroll and purchases will give a much needed boost to the area," said Gary Gordon, Chair of Albuquerque Economic



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Development, Inc. "The company's selection of New Mexico over other Western states is the latest example that the legislative improvements made to tax policy and incentives over the past few years are working."

To learn more about Keter, visit www.keter.com.

About AED

AED is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to recruit business and industry, help local companies grow and generate quality job opportunities throughout the Albuquerque metro area. AED provides confidential assistance to businesses considering the area for expansion and new investment. Since its creation in 1960, AED has recruited 237 companies and more than 35,000 jobs to the Albuquerque metro area. AED also provides retention and expansion assistance to existing industry.