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Lubbock Economic Development Alliance Announces More than 200 New Jobs

(LUBBOCK) – The Lubbock Economic Development Alliance (LEDA) announced the creation of 261 new jobs at a press conference Monday afternoon. The additional jobs come as a result of the expansion of one local business and relocation of one new business to the Lubbock community.

Custom Teleconnect, Inc. will expand their current Lubbock location and Republic National Distributing Company (RNDC), LLC will consolidate their current operations in Amarillo and Odessa to create one regional distribution center in Lubbock.

“On behalf of the staff at LEDA and Market Lubbock, we are thrilled to help Custom Teleconnect with their expansion in Lubbock and assist RNDC as they relocate to Lubbock,” John Osborne, CEO of LEDA and Market Lubbock, said. “We are fully committed to partnering with each of these companies announced today to help retain and grow their business in the future.”

Custom Teleconnect is a full-service operator service provider focused toward the telecommunications industry. The company is headquartered in Las Vegas and currently has locations in both Las Vegas and Lubbock. There are currently around 40 employees in the Lubbock office and the expansion will add 163 new employees over the next few years. These jobs will total in almost \$3.5 million in annual salaries with a capital investment of approximately \$228,000.

Custom Teleconnect takes pride in hiring sight-impaired and handicapped employees, which is a major focus for the additional jobs. Lubbock was in competition with Las Vegas and Albuquerque for the project.

“We are exceedingly grateful to LEDA for their efforts in paving the way for our call center expansion project,” Vicki Crowder, President and CEO at Custom Teleconnect, said. “It is our greatest desire to expand our team and facilities here, as well as become an integral part of the community for many years to come.”

The second company to announce new jobs is RNDC, the nation’s second largest premium wine and spirits distributor. The company is consolidating their Amarillo and Odessa distribution centers to create one, West Texas, distribution center in Lubbock. They plan to build a 125,000-square-foot facility at the Lubbock Business Park for their distribution center. Over the next five

years, RNDC will create 98 new jobs with total annual salaries equaling \$3.5 million and a capital investment of \$5.6 million.

“RNDC is excited about the opportunity to locate our West Texas regional distribution center in Lubbock,” John Sterna, executive vice president of RNDC West Texas, said. “This move will allow us to create distribution efficiencies that will benefit our retail customers and the consumer. In addition, we are looking forward to becoming an active member of the Lubbock community and forming partnerships with local businesses and organizations.”

The jobs created from these projects equal more than \$7 million in annual salaries with a capital investment of more than \$5.8 million. Once fully operational, the total annual economic impact (economic output) of these projects is \$36,868,547.

About LEDA

Since its inception in 2004, LEDA has assisted 116 companies with their expansion or relocation to Lubbock. These companies committed to creating 4,900 jobs and investing more than \$384 million in new capital improvements that have resulted in \$5.5 billion in cumulative economic impact to the Lubbock area.

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