

## **Lea County Commission Announces Management Services Agreement with Emergent Technologies, Inc.'s Innovation Services Group**

**Hobbs, NM and Austin, TX – October 20, 2010** – The Board of County Commissioners of Lea County announced today an agreement with Emergent Technologies, Inc.'s (ETI) Innovation Services Group to provide business development and related strategic management services to the county. ETI is a leading investment and management company focused on early stage technology and life sciences. The ETI Innovation Services Group specializes in innovation management and related applications to assist communities in achieving asset diversification, economic growth and job creation.

Lea County knows the importance of diversification and has been studying ways to grow its economy for some time. In the state of New Mexico there are several major research institutions housing promising technology assets including the Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Lab, the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State, New Mexico Tech, as well as other local and regional universities and institutions. Not unlike a geologist who maps an area for the most promising drilling sites, ETI will survey these institutions to locate and rank those promising technology assets that have the best commercialization potential. After the identification and ranking process, ETI will assist community leaders in raising funds to start companies based on those selected technology assets.

Lea County Commission Chairman Gregg Fulfer said, "The Board carefully considered several options for identifying the county's top assets for technology commercialization and assisting local communities in raising a capital fund to strengthen and diversify Lea County's economy. We believe this agreement with Emergent Technologies, Inc. is our best option to help retain, expand and attract businesses in technology. ETI's involvement will enable us to accelerate our efforts to develop multiple promising technology commercialization prospects."

Dale Gannaway, President of ETI Innovation Services Group, commented, "We greatly appreciate and value this partnership and we are excited to work with the Lea County Commission to help all the communities within Lea County to create jobs and to further diversify the county's economy."

### **About the ETI Innovation Services Group**

The ETI Innovation Services Group is a division within Emergent Technologies, Inc., (ETI). The Innovation Services Group provides clients with critical expertise and support related to selecting, developing and managing technology opportunities in order to achieve both economic development and return on investment. The practice offers business solutions to companies, organizations and communities of all sizes. For more information, visit [www.etibio.com/ETIInnovationServices](http://www.etibio.com/ETIInnovationServices).

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**About Emergent Technologies, Inc.**

Emergent Technologies, Inc. is an investment and management company focused on early stage technology and life sciences. The company provides early stage funding and development for scientific discoveries originating at universities and research institutions.

ETI creates value by transforming scientific breakthroughs into technology platforms with multiple applications. ETI's unique innovation process enables ETI to select promising scientific discoveries for development, maximize the value of intellectual property and manage both cost and risk associated with the commercial development of early stage technologies. ETI is dedicated to turning research into revenue and, in the process, introducing compelling solutions to meet important market needs. For more information, visit the company website [www.etibio.com](http://www.etibio.com).

**About Lea County**

Lea County stands as one of the leading areas for industrial development in the Southwest, particularly in the field of energy. For more than eighty years, Lea County and its five municipalities have comprised an economy based largely on the energy industries and have reliably delivered cornerstone energy commodities to the nation. For these reasons Lea County has become known as the EnergyPlex - the nation's epicenter of energy commerce.

The county is the location of a broad spectrum of the nuclear, renewable and petroleum industries, including the \$1.5 billion Urenco USA facility, the nation's most advanced uranium enrichment facility that will provide a secure domestic enrichment fuel supply source to U.S. nuclear energy. Also in Lea County, International Isotopes is building a \$93 million plant that will extract gases from depleted uranium tails that can be used in various products. Looking to the future, Lea County plans to continue to build on its energy industries base and to expand diversification of the economy through the development of new technology sectors.

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