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TECH CHECKMATE

World industry leader Poly-Flow Engineering captures a new niche in New Mexico's tech market

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Today, Albuquerque officially welcomed Poly-Flow Engineering, LLC – a major international technology player – as the newest addition to the state's robust tech roster. The company, owned by Albuquerque based Ktech Corporation, is the first of its kind in the entire state.

What exactly does Poly-Flow do? The company designs and produces equipment for manufacturing facilities that make semiconductor devices. Poly-Flow's products – which range from manual to fully automated systems – clean expensive quartzware used in the fabrication of semiconductors and provide precisely controlled chemical mixtures to the semiconductor processing equipment.

While Poly-Flow may be the new kid on the block in Albuquerque, and little known to the general public, the company has long been a familiar face in the worldwide semiconductor industry, due to its uniquely superior niche in the commercial market. In fact, Poly-Flow's wet processing equipment supports the most advanced semiconductor manufacturing facilities, or FABs, in the entire world – including fabrication plants for the largest semiconductor companies across the globe.

"Poly-Flow's chemical spray cleaning products provide its customers with the ability to quickly and safely clean quartzware with hazardous chemicals, allowing them to reuse critical manufacturing components that are expensive to constantly replace," said Steve Downie, President, Ktech Corporation. "That equates to reduced fixed costs and an overall greater return on investment. Moreover, Poly-Flow's new line of chemical processing equipment offers its clients more precise control of chemical mixtures than ever before, which can ultimately lend itself to an increased yield within the FAB."

Poly-Flow's new state-of-the-art facility in the Sandia Science and Technology Park will initially include 72,000 square feet of manufacturing and office space, including a class 10,000 clean room for final testing of equipment and packaging. Depending on Poly-Flow's projected level of business, the building can be expanded to a total of 93,000 square feet, which would include an extra 10,000 square feet of manufacturing space, in addition to another class 10,000 clean room, and 11,000 square feet of office space. Poly-Flow's parent company, Ktech Corporation, has relocated its headquarters from its 1300 Eubank SE address – a facility that was built only three years ago – to accommodate its continued growth.

Ktech is an employee-owned research and engineering firm focused on the study and simulation of nuclear weapons effects. It is one of the leading specialists in pulsed power systems and has provided the technical and operational support for all of Sandia National Laboratories pulsed-power facilities for almost 30 years. One such facility, Sandia's "Z" facility, has gained worldwide attention for demonstrating the first spherically symmetric implosions of ICF capsules and fusion neutrons from a pulsed power driver.

Both Ktech and Poly-Flow have been in business since the early 1970s, both have experienced tremendous growth over the past three decades, and both are recognized leaders in their respective fields. In total, Ktech and Poly-Flow's combined operations will employ close to 500 people, and contribute an estimated \$25 million dollars in payroll to New Mexico's booming technology sector – making the parent-subsidiary duo a true technology powerhouse.

The promising partnership is a young one, as Ktech's purchase of Sylmar, California native company Poly-Flow took place only recently. The subsidiary company's move from the West coast to its parent company's home base of Albuquerque comes as part of Ktech's efforts to centralize its product development and manufacturing capabilities, in order to promote the continued growth and diversification of its applications for both the government and commercial sectors.

"We're incredibly excited about the new combined Ktech and Poly-Flow facility and its fully integrated capabilities for research, design, engineering, and manufacturing – elements that will benefit both the public and private sectors," said Steve Downie, President, Ktech Corporation. "Not to mention the fact that we're proud to help bring an international name to New Mexico that we know will contribute to our state's thriving technology sector."

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