



Media Release

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Local Businesses Partner In Constructing New Forest Service Facility in Mesa Village

Alamogordo, NM. When the Department of Agriculture began seeking a new location and a new building to house the United States Forest Service and Natural Resources and Conservation Center, three local businesses formed a partnership to meet those needs. The Heritage Group, Inc., French Brothers Commercial Contracting, LLC, and PreCheck, Inc. combined their resources and were awarded a contract to locate the new facility in Mesa Village, and to design and construct a building to be provided on a 15-year lease to the Department of Agriculture. Alamogordo Federal Savings & Loan made a commitment to finance the project.

“We’re proud to have the United States Forest Service at Mesa Village,” said Randy Rabon, President of The Heritage Group, a community-development firm owned by Rabon and his brothers, Jeff and Tim. “They conducted an extensive process to find a location to house their new facility; we are excited about being selected as their choice for relocation.” The building will be constructed North of PreCheck, Inc. and South of the new Allen Theater complex currently under construction. The project should begin in about 60 days.

Glenn Woolsey, Senior Vice-President of PreCheck, Inc., a Houston-based firm that began operation in Mesa Village about a year ago, developed a plan with the other local businesses and made land available for the project. “PreCheck is pleased to be in Alamogordo and to be able to reinvest in the community by partnering with other businesses on a significant project,” stated Woolsey. “We are very pleased with the partnership that we have formed with these dynamic local development firms. It’s gratifying working with them and the Department of Agriculture to make this project a reality.”

Miles Ledgerwood, President and CEO of Alamogordo Federal Savings & Loan, also committed to locate the facility in Alamogordo. “It’s time for Alamogordo to have a community like Mesa Village. The new home for the Forest Service is a fine addition to this first-class community and Business Park,” said Ledgerwood. “We’re very pleased and excited to be involved in financing this fine project.”

French Brothers Commercial Contracting, owned by brothers, Tom, Jim and Billy French, will be constructing the five million dollar, 19,900 sq. ft. facility in a unique southwestern

architecture that will compliment other buildings located in Mesa Village. The building will feature state-of-the-art design and will offer the latest innovations in energy efficiency. “We provided computer modeling to develop features incorporated into this project,” explained Tom French. “We are trying to blend a southwestern style that upholds the long-standing Forest Service tradition. We will be using local contractors and the local labor force to complete this new building.”

“The new building will meet all the criteria required and will have tremendous curb appeal,” added Rabon. “Our goal is to provide a Business Park at Mesa Village that enhances the quality of life in Alamogordo. We are continuing to seek new firms or agencies to locate here.” Rabon and his brothers have operated Mesa Verde Enterprises here for several years. They formed The Heritage Group, Inc. three years ago and have been working to develop a master-plan community to provide quality lifestyles to locals and people who choose to move into the area. The variety of neighborhoods and the Business Park, designed in rich desert architecture, will range from low-maintenance condominium homes, to active single homes, to serene custom enclaves. By locating the Business Park near the residential community, residents will have access to shopping, entertainment, and natural recreation and employment opportunities.

Groundbreaking for residential construction in Mesa Village took place June 1 of this year. Bar M Construction purchased a block of residential lots and began their first phase of residential construction in Mesa Village. “We’re looking forward to working with Alamogordo’s many fine builders as the community continues to grow,” said Rabon.

The French Brothers began their construction business in Alamogordo 27 years ago. The firm was recognized in 2006 by the New Mexico Home Builders Association with four “Las Casitas Housing Excellence” awards, including the States’ Grand Award, given to only two builders in New Mexico in 2006. In recent years the firm has been rapidly diversifying its portfolio and expanding into more commercial ventures. They constructed the PreCheck, Inc. building in Mesa Village last year. “Even in a down market, we are seeing continued growth,” said French. “Our approach has always been and will continue to be based on a teamwork concept centered on high quality and value to our customers.”

“Otero County Economic Development Council, the City of Alamogordo, Otero County and local citizens have been working for years to attract these kinds of facilities to Alamogordo,” said Rabon. “All of us involved in this business venture are very appreciative of the support from the City of Alamogordo. City Manager Pat McCourt and the city commissioners believed in this project from the very beginning and never wavered in their support. Now we’re getting ready to deliver what we promised to the city,” added Rabon. “We feel good about this opportunity. New or better operations keep people here and benefit our entire community in the long run.”