

# Mexico in Brief

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# 44

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## PHILIPPINE COMPANY IS AWARDED PORT BID.

The Mexican Secretary of Transportation and Communications recently announced that Philippine-based *International Container Terminal Services Inc.* was awarded the construction and operation of the second specialized container-moving port terminal in Manzanillo, Mexico, involving a total investment of approximately U.S.\$7.7 billion. The investment will generate approximately 6,000 new jobs and the terminal will be able to move approximately 2 million containers annually.

## HITACHI LAUNCHES PLANT IN NUEVO LEON.

Japanese-based *Hitachi Chemical Co. Ltd.* recently inaugurated its automotive linings production plant in the Mexican State of Nuevo Leon, with an investment of approximately U.S.\$25 million. The company expects to elevate its exports into the United States and increase its presence in South America. In other news, *Ternium Mexico* recently invested approximately U.S.\$40 million in a new logistics center which will increase its storage and shipment capabilities; the company further announced that its logistics center will reduce their shipment timing by 60%, benefiting its clients. *AMB Property Mexico*, a subsidiary of *AMB Property Corporation*, also recently announced its plans to develop seven industrial buildings in the vicinity of Monterrey, with an investment of approximately U.S.\$20 million.

## FIBER OPTICS BID FOR MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ANNOUNCED.

The Mexican Secretary of Transportation and Communications recently announced that within early 2010 it expects to make public the bid bases for two fiber optic threads that will allow the creation of a new mobile telecommunications operator in Mexico. The Department further announced that the Mexican authorities are currently studying opening bidding on additional fiber optics threads.

## METALSA ACQUIRES BUSINESS FROM DANA HOLDING CORP.

*Metalsa*, a subsidiary of Mexican-based *Grupo Proeza*, recently announced that it had reached an agreement to acquire the automotive structural business of *Dana Holding Corp.* for an amount of approximately U.S.\$150 million. The transaction is scheduled to close within the first quarter of 2010. Through this acquisition, *Metalsa* expects to expand its global presence as it will assume control of ten plants located in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Venezuela and the United States of America.

## BIOFIELDS TO BOOST ETHANOL PRODUCTION.

Mexican-based *BioFields* will initiate in early 2010 an aggressive ten year project to produce ethanol in the Mexican State of Sonora, with an investment of approximately U.S.\$850 million. The biofuel will be produced using specialized cultivated algae which will feed from carbon dioxide generated by the thermoelectric plant of Mexican government-controlled *Comisión Federal de Electricidad*, or *CFE*. *BioFields* further announced that it plans to enter Mexican government-controlled *Petróleos Mexicanos* biddings for ethanol in Monterrey and Mexico City.

## NEMAK FOCUSES IN CHINA AND INDIA.

After an aggressive savings program, the automobile part manufacturer *Nemak*, a subsidiary of Mexican-based *Grupo Alfa*, recently announced that it plans to invest approximately U.S.\$180 million either in China or India over the next two years. The company further announced that in addition to this investment, it plans to strengthen their operations in the Asia region in the near future.

## Business Summary for December 2009

### Stock Exchange Index (BMV)

32,120.47

3.76% ▲

### Exchange Rate (Fix)

MxP 13.0659-U.S.\$1

1.16% ▲

### Inflation-November / Cummulative / 12 Months

0.52% / 3.15% / 3.86%

### TIIE 28 / 91

4.93% / 5.07%

0.00% / 0.20% ▼

### CETE 28 / 91 / 364

4.50% / 4.60% / 5.07%

0.22% ▼ / 0.22% ▼ / 3.06% ▼

### UDI

MxP 4.340166

0.54% ▲

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