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LOUISIANA & NORTH WEST RAILROAD OPENS IRON BRIDGE ROAD INDUSTRIAL PARK ANNOUNCES FIRST TENANTS

GIBSLAND, LA. -- The Louisiana & North West Railroad ("L&NW"), founded in 1889, is looking to the future with last week's opening of the Iron Bridge Road project, a 40-acre industrial park and transloading facility near I-20 in Gibsland, Louisiana.

More than 300 citizens and officials attended the event to mark an important step forward for Gibsland, a town of about 1,000, and Bienville Parish, according to L&NW General Manager Johnnie Raab. The railroad is owned by Boca Raton, Florida-based Patriot Rail Corp, whose $3.3 million private investment in the new facilities is spurring new jobs and greater economic opportunity for Northwest Louisiana.

"The Iron Bridge Road project will continue to expand and grow as demand rises in the oil and gas industry. Iron Bridge Road sits right in the heart of the hot zones of the Haynesville Shale and the Brown Dense Shale. Given the proximity to I-20 and its two Class I railroad connections, there is tremendous opportunity and competitive advantage for the existing customers served by the LNW as well as the new customers locating at Iron Bridge Road," Raab said.

Stan Wlotko, Patriot Rail Sr. Vice President-Operations, announced Iron Bridge Road's first two tenants: Pro Sands, which delivers and stores frac sand used in stimulating oil and gas wells; and Wood Energy Group, one of the nation's largest railroad tie reclamation and energy cogeneration companies. Wlotko said the L&NW is actively negotiating with dozens more prospective tenants and on that basis, expects to accelerate plans for a 20-acre expansion of the Iron Bridge Road facility. Wlotko said all 60 acres could potentially be filled to capacity by year-end 2012.

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, in a letter of congratulations, noted Patriot Rail's partnership with the community and economic development groups is restoring the railroad's role as an economic engine in the state and will bring a tremendous economic impact for years to come. "We are excited to see projects such as these moving forward in our state. Patriot Rail's investment is another signal that our state is the best place for businesses to locate, grow and succeed," stated Jindal in his letter.

Guests heard from distinguished senators and representatives, including Sen. Robert Adley; Sen. Mike Walsworth; and Rep. Rick Gallot. These legislators, along with numerous other state and local officials, were staunch supporters of this project from the beginning. Also speaking at the event were railroad officials Wlotko; Raab; J.D. Ventrcek, vice president of operations-Patriot Rail; and Jess Johnson, operations manager L&NW. Tara Hollis, candidate for Governor, was also in attendance showing her support.

By providing cost-efficient connections for the region's energy producers to transfer bulk cargo from rail to truck, the L&NW is having a major impact in the area. The railroad itself is hiring new crews, maintenance workers, office personnel and security professionals, while its customers will be adding new operational positions in the Iron Bridge Road yard.