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**OREGON COMPANY FIRST IN U.S. TO MANUFACTURE  
MODERN STREETCARS**  
*Oregon Iron Works receives contract to begin production on  
domestically manufactured streetcars*

**CLACKAMAS, Ore.** – The Portland, Ore., metropolitan area, well known for its extensive and award-winning transit system, is now home to the first company in the nation to manufacture modern-day street cars. With assistance from Oregon and Washington congressional delegations, the company has been awarded a special authorization of \$4 million for the production of a streetcar prototype similar to those being used in Portland.

“Oregon Iron Works is well known for high-quality products and will produce streetcars that are as good or better than those made in Europe,” said Clackamas County Commission Chair Martha Schrader. “This new venture for the company is exciting news and will create new jobs as well as increased attention to the area’s leadership in innovative mass transit systems.”

Portland introduced streetcars into its downtown core mass transit system in the summer of 2001. The city now has seven streetcars, all manufactured in the Czech Republic. Through Oregon Iron Works’ newly formed subsidiary, United Street Car LLC, cities and municipalities such as Portland will, for the first time, be able to purchase low-rise modern streetcars from a domestically owned company. Additionally, United Streetcar meets the requirements of the “Buy American” law that requires projects and programs receiving federal funding to purchase from U.S. companies when available.

“Although Portland was an early adopter, there is now a burgeoning demand throughout the country for streetcars,” said Oregon Iron Works Vice President Chandra Brown. “We intend to provide modern, efficient, American-produced streetcars, and to be a pioneering force in increasing urban transit options throughout the United States.”

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The prototype will be based on the model currently manufactured in the Czech Republic by Skoda, provider of cars for Portland's five-year-old streetcar system. Oregon Iron Works is partnering with Skoda to use its basic design and propulsion system. The design is for a four-axle, double-ended, low-floor streetcar, fully compatible with the existing Portland Streetcar.

Hiring has already started for the production of the prototype. It is estimated that approximately 20 new jobs will be created immediately with the potential for hundreds when full production begins and as the national demand for streetcars increases. The company expects to deliver the prototype streetcar in approximately 18 months and is ready to start production of additional streetcars as soon as new orders arrive.

### **About Oregon Iron Works**

Founded in 1944 and headquartered in Clackamas, Ore., Oregon Iron Works is a specialized fabrication and manufacturing company that produces components for the U.S. and foreign governments, as well as dams, bridges, and other civil engineering and commercial projects. The company employs more than 400 and has additional manufacturing facilities in Vancouver, Washington.

### **About Clackamas, Oregon**

Clackamas, Ore., is located in Clackamas County, one of four counties that comprise the Portland metropolitan area. The county extends from the agriculturally rich Willamette Valley in the west to the forested slopes of the Cascade Range in the east and borders Portland's urban core to the north. Its thriving business economy is concentrated in metals, machinery, health care, high-tech, forestry, food and beverage processing, renewable energy, nursery/agriculture and software development. The county also is endowed with productive farmlands and forests and provides easy access to abundant recreational activities, including fishing, rafting, hiking, and skiing.

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