

## **Titan to go to greener pasture**

Idaho called more business-friendly

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NORTH HOLLYWOOD - A spring manufacturer that's been in the San Fernando Valley for half a century is moving to Idaho because of the state's lower costs and friendlier business climate than California.

"California is a tough place to do business, and it's old news," said Jim Glenn, president of North Hollywood-based Titan Spring & Wire Products Inc., which serves the aerospace and medical-device sectors.

The company, which has 35 employees, will relocate to Hayden, Idaho, sometime after the middle of September. About 18 employees will also make the move.

Glenn, who grew up in the San Fernando Valley, said that he will reduce his workers' compensation costs by about 60percent and slash his utility bills by about 66percent. Housing is much less expensive in Idaho, too.

He said it was not an easy decision to make.

"I really had to strain over it for a while, but when you look at the advantages they offer up there, it's time for a change. My standard of living is going to go up considerably along with everybody else's," he said.

The courtship began about three years ago when Glenn was displaying his company's products at a medical-device show in Anaheim.

Steve Griffiths, president of Jobs Plus Inc., the nonprofit economic development corporation serving the Coeur d'Alene area and Kootenai County, said no incentives were used to lure Titan north.

"The quality of life and the pro-business position of the state of Idaho and the cost savings made it a good package for them," Griffiths said.

Bruce Ackerman, president and chief executive officer of the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley, lamented the company's move but conceded that states such as Idaho have a competitive edge.

"It is much more favorable to business. They don't have to give anything away to get the business, and that's part of the dilemma we have to deal with every day."

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