

Japanese firm to build in state

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TOKYO (AP) - Two American subsidiaries of Fujitsu Ltd., the leading Japanese computer maker, will build two plants in the Portland area, a Fujitsu executive told Oregon Gov. Vic Atiyeh here today.

The plants should employ 1,000 workers by 1987, company officials said. They will manufacture magnetic disc drives for medium to large computers and semiconductors, used in a wide array of electronic products.

Fujitsu is the fourth Japanese corporation to announce construction of an electronics plant in the Portland-Vancouver, Wash., area this year. The others are Kyocera Ltd., the NEC Corp. and Epson, a subsidiary of the Seiko group of Japan.

Fujitsu senior managing director Yoshikawa Hiroo met with Atiyeh at the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations, an association which includes Japan's largest companies.

Fujitsu spokesman Etsuro Yamada said plans call for the plants to be built in 1985, and to gradually ex-

pand production over a three-year period. Fujitsu would invest about \$40 million in the magnetic disc plant and about \$130 million in the semiconductor plant by 1987.

Though Fujitsu has not decided on the exact location of the two plants, they would be located near Portland, and each plant would employ about 500 people, Yamada said in a telephone interview. Most of the jobs will involve factory workers, but there also will be some managers and engineers hired.

Atiyeh arrived here Sept. 9, leading a delegation of Oregon businessmen and state officials.

There were reports that at least one of the plants would be built in Washington County's "Sunset Corridor" along U.S. 26, just west of Portland.

The company said no land has been bought, but it has considered acquiring 300-400 acres.

The company said it chose Oregon because both the state and local governments actively sought its investment and because Oregon "has taken the lead in

repealing the unitary tax system."

The unitary tax assesses taxes of foreign corporations based on their worldwide earnings. Atiyeh has been talking about the recent repeal of the tax in Oregon during his trade mission to Japan and China.

Fujitsu also cited the state's relative closeness to the California headquarters of its two American subsidiaries. Additional factors were a high-quality labor pool and good industrial sites, housing, transportation and energy supply. The company also cited Oregon's "pleasant, natural environment."

The disc drive plant will be built by Fujitsu America, a San Jose, Calif., subsidiary established in 1968.

The other plant will be built by Fujitsu Microelectronic Inc. of Santa Clara, Calif. Its main operations are the manufacture and sale of semiconductors and sale of personal computers. Established in 1979, the company has a plant at San Diego.



AP Laserphoto

Atiyeh meets Sony Corp. chairman Akio Morita today.