

## Tampa Bay News Briefs

### *Highlights of Economic and Business Growth in the Tampa Bay Region*

TAMPA BAY, Fla., March 23, 2010/Businesswire/ -- News briefs concerning economic and business growth in the Tampa Bay region from the [Tampa Bay Partnership](#):

#### **Cigar Maker Davidoff Relocates U.S. HQ, 90 Jobs to Tampa Bay**

[Oettinger Davidoff Group](#) will soon relocate its U.S. headquarters to Tampa Bay, choosing the region over a location in South Carolina. The Swiss company chose a 100,000 square foot building in Pinellas Park and will bring 90 new jobs to the Tampa Bay region paying 150% of the average annual wage. Importing cigars from its manufacturing facilities in the Dominican Republic and Honduras, the local operation will not only house its U.S. headquarters but will provide warehouse and distribution activities to service its customers nationwide. Working with [Pinellas County Economic Development](#) and other local and statewide economic development groups, Davidoff will utilize Florida's Qualified Target Industry (QTI) program which allows new and expanding Florida businesses in targeted, high-growth industries that create new, high paying jobs to receive tax refunds for every new job created. (Contact: Stacey Swank, 727-464-7425, [sswank@pinellascounty.org](mailto:sswank@pinellascounty.org))

#### **Relocation and Expansion of Two Companies To Create 200+ Tampa Bay Jobs**

Two companies that received incentive grants from [Manatee County](#) announced plans to add up to 210 employees in 2010, according to the [Manatee Economic Development Council](#). [Oliphant Financial LLC](#), a debt buyer and software provider to that industry, plans to add 100 to 150 jobs in 2010 at the company's new financial services headquarters location in Manatee County. [Star2Star Communications LLC](#), which develops and provides business grade communications solutions via the Internet, plans to add up to 60 new employees to support the company's sales growth. (Contact: Tom Noble, 941-556-1444, [noblet@oliphantfinancial.com](mailto:noblet@oliphantfinancial.com); Bonnie Seitzinger, 941-234-0001, [bonnies@star2star.com](mailto:bonnies@star2star.com))

#### **Osprey Biotechnics Plans 35-Employee Expansion with New Fungal Products**

[Osprey Biotechnics Inc.](#), a Sarasota-based biotechnology company that creates beneficial bacterial products which promote animal health, plant health and environmental restoration, is expanding to a larger facility and plans to double its growth by adding 35 employees over the next three years. Osprey Biotechnics develops, manufactures and sells environmentally-friendly bacterial products, which replace conventional chemicals. [Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County](#) assisted the company with local performance-based incentives aimed at creating high-wage jobs in Sarasota County which will enable the company to develop and launch its new fungal product line. All of the company's manufacturing is performed in Sarasota County and products are sold to a national and international base of clients. (Contact: Lauren Danielson, 941-351-2700, [ldanielson@ospreybiotechnics.com](mailto:ldanielson@ospreybiotechnics.com))

#### **Solar Company Expands, Plans 10 Jobs in Tampa Bay**

[Sybac Solar](#), a design, engineering and installation company for photovoltaic systems, announced its expansion to a new facility in Lakeland. Sybac Solar is the U.S. subsidiary of Sybac Germany. Sybac has moved into a new 10,000 square foot facility and plans to hire 10 employees within one year. They will also use many local contractors to install their solar panels on businesses in the Central Florida region. The [Central Florida Development Council](#) assisted the company with finance and market research while they made the decision on where to locate their new facility. (Contact: Marcus Falz, 863-229-1081, [mfalz@sybacusa.com](mailto:mfalz@sybacusa.com))

### **AAR Composites to Train 40 Employees Through Florida Incumbent Worker Training Program**

[AAR Composites](#), serving the aerospace market, will receive \$42,000 to train 40 employees in [Pinellas County](#), Florida. The funding comes through Florida's [Incumbent Worker Training](#) (IWT) program and will allow AAR to amplify its employees' skill levels while keeping costs down. Occupying a 65,000 square-foot facility in the city of [Clearwater](#), AAR develops, manufactures and markets composite solutions for the aerospace market, including component parts and assemblies for the F-22 advanced tactical fighter, G-650, CJ4, business jets, and S92 helicopter. (Contact: Chris Mason, 630.227.2062, [CMason@aarcorp.com](mailto:CMason@aarcorp.com))

### **Humana Cares Hiring 50+ in First Quarter 2010**

During the first quarter of 2010, Humana Cares will be hiring 50+ referral specialists, nurses, community health educators, health care managers and other health care professionals. The national care center in St. Petersburg currently employs nearly 310 associates and has plans to expand its on-site staff to more than 360 during the first quarter of 2010. By comparison, when [Humana](#) formed the new St. Petersburg-based care management division in the fall of 2008 it had less than 200 associates. Humana Cares now provides complex care management telephonically to more than 30,000 Humana Medicare Advantage members nationally, and will be adding another 16,500 Humana members in 2010's first quarter. (Contact: Mitch Lubitz, 813-287-6180, [mlubitz@humana.com](mailto:mlubitz@humana.com))

### **USF Launches Alumni CareerQuest**

Recognizing the difficulty of finding employment in the current economy, [University of South Florida](#) developed [Alumni CareerQuest](#), an initiative to provide career and job search assistance services to all USF alumni. CareerQuest services are exclusively for unemployed alumni who have earned a degree from USF and will be provided free of charge throughout the 2009-2010 academic year (through June 30, 2010.) Alumni have access to on-site and virtual resources, professional career coaching, workshops, webinars and state-of-art job search preparation software systems and recruitment events. More information available at <http://www.career.usf.edu/alumni/index.htm>. (Contact: Drema Howard, 813-974-9718, [dhoward@usf.edu](mailto:dhoward@usf.edu))

### **PHCC Partners with ToolingU to Offer Online Training for Manufacturers**

[Pasco-Hernando Community College](#) (PHCC) in partnering with online education provider ToolingU to provide nearly 400 training courses for people in the manufacturing industry. Workers can gain the skills necessary to expand their skill sets or advance their careers. Training packages are available for a variety of manufacturing areas including mill or lathe operators, press operators, assemblers and maintenance professionals, and more. PHCC's ToolingU website is [www.toolingu.com/phcc](http://www.toolingu.com/phcc). (Contact: Anne Kibbe, 727-816-3122, [kibbea@phcc.edu](mailto:kibbea@phcc.edu))

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