

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Betty S. Carlin
(813) 872-2811
bcarlin@tampabay.org

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT REMAINS STRONG IN TAMPA BAY REGION FDI Study Identifies 480 Foreign Owned Companies

TAMPA BAY, FL (November 8, 2011) – International firms are finding that Tampa Bay is an ideal location for manufacturing and wholesale trade operations. The 2011 Tampa Bay Foreign Direct Investment Study, conducted by the Tampa Bay Partnership, identified 480 foreign owned companies from 41 nations, operating across the entire spectrum of industry in the eight-county region. The 480 companies identified have 1,821 locations in our region employing over 41,500 people in Tampa Bay.

The Tampa Bay Partnership's Foreign Direct Investment Study, which identified foreign business investment in the Tampa Bay region as of second quarter 2011, was commissioned to provide data on key international operations in the Tampa Bay market as well as to identify future investment opportunities. Data from the study will be used to increase international business opportunities in the Tampa Bay region.

“The study shows that the Tampa Bay region has attracted significant and varied investments from great companies from around the world,” said Stuart Rogel, President & CEO of the Tampa Bay Partnership. “These companies employ thousands of residents and contribute greatly to the economic vitality of our communities.”

Foreign owned firms with a presence in Tampa Bay include world class companies and industry leaders such as Bankers Financial, Nielsen, Sweetbay Supermarket, Firmenich, Gerda, BIC Graphics and CAE USA Inc.

“Having this type of data on companies already in our region adds to our understanding of where demand might be for increased international air service,” said Joe Lopano, CEO of Tampa International Airport. “We already have regular nonstop service to the United Kingdom and Canada, the region's two top investor nations, according to this survey. The airport has already made nonstop flights to Germany, the number three investor nation, a top priority.”

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4300 W. Cypress St., Suite 700, Tampa Bay, FL 33607
phone: 813-878-2208 fax: 813-872-9356
www.TampaBay.org

Through its Regional Business Plan effort, the Tampa Bay Partnership is focused on understanding and identifying opportunities going forward to stimulate and strengthen the Tampa Bay economy through the creation of jobs.

“It is clear that as we look for answers, we must cultivate the relationships and resources identified throughout this study,” added Rogel. “Our ability to reset our economic conditions rely on our actions to expand the types of investments made into our region from these types of companies,”

Among the advantages named by executives of their location in Tampa Bay included climate/weather, large consumer market, easy and cheap distribution of products and services, ports, airports, location of a key industry cluster, central location and favorable cost of doing business.

A previous Foreign Direct Investment Study was conducted in 2009 which identified 394 companies representing 34 countries.

Further information on foreign direct investment opportunities in Tampa Bay is available through Jennifer Taylor, Vice President Business Development at (813) 872-2809 or jtaylor@tampabay.org.

About Tampa Bay Partnership:

The Tampa Bay Partnership is the regional organization that works with its partners to market the region nationally and internationally, to conduct regional research and to coordinate efforts to influence business and government issues that impact economic growth and development. Founded in 1994, the Tampa Bay Partnership provides regional economic development for the metro areas of Tampa/St. Petersburg/Clearwater, Lakeland, and Bradenton/Sarasota/Venice and the counties of Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota.

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