

NEWS RELEASE

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TAMPA BAY PARTNERSHIP AWARDED FOR EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS RECRUITMENT

TAMPA BAY, FL (October 7, 2008) – The Tampa Bay Partnership was awarded the 2008 ITFlorida Award for Excellence in Business Recruitment Monday evening at the ITFlorida 2008 Gala and Tech Forum. The award honors the Partnership's efforts to successfully recruit Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Inc. to the Tampa Bay region. Draper, one of the world's leading independent research and development laboratories engaged in applied research, engineering and development, will be establishing a BioMEMS R&D Center at the University of South Florida in Tampa and a Multi Chip Module (MCM) Center in St. Petersburg. Between the BioMEMS R&D Center and the MCM pilot facility, Draper will create 165 new jobs, with an average wage of \$75,000.

“On behalf of the entire team, we're honored to receive this recognition for this important project to Tampa Bay which was truly a regionwide collaborative effort,” said Stuart Rogel, president and CEO of the Tampa Bay Partnership.

The Tampa Bay Partnership team which secured this project consisted of partners with the University of South Florida, Hillsborough County, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100, City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County Economic Development, Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, Progress Energy, the Florida High Tech Corridor Council, Enterprise Florida and the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

“In today's volatile economy, it is more important than ever to focus on quality economic development in leading edge industries which will advance our region. Draper Laboratory exemplifies this innovative culture and we're excited about the opportunities they bring to our region,” Rogel added.

About Tampa Bay Partnership:

The Tampa Bay Partnership is the regional organization that brings the communities of Tampa Bay together to accelerate life's possibilities through advocacy, marketing, research and leadership. Founded in 1994, the Tampa Bay Partnership provides regional economic development for the metro areas of Tampa/St. Petersburg/Clearwater, Lakeland, and Sarasota/Bradenton/Venice and the counties of Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota.

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