

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

TAMPA BAY, Fla., September 26, 2006/PRNewswire/ -- News briefs concerning the economic and business growth in the Tampa Bay Region from the Tampa Bay Partnership:

### **Tampa Bay Partnership Releases Updated Regional Economic Scorecard**

The Tampa Bay Partnership's recently released Regional Economic Scorecard shows that job creation continues to be a real strength for the Tampa Bay region. Over the past five years, Tampa Bay has created more net new jobs than all five comparison regions combined. The comparison regions included Atlanta, Charlotte, Dallas, Jacksonville and Raleigh/Durham. The scorecard, a realistic snapshot of the Tampa Bay regional market based upon key indicators, is used by Partnership leadership to focus attention on issues impacting the region's competitiveness and attractiveness for business and investment. To access the Tampa Bay Partnership's Regional Economic Scorecard, visit [www.TampaBay.org](http://www.TampaBay.org). (Contact: Betty Carlin, Tampa Bay Partnership, 813-872-2811, [bcarlin@tampabay.org](mailto:bcarlin@tampabay.org).)

### **USF Research Dollars Top \$300 Million**

On the road to becoming a "top 50 research institution," USF has surpassed the \$300 million mark in externally funded research dollars. Research grants and contracts for the fiscal year 2005-2006 total \$310.2 million, representing a \$22.9 million increase, or 8 percent, over the previous year. Since FY2000-2001, external research funding has increased \$124 million, or 67 percent. "We have excellent faculty who have been very aggressive in their quest for funding," said USF President Judy Genshaft. "Through their efforts and successes, the University continues to rank second among Florida's state universities for externally funded awards. We clearly make a positive difference in the nation, state, and region." (Contact: Lara Wade, USF, 813-974-9060, [lwade@admin.usf.edu](mailto:lwade@admin.usf.edu).)

### **Tampa Bay Companies Receive Governor's Business Diversification Awards**

Three Tampa Bay companies received the Governor's Business Diversification Awards recently for their efforts to diversify and enrich the state's economy by creating high-wage jobs and investing in their communities. Florikan E.S.A. (Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture) Corporation, a Sarasota-based horticultural products supplier, was recognized for leadership in Business Expansion in a Major Market (county populations 75,000 to 750,000). MadahCom, Inc., a Manatee County-based leader in digital wireless personal alerting systems and mass notification systems, was selected as the Major Market winner in the Entrepreneurship category. Quadrant Software, a leading international software developer, relocated its world headquarters to Tampa last summer and was named the leader in the Newcomer category for a Mega Market (county population 750,000+). (Contact: Erin Heston, Enterprise Florida, 407-316-4644, [eheston@eflorida.com](mailto:eheston@eflorida.com).)

### **Pharmaceutical Company Announces HQ Expansion in Tampa Bay**

Xcelience LLC, a Tampa-based pharmaceutical company, announced plans to expand its headquarters and boost its employment by about 50 percent over the next three years. The 55-employee company's main office and formulation laboratory will be creating 28 new jobs, making it eligible for Florida's Qualified Tax Incentive program. (Contact: Derek Hennecke, Xcelience, 813-286-0404, [Info@xcelience.com](mailto:Info@xcelience.com))

### **Sarasota International Design Summit Examines Design's Role in Business Strategy**

Focusing on the role design and design thinking occupies in global business strategy today, the world renowned Ringling School of Art and Design will host its inaugural Sarasota International Design Summit on October 9-11, 2006. An international group of thought leaders and practitioners will convene to network and share knowledge about the transformational effects of design in their businesses and communities. Speakers from Target Corporation, Procter & Gamble, UK Design Council and Metropolis Magazine will address topics including how innovative design thinking and processes are shaping the future of education, healthcare, urban development, corporate operations and strategy, and responses to the needs of an aging population. For more information, visit <http://www.sarasotadesignsummit.com>.

### **'Cleanest Coal Plan in North America' Celebrates 10 Years**

On Tuesday, September 19, local community leaders and TECO Energy representatives commemorated a major milestone in the commercialization of clean-coal technology: Polk Power Station's 10-year anniversary. Polk is the world leader in the production of electricity from environmentally friendly, coal-derived synthesis gas. Polk Unit 1 has been named the cleanest coal plant in North America. Since its inception in 1996, the facility has hosted hundreds of industry, academic and governmental dignitaries from around the world. "The Polk Power Station is a leader in developing and commercializing clean-coal technology. This technology not only powers the homes of Floridians, but can also be used to harness our nation's 250-year supply of coal in an environmentally sensitive manner. This is exciting work being done at Polk that will help us fuel the future of our country," said Samuel W. Bodman, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy. (Contact: Rick Morera, TECO, 813-228-4945, [rjmorera@tecoenergy.com](mailto:rjmorera@tecoenergy.com).)

### **Tampa Bay Manufacturer Achieves Export Excellence**

Bovie Aaron Medical Corporation, a manufacturer of electrosurgical generators and battery operated cauteries, was recently honored with a U.S. Export Achievement Award, presented by Congressman Bill Young and George Martinez, Director of the Tampa Bay U.S. Export Assistance Center (USEAC), at the company's St. Petersburg facility. Robert Saron, President, accepted the award surrounded by Bovie Aaron's leadership and dedicated staff. The Export Achievement Award recognizes companies that have benefited from U.S. Commercial Service export assistance to make their first export sale or open new markets. (Contact: Pinellas County Economic Development, 727-464-7332 or [www.pced.org](http://www.pced.org).)

### **Roskamp Institute Launches Human Clinical Study in Ireland**

The Roskamp Institute, based in South Tampa Bay, has launched a human clinical study of a drug its researchers believe may be an effective treatment for Alzheimer's disease. The 18-month study of a new drug Nilvadipine will be conducted in Ireland through a new partnership between the Roskamp Institute and Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience. The clinical study, which will be funded by the Roskamp Institute, will involve 150 mild to moderate Alzheimer patients. The purpose of this study is to establish if the drug, Nilvadipine which is currently used to treat hypertension, alters the level of amyloid in the blood. The Roskamp Institute, which operates from offices in southern Manatee County, studies the causes and cures for neurodegenerative conditions with a focus on Alzheimer's disease. (Contact: Peter Parsonson, Roskamp Institute, 941-752-2949, [pparsonson@rfdn.org](mailto:pparsonson@rfdn.org).)

### **Wireless Support Services Provider Announces Expansion in Tampa Bay**

Governor Jeb Bush and Mayor Rick Baker applauded wireless support services provider Tower Cloud LLC for locating its expanded operations in St. Petersburg. A leader in wireless access infrastructure solutions, Tower Cloud will create 50 new jobs, with an average wage twice the county average and 96 percent higher than the state's average. Tower Cloud provides fiber and wireless transport services to wireless carriers, enabling connection of cellular towers to the carrier's mobile switching centers with higher quality and reliability. The company was formed by a team of executives and investors who worked together while running Progress Energy's jointly owned telecommunications subsidiary, Progress Telecom, LLC. Tower Cloud recently began focusing on the access network requirements of wireless service providers. From its base in Florida, the company plans to expand beyond its current service markets in the Southeast. (Contact: Dave Goodwin, City of St. Petersburg, 727-893-7100, [dave.goodwin@stpete.org](mailto:dave.goodwin@stpete.org).)

### **IT Company Announces Relocation**

DataMentors, Incorporated, an information technology company, recently received site and building permit approvals to construct a 10,000-square-foot office building in the Cypress Creek Office Park in Pasco County near the intersection of I-75 and SR 56. DataMentors will relocate its current staff of 20 to its new corporate headquarters in the beginning of 2007 with plans to expand to 40 employees within the next three years. DataMentors provides data solutions that transform and validate data, as well as perform data profiling, reporting, analysis, and data mining, data modeling and campaign management functions. (Contact: Bob Orf, DataMentors, 813-960-7800 or visit [www.datamentors.com](http://www.datamentors.com).)

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