

Highlights of Economic and Business Growth in the Tampa Bay Region (Shorts)

TAMPA BAY, Fla., January 8, 2004/PRNewswire/ -- Here are some shorts concerning the economic and high tech growth in the Tampa Bay Region from the Tampa Bay Partnership:

University Community Hospital and General Electric Unveil Plans for Southeast's First Digital, Research-Focused Hospital

University Community Health (UCH) system and GE Medical Systems announced a strategic alliance agreement to build one of the nation's most advanced heart hospitals. UCH will break ground on the \$40 million, 120,000 square-foot hospital in January 2004 on the campus of University Community Hospital in Tampa, Fla. The advanced specialty facility, to be named the Pepin Heart Hospital and Research Institute, will be a virtually paperless, filmless and wireless environment, enabling clinicians to focus on providing the highest quality, most informed care to their patients. At the core of the digital workflow will be a complete, up-to-date, fully-electronic patient record system to enable doctors and nurses to view patient information anytime, from inside or outside the hospital and make care decisions right at the patients' bedside. The facility will also feature the most advanced cardiovascular monitoring, diagnostic and imaging technologies from GE. For full information, contact Peter Moberg, (813) 615-7202, poberg@mail.uch.org or visit www.pepinheart.org.

Aerosonic Announces New U.S. Army Contract.

Clearwater-based Aerosonic Corporation has announced that it has been awarded a contract from the U.S. Army to overhaul encoding altimeters. The altimeter involved is standard equipment on a wide variety of military aircraft, including both fixed wing and rotorcraft. The first year order is valued at \$962,500 and is followed by two option years. The total value of the three-year contract, including the option years, is \$4.3 million. For additional information, visit www.aerosonic.com/pr2003-1124-2.htm

Biolife LLC Wins 2003 Innovation Award for Florida's Gulf Coast

Biolife LLC, a Sarasota-based inventor and manufacturer of a product that instantly stops bleeding, received the 2003 Innovation Award from the Suncoast Technology Alliance and "Gulf Coast Business Review." The company's product, Urgent QR -- which stands for Quick Relief -- is a combination of potassium salt and resins in a powder form. When sprinkled on a bleeding wound, the bleeding stops instantly. The product chemically reacts with the blood to act like a plug, forming an immediate scab. Within about two days, the wound shows no trace of the chemical. Formed in 1999, the company expects to achieve \$5 million in sales this year. Contact: Doris Goodman, vice president of marketing, (941) 360-1300, ext. 104 or www.biolife.com

Topline Hylift Incorporated Selects Hernando County for New Manufacturing Facility

Topline Hylift Incorporated recently announced plans to construct a new manufacturing facility at the Hernando County Airport RailPark. The Company, a subsidiary of Topline Automotive Engineering, will manufacture gasoline and diesel engine lifters used in automobiles and trucks. The Company is planning to build a 140,000 square foot manufacturing facility and expects employment to reach 150 within three years. The market destination for the finished engine lifters will be 25%- International, 5%- Florida, 70%-U.S. (outside of FL). Contact Michael McHugh, Hernando County Office of Business Development, (352) 540-6400 or www.co.hernando.fl.us.

Downtown Lakeland Adds Wi-Fi to Attract High Tech Crowd

Downtown Lakeland in Polk County, Florida is becoming more attractive to high skill workers and high tech businesses. Lakeland recently installed a wireless Internet service system amidst its downtown cafes and shops which allows diners, shoppers and techies the ability to remain connected to their e-mail and business interests by means of a free internet connection. All that is needed for a public user to connect to the “techno-friendly” system is a laptop or other mobile device equipped for Wi-Fi. For additional information, please contact Anthony Tucker with the Lakeland Economic Development Council at atucker@lakelandchamber.com.

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