

## Highlights of Economic and Business Growth in the Tampa Bay Region (News Briefs)

TAMPA BAY, Fla., July 19, 2005/PRNewswire/ -- Here are some news briefs concerning the economic and business growth in the Tampa Bay Region from the Tampa Bay Partnership:

### **HSBC – North America to Open Tampa Facility, Increase Employment**

HSBC – North America announced it will expand its employment in the Tampa Bay region by as many as 250 by the end of this year and by 500 by the end of 2007. The top-10 financial services firm is expanding to accommodate growth in customer service and management functions supporting HSBC Mortgage Services, which currently employs more than 1,000 in the Tampa Bay region. (Contact: Rahsaan Johnson, HSBC-North America, 847-564-7946, [rahsaan.a.johnson@us.hsbc.com](mailto:rahsaan.a.johnson@us.hsbc.com))

### **Pneumatic Scale Expands Production of Centrifuges in Clearwater**

Pneumatic Scale, a worldwide provider of packaging automation equipment and services for the pharmaceutical, household, cosmetic, food, and beverage industries, is expanding production of centrifuges for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries at their Clearwater facility. A division of Barry-Wehmler Company with over 100 years of service, Pneumatic Scale has led the industry in the design, manufacture, and integration of fillers, cappers, can seamers, roll through labelers and continuous flow centrifuges, and their production facility in Clearwater is growing. Following the recent acquisition of an out-of-state company, Pneumatic made the decision to utilize their Pinellas County production space to manufacture the centrifuges for distribution worldwide. Pneumatic Scale expects to create 31 new high-wage jobs in the Tampa Bay region in the next few years. (Contact: Suzanne Christman, 727-464-7332, [schristm@co.pinellas.fl.us](mailto:schristm@co.pinellas.fl.us))

### **Tampa Bay hospitals Rank Among America's Best Hospitals**

Three Tampa Bay hospitals have ranked among the nation's best in *U.S. News & World Report's* 16<sup>th</sup> annual "America's Best Hospitals" survey.

- H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, a National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center, ranked #13 in Cancer care.
- Tampa General Hospital, the only Level I Trauma Center in West Central Florida, ranked #46 for its Orthopedics specialty
- Sarasota Memorial Hospital, the second-largest acute care public hospital in Florida, ranked in seven different specialties - #19 Heart & Heart Surgery; #34 Digestive Disorders; #36 Orthopedics; #37 Geriatrics; #38 Urology; #41 Cancer; #43 Ear, Nose & Throat

The survey ranked hospitals across the country in 17 specialties and only 176 hospitals out of a field of more than 6,000 U.S. medical centers scored high enough to rank in even a single specialty. For more information about the health care and medical technology centers of excellence in the Tampa Bay region, visit [www.TampaBay.org](http://www.TampaBay.org). (Contact: Jennifer Taylor, 813-878-2208, [jtaylor@tampabay.org](mailto:jtaylor@tampabay.org).)

### **Tampa International Airport Recognized with Efficiency Excellence Award**

Tampa International Airport has been awarded the Global Airport Efficiency Excellence Award at the Air Transport Research Society (ATRS) 2005 World Conference. The ATRS Global Airport Benchmarking Report showed Tampa as the most efficient airport in North America. (Contact: Brenda Geoghagan, TIA, 813-870-8707, [bgeoghagan@tampaairport.com](mailto:bgeoghagan@tampaairport.com))

### **Call Center to Begin Operations in Spring Hill**

Gold Key Credit, Inc., a call center corporation with operations in Key West, FL and Chennai, India, opened a 3600-square-foot office within the Hernando County Airport Industrial Park. Gold Key specializes in third party agency collections of medical and consumer debt. Their client base ranges from local businesses in need of collection assistance to major national and international corporations. (Contact: James Baxter, 787-529-0164, [info@goldkeycreditinc.com](mailto:info@goldkeycreditinc.com))

### **USF-Moffitt Team Finds Promising New Use for Previously Discarded Anti-Cancer Drug**

Moffitt Cancer Center, working in partnership with the University of South Florida (USF), has discovered a new use for an old, previously discredited anti-cancer drug that could add another weapon against several cancers, including tumors of the breast, ovary, colon, skin and prostate. The compound, triciribine, was tested at various cancer centers until 1996 and found to inhibit some cancers, but researchers failed to determine why. The Moffitt-USF team discovered that triciribine works only against tumors in which the cancer-causing Akt protein is abundant or abnormally active. Clinical trials with Moffitt are expected to start within six to eight months. Because triciribine has previously been investigated in humans, the hypothesis-driven clinical trials planned at Moffitt can move directly into a Phase I/II trial. (Contact Andrea Brunais, [MediaRelations@moffitt.usf.edu](mailto:MediaRelations@moffitt.usf.edu), 813-632-1478.)

### **Tervis Tumbler Co. Relocating Headquarters and Manufacturing Facility**

Tervis Tumbler Co., which manufactures insulated drinkware featuring emblems or graphics that are ultrasonically sealed between clear walls, will relocate its headquarters and manufacturing operations this fall to a new, 55,000-square-foot facility in Venice, Florida. The company will employ approximately 120 after the expansion, which represents a capital investment of \$7.5 million. Tervis used Sarasota County's rapid permitting program to facilitate the expansion with assistance from the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County. (Contact Norbert Donelly, President, or Laura Spencer, COO, at 941-966-2114, [www.tervis.com](http://www.tervis.com))

### **USF and Pepin Heart Hospital Build New Partnership for Heart Health**

The University of South Florida (USF) and the Pepin Heart Hospital & Dr. Kiran C. Patel Research Institute announced a new partnership for research, clinical practice and graduate medical education. The USF/PHHRI agreement establishes two residency programs: one focuses on interventional cardiology and the other on electrophysiology. This agreement will allow rigorous exploration and promotion of leading-edge therapy options for physicians and patients; furthering scientific knowledge in the prevention, treatment and management of cardiovascular disease; and educating Tampa Bay area physicians. (Contact: Phoebe Ochman, 813-615-7074, [pochman@mail.uch.org](mailto:pochman@mail.uch.org).)

## **Tampa Bay Partnership Launches Re-designed Web Site**

In conjunction with its new branding strategy focused on the communities of Tampa Bay, the Tampa Bay Partnership rolled out its redesigned Web site targeted toward national and international organizations looking to relocate or expand. Recognizing that companies evaluate new community site locations based upon a number of business and lifestyle issues, the new site was crafted not only to provide a wealth of information and resources about our seven county region but also to reflect the diversity of options the Tampa Bay area has to offer which "Accelerate Life's Possibilities." Visit the Tampa Bay Partnership site at [www.TampaBay.org](http://www.TampaBay.org). (Contact: Chris Steinocher, 813-878-2208, [info@tampabay.org](mailto:info@tampabay.org).)

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Betty S. Carlin, Tampa Bay Partnership, 813-878-2208, [bcarlin@tampabay.org](mailto:bcarlin@tampabay.org),  
[www.tampabay.org](http://www.tampabay.org)