

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

TAMPA BAY, Fla., June 7, 2005/PRNewswire/ -- Here are some news briefs concerning the economic and business growth in the Tampa Bay Region from the Tampa Bay Partnership:

### **GE Infrastructure, Security's World Headquarters Relocates to Tampa Bay**

GE Infrastructure, Security recently announced it will be relocating its world headquarters from Austin, TX to Tampa Bay's Manatee County. A subsidiary of General Electric with operations in more than 30 countries, GE Infrastructure, Security's new location in Bradenton will bring 70 new high-wage jobs, and make initial capital investments totaling \$6 million in equipment relocation and worker recruitment. GE's Security business is focused on communication and information technologies for security, safety, and lifestyle enhancements, and is part of the Corporation's fastest-growing business division, GE Infrastructure, which provides solutions to some of the world's most challenging problems to include water scarcity and homeland protection. (Contact: Michelle May, GE Infrastructure, Security, 281-647-9479; or Nancy Engel, Manatee Economic Development Council, 941-748-4842, [nengel@manateeEDC.com](mailto:nengel@manateeEDC.com).)

### **Diamond-maker Gemesis Corp. expanding Tampa Bay headquarters**

Sarasota-based Gemesis Corp, which manufactures diamonds for the jewelry industry, announced expansion of its headquarters and manufacturing operations and will add more than 50 high-wage jobs by 2008. Gemesis Chief Operating Officer John Clement said the company is implementing a multi-million-dollar equipment expansion plan at its Lakewood Ranch Corporate Park location. The company's gem-quality yellow diamonds took the jewelry industry by storm, and now Gemesis is branching into additional colors and new markets. (Contact: John Clement, Gemesis, 941-907-9889 or [jclement@gemesis.com](mailto:jclement@gemesis.com).)

### **Aluminum Products Company To Build New Manufacturing Facility in Tampa Bay**

Alumi-Guard Incorporated announced plans to relocate operations to a new manufacturing facility in the Hernando County Corporate AirPark. Alumi-Guard is a leading manufacturer of decorative aluminum fencing products used in residential and commercial projects. Approximately 75 percent of the company's sales are outside the state of Florida. The company plans to construct a 200,000-square-foot building upon a 13-acre industrial site and will invest over \$8 million in capital improvements. Alumi-Guard currently has 90 employees and expects to add 30 additional employees within the next three years. (Contact: Michael McHugh, Hernando County Office of Business Development, 352-540-6400, [mmchugh@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:mmchugh@co.hernando.fl.us).)

### **Communities of Tampa Bay Among Nation's Best Public Education Systems**

*Expansion Management* ranked the communities of Tampa Bay among the best metro areas in the U.S. for overall quality of public schools according to the publication's annual Education Quotient study. The Tampa / St. Petersburg / Clearwater MSA ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation among top metro areas with more than 250,000 students. Sarasota / Bradenton ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> for top metros with 50,000 to 100,000 students. The study compared school

districts throughout the country against one another according to a variety of categories, such as college board scores, graduation rates, teacher salaries, per pupil expenditures and student-teacher ratio. More info: [www.expansionmanagement.com](http://www.expansionmanagement.com). (For relocation information in the Tampa Bay region, contact Jennifer Taylor, 813-878-2208, [jtaylor@tampabay.org](mailto:jtaylor@tampabay.org).)

### **State and County Incentives Land German Company's North American HQ in Tampa Bay**

Gammerler Corporation, a German company that makes conveyors and other machinery for publishers, announced it is planning to relocate its North American headquarters from Hanover Park, IL to a new 80,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Palmetto next year and initially hire 85 employees. The company expects to have 170 employees in three years. The company cited state and county incentives as a key factor in their relocation decision. (Contact: Mark Legac, Gammerler Corp., 941-322-2997 or visit [www.ManateeEDC.com](http://www.ManateeEDC.com).)

### **\$34.5 Million Gift to Build USF Center for Global Solutions**

The University of South Florida got the biggest donation in its history Thursday, a gift worth \$34.5 million that USF hopes will place it on the world map. The university will use the money from Dr. Kiran Patel and his wife, Dr. Pallavi Patel, to build the Kiran C. Patel Center for Global Solutions on USF's Tampa campus. The \$62.5 million center will become a place where foreign leaders gather and researchers study issues such as global hunger and international trade, university leaders said. When built, the Patel Center could include four pavilions to house scholars, a world-class conference center, classrooms, a 500-seat auditorium, and facilities to house foreign dignitaries. (For more information, visit [www.usf.edu](http://www.usf.edu) or contact Michelle Carlyon at 813-974-9082.)

### **Moffitt Announces Promising Study Results on Blood Disorder**

Alan List, M.D., Chief of Hematologic Malignancies Division at Tampa Bay's H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, presented promising study results on the drug Revlimid (Cellegene) to treat myelodysplastic syndromes (a collection of malignancies of bone marrow stem cells that affects elderly individuals) at the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Orlando in May. Patients taking Revlimid had less need for blood transfusions and had increases in hemoglobin. More than 50 journalists attended the news conference with coverage resulting in the *New York Times*, CNBC, Reuters, *USA Today* and other international outlets. The study was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in December 2004. (For more information, please contact Andrea Brunais, [mediarelations@moffitt.usf.edu](mailto:mediarelations@moffitt.usf.edu).)

### **University Research Funds up by \$40 million in Florida Last Year**

Public and private sector investments in research at major Florida universities were up \$40 million between 2003 and 2004, totaling more than \$1.4 billion in 2004, according to a new survey released at the Second Annual Florida Tech Transfer Conference in Orlando. University researchers also invented more and applied for more patents last year, according to the survey of 13 Florida institutions. Researchers submitted 616 invention disclosures in 2004 compared with 552 in 2003, the survey said. They received 127 U.S. patents last year, up from 119 the previous year. The survey said 270 of the licenses generated revenue for

universities last year, up from 236 in 2003. Total revenue from the licenses was more than \$53 million. The survey was released at the conclusion of the second annual Florida Tech Transfer Conference in Orlando that took place May 18-19. The Conference was conducted by the Florida Research Consortium, Tampa Bay Technology Forum and Central Florida Technology Partnership. (For more information, visit USF Connect at <http://www.research.usf.edu/otd/usfconnect.htm> or contact: Rod Casto, University of South Florida, at 813-974-1082 or [rcasto@research.usf.edu](mailto:rcasto@research.usf.edu).)

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