

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

TAMPA BAY, Fla., June 1, 2009/PRNewswire/ -- News briefs concerning economic and business growth in the Tampa Bay Region from the Tampa Bay Partnership:

### **John Deere Division Opens National Service Center in Tampa Bay**

Nortrax Inc., a John Deere construction and forestry equipment dealer operating throughout North America, announced it is opening a new shared services center in Tampa. Nortrax will employ 60 people in the fields of accounting, finance, credit, human resources, information technology, sales, marketing, parts, service, rental, used equipment and inventory management. The new 24,000-square-foot shared services center will provide centralized services to all 40 Nortrax U.S. branches and select services in Canada. (Contact: 813-635-2300, [www.nortrax.com](http://www.nortrax.com))

### **Chromalloy to Invest \$16.5 Million to Expand Tampa Bay Turbine Engine Facility**

Chromalloy, a supplier of components, PMA parts and specialized component repairs for turbine engines in aerospace and land-based applications, announced a \$16.5 million investment to expand its Tampa engine component production to offer additional casting capabilities. Chromalloy's Tampa operation employs 195 people. The company anticipates hiring up to 200 additional skilled employees as the new casting equipment and furnaces become operational. The company's Tampa facility is one of more than 30 operations and sales offices in its global network. (Contact: Cathy Gedvilas, 212-692-2078, [cathy\\_gedvilas@sequa.com](mailto:cathy_gedvilas@sequa.com))

### **Global Engineering Headquarters Coming to Tampa Bay**

Illinois-based Veethree Electronics and Marine LLC, OEM supplier of mechanical and electronic instrumentation, has located its global engineering headquarters to Manatee County. Veethree, which acquired the assets of the Gauge Division of Teleflex Inc. that was closing operations in Lakewood Ranch, also hired more than 50 people whose jobs would have been lost when Teleflex closed. Veethree will manufacture the existing Teleflex product line serving the marine and industrial markets in its 35,000-square-foot Manatee facility, which will be the company's global engineering headquarters. Founding in 1976, Veethree has a worldwide presence as an OEM, defense and aftermarket supplier of instrumentation, clusters, sensors and switches. (Contact: Shekhar Tewatia, 941-538-7775, [shekhar.tewatia@veethree.com](mailto:shekhar.tewatia@veethree.com))

### **Tampa Named Among North American Cities of the Future**

New York, San Francisco, Tampa and Greenville were ranked as the top cities in the 2009/10 North American Cities of the Future Competition published in the April 2009 edition of *fDi Magazine*. Tampa ranked first in the small cities category and sixth overall in the competition that involved data collection from nearly 400 cities. The information on foreign direct investment projects was set under six categories: economic potential, human resources, cost effectiveness, quality of life, infrastructure and business friendliness along with foreign direct investment promotional strategy. (Contact: Chris Steinocher, 813-878-2208, [csteinocher@tampabay.org](mailto:csteinocher@tampabay.org))

### **Sparton Electronics To Remain In Tampa Bay**

Sparton Electronics, a leading manufacturer of electronic circuit boards used in aerospace, medical, homeland defense and military applications, has announced it will remain in their Hernando County production facility. Sparton had considered consolidating all Florida operations to their production facility in Michigan but was swayed to remain in Tampa Bay with a

local business retention incentive package put together by Hernando County Office of Business Development in conjunction with incentives offered through Enterprise Florida. The company currently occupies a 137,000-square-foot building and employs 179 full-time workers. The company plans to expand their facility and add at least 100 additional employees by the end of 2011. (Contact: Dick Pacini, 248-276-1970, [dpacini@millerschingroup.com](mailto:dpacini@millerschingroup.com))

### **USF Poly to Collaborate with Vietnamese University**

Continuing to seek international partnerships, the University of South Florida Polytechnic (USFP) has entered into an agreement to exchange faculty with Vinh University in Vietnam. Up to three faculty members from each institution will be welcomed each year to work on a project funded by the World Bank to strategically improve Vinh University's information technology curriculum. In March, USFP announced the signing of a collaborative agreement with France's Euromed Marseille School of Management and a program to host students from Polytech Marseille. (Contact: Tom Hagerty, 863-667-7077, [thagerty@poly.usf.edu](mailto:thagerty@poly.usf.edu))

### **Global Trade Training Program**

Southwest Florida marine industry businesses can now access international export training as a result of a partnership between the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) of Sarasota County, Workforce Florida and Enterprise Florida. The Global Trade Training program is a \$1.1 million training partnership involving six statewide organizations. The EDC received a \$48 thousand grant to help area small and medium-sized marine-related businesses master the exporting process and enhance international sales opportunities that will ultimately grow the businesses and create jobs. Participants attending the full series of workshops will develop a complete export marketing plan as part of the program. (Contact: Emily Sperling, 941-309-1200 x106, [esperling@edcsarasotacounty.com](mailto:esperling@edcsarasotacounty.com))

### **TBARTA Regional Transportation Master Plan Adopted**

The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) Board adopted its Regional Transportation Master Plan at its May 22 Board meeting. The TBARTA Regional Transportation Master Plan provides a framework for a seamless, linked transportation system using a variety of transportation types such as highways, rail, and bus. The Regional Plan defines a network of high capacity corridors that demonstrate improved mobility and get people to where they want to go throughout the seven county Tampa Bay region, regardless of how many city boundaries or county lines are crossed. "The adoption of this Regional Transportation Plan means that we will be able to begin to take the next steps toward building a balanced transportation system that will improve the quality of life for everyone in the region," said Shelton Quarles, Chairman of TBARTA. (Contact: Cindy Sharpe, 813-986-0877, [c.sharpepr@verizon.net](mailto:c.sharpepr@verizon.net))

### **UCH Long Term Care Center Opens**

University Community Hospital recently opened its Long Term Acute Care Center in Connerton, Pasco County. The 48,000-square-foot facility was build to accommodate up to 50 beds and serves patients who suffer from chronic illnesses that need care longer than a few nights. (Contact: Debi Martoccio, 813-903-3703, [dmartoccio@mail.uch.org](mailto:dmartoccio@mail.uch.org))

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