

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

TAMPA BAY, Fla., March 15, 2005/PRNewswire/ -- Here are some news briefs concerning the economic and business growth in the Tampa Bay Region from the Tampa Bay Partnership:

### **Tampa Bay's Office Market Remains in High Demand**

Tampa Bay remains one of the country's strongest office markets according to a recent commercial real estate market performance report. Cushman & Wakefield Office Market Barometer, a report that evaluates conditions in more than 40 metropolitan office markets in the United States, calls Pinellas County and downtown Tampa leading markets with strong momentum. For more information on the report, contact Sam Zein at (813) 223-6300 or [sam\\_zein@cushwake.com](mailto:sam_zein@cushwake.com). For information about business opportunities in the Tampa Bay region, contact Jennifer Taylor, Tampa Bay Partnership, at (813) 878-2208 or [jtaylor@tampabay.org](mailto:jtaylor@tampabay.org).

### **Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg to Showcase the Region**

Tampa Bay is revving up for the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, the IRL IndyCar<sup>®</sup> Series first street-circuit event to be held on the streets of downtown St. Petersburg April 1-3, 2005. The race will take place on a picturesque 14-turn, 1.8-mile temporary course framed by the city's waterways and incorporating part of a runway at Albert Whitted Municipal Airport. The race, which will be the third of 17 events on the 2005 IndyCar Series schedule, will mark the first-ever IndyCar Series race run on a non-oval track. City officials are estimating 60,000 people will attend the event, which will also receive live coverage on ESPN television. For information about the Honda Grand Prix, visit [www.gpstpete.com](http://www.gpstpete.com).

### **Massachusetts Company Moves Headquarters to Tampa**

Quadrant Software, a Taunton, Mass.-based technology company, announced it is moving its world headquarters to Tampa, FL in July 2005. Quadrant makes and sells electronic document management software that helps companies around the world take the paperwork out of processes such as issuing invoices and cutting checks. Quadrant explained that opening this new headquarters is the company's first step toward expanding its investments in the Tampa Bay economy and creating new jobs in customer service, administration, product development, sales, and marketing, among other departments. For more information, visit [www.quadrantsoftware.com](http://www.quadrantsoftware.com). Contact: Myron Hughes, Committee of 100, 813-288-7777 or [mhughes@tampachamber.com](mailto:mhughes@tampachamber.com).

### **Incentives Land Two Companies in Manatee County**

The Economic Development Council, Manatee Chamber of Commerce recently announced it has landed two new companies in the county as the result of State of Florida incentive programs. The Qualified Industry Tax Refund incentive award helped to secure commitments from NADCO, Inc., a New Hampshire-based tape and label manufacturing company, and Mac Arthur Corporation, a custom label manufacturer located in Grand Blanc, Michigan. NADCO, a manufacturer of printed and die-cut tape and label products for

manufacturers all over the world, is constructing a 22,000-sq.-ft. manufacturing facility. Mac Arthur Corp. specializes in providing printed matter for the automotive industry and plans to open a new manufacturing facility in Manatee County. Contact: Nancy Engel, Economic Development Council, 941-748-4842 or [nengel@manateeEDC.com](mailto:nengel@manateeEDC.com).

### **Moffitt Received \$10 million Grant to Recruit Healthy Men to Study Human Papillomavirus, Which Causes Cervical Cancer in Women**

Anna Giuliano, Ph.D., Program Leader for Risk Assessment, Detection and Intervention at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, was awarded \$10 million from the National Institutes of Health for human papillomavirus (HPV) research with an emphasis on Latin American populations. Latin American countries suffer “the highest rates of invasive cervical cancer in the world,” Giuliano says. The study would determine the rates of new infections by looking at the role of men in spreading HPV and whether or not a vaccine would be effective in preventing cervical cancer in women. Contact: Andrea Brunais, [mediarelations@moffitt.usf.edu](mailto:mediarelations@moffitt.usf.edu) or 813-632-1478.

### **Business Plan Competition Seeks Next Big Idea**

In support of area entrepreneurs, the Tampa Junior Chamber of Commerce – Tampa Jaycees is holding a business plan competition for Tampa Bay entrepreneurs under the age of 40. Judging will be done by a panel of experts and entrepreneurs will receive feedback, tips and suggestions to implement a successful business venture. After judging, the top three technology or manufacturing business plan entries will be invited to submit their plans to the vetting committee of the STAR TEC technology and manufacturing accelerator in Largo for consideration as tenants. For more information or to submit your plan, contact Suzie Boland at [sboland@rfbcommunications.com](mailto:sboland@rfbcommunications.com) or visit [www.startecflorida.com](http://www.startecflorida.com).

### **Tampa Bay IB Students Test Best in the World**

The International Baccalaureate School in Bartow, Polk County, FL is well on its way to global domination. Two of the IB School's advanced placement courses are ranked best in the world by the College Board, the agency that administers both the national AP tests and the SATs. More students from the IB School's AP World History and AP English Language and Composition courses passed the final cumulative exam than students from any comparative-sized public, private or parochial school in the world. AP classes are college-level courses offered in high schools and tested by a national standardized test at the end of the school year. To learn more about Polk County, visit [www.polk-county.net](http://www.polk-county.net) or [www.cfdc.org](http://www.cfdc.org).

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