

Highlights of Economic and Business Growth in the Tampa Bay Region

TAMPA BAY, Fla., March 11, 2008/PRNewswire/ -- News briefs concerning the economic and business growth in the Tampa Bay Region from the Tampa Bay Partnership:

Tampa International Airport Hangar Deal Creates Up To 410 Jobs

Up to 410 new jobs could be created at Tampa International Airport (TIA) in the next two years with the recent approval of a lease agreement Pemco World Air Services Inc. for a maintenance hanger. Pemco provides heavy maintenance and modification services for both wide and narrow body aircraft from around the world and specializes in converting airliners such as Boeing 737s into cargo carriers. Pemco will begin moving into the former US Airways hangar at TIA on April 1. (Contact: Brenda Geoghagan, 813-870-8707, bgeoghagan@tampaairport.com)

German Discounter Opens Regional Headquarters in Tampa Bay

Aldi Foods Market, a Fortune 500 discount food products company, has begun construction on a 500,000-square-foot regional headquarters and distribution center in Polk County. The company will create 100 new jobs with a capital investment of \$40 million. The facility will support the German company's planned fall rollout of 25 locations throughout Central Florida. Aldi worked with the Central Florida Development Council to gain a development permit, qualification for a Quick Response Training Grant, and assistance with workforce recruitment and training. (Contact: Tom Patton, Central Florida Development Council, 863-534-4370, tom@cfdc.org)

Roskamp Institute Launches Tampa Bay Doctorate Program

The Roskamp Institute (www.roskampinstitute.com) announced it will be home to the first three-year Neuroscience Alzheimer's disease and related disorders research doctorate program in the State of Florida. The Roskamp Institute, with locations in Sarasota and Tampa, will serve as a new institution in The Open University (OU) Affiliated Research Centre (ARC) program for postgraduate research students. The Roskamp Institute is now accepting applications for its doctorate program which will have students as full-time, laboratory-based researchers in the presence of world-class scientists. This exposure will enable them to not only grow their laboratory-based skills, but also the practical knowledge needed to conduct modern day science in a professional setting. The first students in the program will pursue dissertation research in Alzheimer's disease, Angiogenesis and Tramatic Brain Injury. (Contact: James Humphrey, 941-752-2949, jhumphrey@rfdn.org.)

New Job Corps Center in Tampa Bay

A groundbreaking ceremony was held recently for the new \$40 million Pinellas County Job Corps Center in St. Petersburg. The nine-building campus will include vocational education facilities, a recreation center, gymnasium, administrative offices, a student service center, and two dormitories. It will be one of five centers in the state of Florida and the 123rd for the U.S. Department of Labor. U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, who attended the ceremony with Congressman C.W. Bill Young, said the center is expected to create more than 100 jobs and contribute some \$7 million annual to the local economy. (Contact: Job Corps, 800-733-JOBS or www.jobcorps.dol.gov)

USF Site Safe Only for Rescue Robots

Tampa Bay will soon be home to the National Testbed for Safety Security and Rescue Technologies. The \$2.1 million facility, created under a cooperative agreement between the University of South Florida (USF) and the U.S. Army Engelwood Chemical Biological Center, will be used to vet newly designed rescue robots, which are increasingly deployed to determine if disaster sites are safe for humans to enter. The new facility, which is set to open in December 2008, can be configured and adapted to duplicate many of the hazards that await search and rescue robots. (Contact: Sean Ledig, 813-974-9079, sledig@admin.usf.edu)

Tampa Bay's Fort De Soto Voted "Best Beach" by TripAdvisor

Fort De Soto Park's North Beach was named the top beach in the United States by TripAdvisor, the world's largest online travel community. Off the southern tip of St. Petersburg, Fort De Soto is a county park consisting of seven miles of beaches on five interconnected islands, includes a historic fort, fishing piers, fitness trails, a campground, canoe trial and more. TripAdvisor called the beach "a portrait of tranquility, with a spectacular combination of soft, white sand, calm and clear water, and a laid-back atmosphere." To learn more about the #1 Best Beach visit http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/05_Ft_DeSoto.htm (Contact: D.T. Minich, 727-464-7200, dt.minich@floridasbeach.com)

Room to Grow – Superior Electronics Finds Success in Tampa Bay

Superior Electronics Inc. (SEI) has found room to grow in Pinellas County for more than 20 years. The minority- and disabled veteran-owned company is currently undergoing a significant expansion, moving from its facility in the city of Dunedin to a larger operations center in Clearwater, Florida. As part of its expansion process, SEI plans to create eight high-wage engineering jobs, bringing its staff to a total of 22 highly-qualified engineers and manufacturers. Harnessing the resources of local supplier networks and assisting other Pinellas businesses with their technology needs has helped the company expand its scope of services. (Contact: Ann Kennedy, 727-733-0700, info@seimfg.com)

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