

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

TAMPA BAY, Fla., November 18, 2008/PRNewswire/ -- News briefs concerning economic and business growth in the Tampa Bay Region from the Tampa Bay Partnership:

SRI Breaks Ground for New R&D Facility in Tampa Bay

SRI International broke ground on its new maritime research and development facility at The Port of St. Petersburg in the Bayboro Harbor Marine Science district. The 40,000-square-foot building will house laboratory space for developing advanced marine sensors and port security technologies, a state-of-the-art marine operations and deployment shop, and specialized classroom, meeting and office space to support training, conference, and daily operations. SRI has 70 employees currently on staff with expectations to grow to 100+ in the next three years. In addition, the building site has been designated to accommodate a potential future expansion of up to 100,000-square-feet. (Contact: Ellie Javadi, 650-859-4874, ellie.javadi@sri.com)

GTECH Announces \$45 Million Tampa Bay Printing Plant

GTECH Printing Corporation, an international producer of scratch-off lottery tickets, is expanding to the Tampa Bay region and will invest more than \$45 million establishing a new state-of-the-art instant-ticket printing facility in Lakeland, Fla. The new 100,000 square-foot printing plant, which will produce some 11 billion tickets each year, is expected to begin operating in the spring of 2009. The new facility will be home to more than 100 employees with plans to add an additional 100 employees over the next three to five years. (Contact: Robert Vincent, 401-392-7452, www.gtech.com)

British Gas Grill Manufacturer Relocates Sales and Marketing Division to Tampa Bay

Cinders Slimfold, LLC recently announced the relocation of its U.S. sales and marketing division to Sarasota, Fla. The 25 year-old British company designs and manufactures folding gas grills for the commercial rental, restaurant, and outdoor professional markets. The firm chose Sarasota for its U.S. sales division after many years of business in the state and the fact that Florida's selling season is the opposite of the European market. (Contact: Karen Swift, 941-309-5307, slimfold6@aol.com)

L-3 Selected as the Supplier for Recording Systems on Airbus A350 XWB

L-3 Aviation Recorders, a division of L-3 Communications, has been selected as the supplier of the flight recording system for the Airbus A350 XWB. Under the contract signed with Airbus, L-3 will provide cockpit voice recorders, flight data recorders and accelerometers for the A350 XWB. The Sarasota-based company, which produces more than 70 percent of the world's cockpit voice and flight data recorders (or "black

boxes”) and 80 percent of the world’s marine recorders, recently signed a 10-year lease on its existing 100,000-square-foot facility with plans to expand their Manatee County operations. L-3 Aviation Recorders, a division of New York-based L-3 Communications (NYSE:LLL), employs 250 in Tampa Bay. (Contact: Jessica Parsons, 941-330-6369, Jessica.parsons@L-3com.com)

Advanced Medical Disposal Opens in Tampa Bay

Advanced Medical Disposal, Inc. recently opened operations in the city of Largo, Fla. Servicing healthcare, chemical and pharmaceutical companies throughout the Tampa Bay region, Advanced Medical Disposal plans to create five new jobs by the end of its first year and anticipates growing to a staff of 20 over the next few years. The firm purchased an existing 14,000 square-foot industrial warehouse building to house its operations, which utilize industrial-sized autoclaves. The firm cited assistance from Pinellas County Economic Development to locate property, examine industry data and anticipate regulatory requirements as among the reasons it chose to locate in Tampa Bay. (Contact: Trey Heyward, 866-392-8080, www.advancedmedicaldisposal.com)

Tampa International Recognized Among Best Airports

Tampa International Airport (TPA) was awarded as the Second Best U.S. Airport – just two-tenths of a point behind number one, Portland International Airport – in the Eleventh Annual Condé Nast Traveler Business Travel Awards. In the prestigious poll, Condé Nast readers voted TPA highest of all 10 U.S. airports in the categories of Ease of Connections and Comfort/Design. (Contact: Brenda Geoghagan, 813-870-8707, bgeoghagan@tampaairport.com)

Eckerd College Ranks Among “Top 20 Wired Colleges”

PC Magazine, in partnership with the Princeton Review, ranked Eckerd College one of the “Top 20 Wired Colleges in 2008” based upon its tech-savvy offerings. Eckerd ranked No. 7 in this year’s survey, up from No 18 in 2006. Unlimited wireless connectivity, its own intranet, study abroad blogs and online social networking were among the offerings that put Eckerd College among the digitally elite. (Contact: Alizza Punzalan-Hall, 727-864-7979, punzalat@eckerd.edu)

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