

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

TAMPA BAY, Fla., October 26, 2004/PRNewswire/ -- Here are some news briefs concerning the economic and business growth in the Tampa Bay Region from the Tampa Bay Partnership:

S&W Healthcare Corporation Moves Headquarters to Hernando County

S&W Healthcare Corporation has announced it has completed plans to relocate its headquarters facility from Floral City, Fla. to Hernando County Airport Industrial Park. S&W is an international distributor of diagnostic and monitoring ECG electrodes as well as ECG recording chart papers manufactured by their parent company in Austria and Italy. The company is planning for 20 full time positions this year and 30 by the end of 2005. Contact: Bill Nelligar, S&W Healthcare Corp., 352-637-4000 or Valerie Pianta, Hernando County Office of Business Development, 352-540-6400, vpianta@hernandocounty.us

Market Technologies Names to Inc. Magazine's 500 List

Market Technologies, LLC, a leading provider of intermarket analysis futures trading software, was named to the prestigious Inc. 500 List, ranking 420 out of more than 500,000 companies that were considered. Conducted each year by Inc. Magazine, the competition ranks the 500 fastest-growing private companies in the U.S. Market Technologies earned its position with an impressive four-year total growth in sales from 2000 through 2003 of 359%. Contact: Ron Kwiat, Market Technologies, LLC, 800-732-5407, press@tradertech.com.

Carbiz Named to Deloitte Technology Fast 500 Ranking of Fastest Growing Technology Companies

Carbiz Inc., which recently announced aggressive expansion plans, is listed on the 2004 Deloitte Technology Fast 500 Ranking of North America's fastest growing technology companies. Based in Sarasota and Toronto, Canada, Carbiz is a leading provider of Internet and software solutions to the North American automotive industry. Contact: Carl Ritter, Carbiz Inc., 941-952-9255 or www.carbiz.com

Verizon Opens New Facilities in St. Petersburg

Verizon Information Services, a unit of Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE: VZ), has signed a five-year lease for nearly 40,000 square feet at Koger Center office park in St. Petersburg. The division, which handles local sales for Verizon Super Pages, will consolidate operations currently located in St. Petersburg and Tampa. The company produces Verizon SuperPages, the nation's leading yellow pages, and Verizon SuperPages.com (www.superpages.com), the nation's No. 1 Internet directory and shopping resource. The company is also the largest publisher of Hispanic directories in the U.S. and the first to provide a Hispanic online shopping resource. Contact: Robert Elek, Verizon, 813-483-2541 or Ronald Barton, City of St. Petersburg Economic Development, 727-893-7100, rdbarton@stpete.org.

Students Arrive at LECOM Bradenton, Florida's Newest Medical School

Florida's newest medical school, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), opened in Bradenton and welcomed 150 first year medical students who began their training to become doctors of osteopathic medicine. Members of LECOM Bradenton's Class of 2008 attended their first class September 13. While more than one-third of the students come from Florida, LECOM Bradenton has attracted students from 32 states. LECOM Bradenton is a branch campus of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, Pennsylvania. LECOM is one of 20 colleges of osteopathic medicine in the country. Contact: Lisa Cambridge, 941-756-0690, lcambridge@lecom.edu.

Tampa Part of First Phase in SBA's Online Matchmaking Plan

Tampa will be one of five sites nationally to host an online training workshop for a new online business matchmaking program created by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The SBA and the HP Small Business Foundation announced the expansion of the Business Matchmaking initiative to include a nationwide, 24-7, "online Business Matchmaking" and counseling component to the venture. It will be rolled out in three phases. The first, or pilot, phase will start in January in Tampa and four other cities across the U.S. Business Matchmaking has so far created more than 20,000 one-on-one appointments between small business owners throughout the country and purchasing representatives from federal, state and local government agencies along with dozens of the country's largest corporations. In September 2005, online Business Matchmaking will be rolled out nationwide and is expected to reach tens of thousands of small businesses that have not previously had access to similar procurement opportunities. For more information, visit <http://www.sba.gov/news/Matchmaking.pdf>.

Tampa Bay Partnership to Hold Business Roundtable on Hurricane Lessons Learned

The Tampa Bay Partnership will be convening a roundtable of business leaders from throughout the seven county Tampa Bay region on Monday, November 8 to look at the impacts to business continuity, costs and performance when natural or manmade disasters deliver a blow to Florida's economy. The outcome of the session will be a briefing paper that will be shared with Governor Bush's office, legislators and other key officials who will be taking up many storm-related issues. For more information on the roundtable, contact Karen Raihill at 813-878-2208 or kraihill@tampabay.org.

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