

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

TAMPA BAY, Fla., October 25, 2005/PRNewswire/ -- Here are some news briefs concerning the economic and business growth in the Tampa Bay Region from the Tampa Bay Partnership:

Biomed Company Invests Big in Tampa Bay

Haemacure Corporation announced the selection of Manatee County in South Tampa Bay to locate their corporate offices and R&D labs. The Canadian-based company, specializing in the development of innovative biological adhesives, biomaterials and surgical devices for acute surgical wound care, will invest approximately \$10 million in their new 50,000-square-foot facility. The company expects to add 51 scientist and technician jobs over three years. Haemacure President and CEO Marc Paquin stated, "After considering Canada, North Carolina and Virginia, we came to the conclusion that the Manatee/Sarasota area offered the infrastructure and, more importantly, support from local and state officials that will play a vital role in our success." The plant will produce a new line of protein-based adhesives, which surgeons use instead of stitches to stop bleeding and close incisions, especially on organs such as liver and lungs. (Contact: Marc Paquin, Haemacure Corporation, 941-364-3700, mpaquin@haemacurecorp.com)

Medical Device Sterilization Operator Achieves ISO Certification

With a strong medical device manufacturing cluster, Florida now has its own certified gamma irradiator for radiation sterilization of medical devices located in Tampa Bay. Polk County, Florida-based FTSI (Food Technology Services, Inc. NASDAQ: VIFL), a leading provider of high-quality, highly reliable irradiation services since 1992, was recently certified as meeting ISO 13485:2003 standards for the provision of radiation sterilization services of medical devices -- the highest internationally recognized standards relating to the manufacture of medical devices and associated services. "Previously, medical device manufacturers had to ship their products out of state to receive these services. Now it can be done cost effectively close to home," said Richard G. Hunter, PhD, CEO, FTSI. The firm's gamma-irradiation system accommodates both palletized and cased product lots of medical products, allowing sterilization of large volumes of medical devices and supplies at low cost. Additionally, the pallet irradiation system treats customer products in their final packaging, minimizing handling requirements and helping ensure maximum product quality. (Contact: Richard G. Hunter, PhD, FTSI, 863-425-0039, rhunter@foodtechservice.com)

Humana Expands Tampa Bay Area Workforce

Humana (NYSE: HUM), Florida's largest private Medicare provider with more than 240,000 members statewide, on Wed., Oct. 19, officially opened its new Tampa Medicare Direct Marketing Services Direct Enrollment call center at NetP@rk. The new 40,000-square-foot call center employs more than 200 Humana DMS associates and supports lead generation, telesales, new member services, member retention, local marketing and group enrollment support for Humana's rapidly growing Florida Medicare business, along with three additional DMS call centers -- two in Miami and one in Puerto Rico. A second Tampa call center, this one devoted to providing customer service for Humana Medicare members nationwide, is scheduled to open at NetP@rk in December with another 200 employees, bringing

Humana's total Tampa Bay workforce to more than 700 by the end of this year. (Contact: Mitch Lubitz, Humana, 813-287-6180, mlubitz@humana.com.)

Cox Target Media Breaks Ground on \$200 million Valpak Manufacturing Facility

Cox Target Media broke ground recently on a new, state-of-the-art Valpak manufacturing facility in St. Petersburg. When complete, the structure will occupy approximately 470,000 square-feet on a 20-acre site. The \$200-million project will double the company's capacity while adding significant operating efficiencies. Cox Target Media (CTM) is North America's leading direct marketing company and its flagship brand, Valpak, reaches more than 45 million households throughout the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. (Contact: Meg Forehand, Cox Target Media, 727-399-3082, meg_forehand@coxtarget.com.)

Tampa Bay Firms Among Inc. 500 for Fast-Growing Companies

Tampa Bay is accelerating life's possibilities with some of the nation's fastest growing firms according to the Inc. 500. Among Tampa Bay companies on this year's list: #194 - Apartment Express Corporate Housing, which provides short-term luxury housing in the Tampa area for clients ranging from professional athletes to military personnel; #248 - Intellect Technical Solutions, an IT consulting and staffing firm; #417 - Movex, which rents professionally driven moving trucks to homeowners for do-it-yourself moves without the driving; and #498 - PostcardMania, which prints and designs postcards and brochures for direct marketers. Florida ranks third for fastest-growing companies in the nation, according to the Inc. 500 to be released on newsstands Nov. 1. (For relocation information on the Tampa Bay region, contact Jennifer Taylor, Tampa Bay Partnership, 813-878-2208, jtaylor@tampabay.org.)

Massive Reservoir Serving Tampa Bay Water Needs

Tampa Bay's water needs are now supported by the new C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir, which can provide up to 25 percent of the region's water requirements for more than six months. The off-stream reservoir is designed to store water during the rainy seasons for use during the dry seasons. The reservoir alone can provide the full capacity of the surface water treatment plant for 227 days. The reservoir, which is two miles long, one mile wide and five miles around, holds 15 billion gallons of water, or 33 times the volume of Raymond James Stadium. (Contact: Michelle Klas Robinson, Tampa Bay Water, 727-796-2355, mrobinson@tampabaywater.org.)

Moffitt Researcher a Principal Investigator for Cancer Vaccine

Anna Giuliano, Ph.D., Program Leader for Risk Assessment, Detection and Intervention Program at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, was a principal investigator in the study on an experimental vaccine aimed at the human papillomavirus, which causes genital warts and cervical cancer, that Merck & Co. recently announced works to prevent cancer in women. Dr. Giuliano did this trial while she was at the University of Arizona. More than 12,000 women from 13 countries participated in this trial. The data involving cervical cancer prevention are scheduled to be released at an upcoming annual meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. (Contact Andrea Brunais, Moffitt, 813-632-1478, mediarelations@moffitt.usf.edu.)

Over 1-Million Square Feet of Tampa Bay Office Space Filled in 3rd Quarter

The Tampa Bay region is filling office space at a record clip, according to the *Maddux Business Report*, with a record 1.04 million square-feet filled in the third quarter of 2005. In the past 12 month period, office activity in the Tampa Bay region reached a record 2.32 million square-feet – the highest point in 17 years -- reflecting the ongoing growth of jobs and businesses throughout the seven county region. (For relocation information on the Tampa Bay region, contact Jennifer Taylor, Tampa Bay Partnership, 813-878-2208, jtaylor@tampabay.org.)

Tampa Bay Nanotechnology Company Releases Positioning System

DTI-NanoTech, a division of Sarasota-based Discovery Technology International, has announced the commercial release of RoboMate, a micro/nano-positioning system. Based on patent pending technology, the desktop-sized RoboMate uses DTI's Virtual Point technology to keep the tip of a probe, tool or laser on a fixed point while its angle of approach varies continuously. The system has numerous uses in the micro- and nano-world, such as laser and fiber optic alignment, microsurgery, X-ray orientation, microcircuit inspection, and more. (For more information, visit www.dti-nanotech.com).

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