

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

TAMPA BAY, Fla., Sept. 27, 2005/PRNewswire/ -- Here are some news briefs concerning the economic and business growth in the Tampa Bay Region from the Tampa Bay Partnership:

USF Among Nation's Fastest Growing Research Universities

According to an annual survey conducted by the National Science Foundation, the University of South Florida (USF) is one of the nation's fastest growing universities in terms of federal research and development expenditures. USF broke into the prestigious group at the 71st spot as the recipient of more than \$84 million in federal research expenditures in 2003 – an increase of more than 26 percent from the previous year and one of the most dramatic upward moves of institutions on the list. (Contact Michael Reich, 813-974-9047, reich@admin.usf.edu)

More Media Exposure

The Tampa Bay region is now the 12th largest media market in the country, with 1.7 million TV households, according to Nielsen Media Research. That means Tampa Bay has 1.55 percent of all television households in the United States and is the largest media market in Florida – surpassing Miami and Orlando. Tampa Bay's upward move is indicative of a national migration of population to southern and western states. More info: http://www.nielsenmedia.com/newsreleases/2005/05-06UE_nat-local.pdf (For more information about the Tampa Bay market, contact Chris Steinocher, Tampa Bay Partnership, 813-878-2208, info@tampabay.org)

Award-winning Manufacturing

IndustryWeek magazine selected National Gypsum Co.'s wallboard-production facility in Apollo Beach, Fla., as one of the 10 best plants in North America. The Apollo Beach plant, located 20 miles south of Tampa, produces gypsum wallboard at nearly 500 feet per minute or at a rate of five truckloads an hour. The plant is National Gypsum's newest and began production in January 2001. The magazine's "Best Plants Award" is a salute to outstanding manufacturing facilities demonstrating world-class capabilities and a management mindset of continuous improvement. National Gypsum's Apollo Beach plant was one of 220 facilities nominated for the award. More info: <http://www.industryweek.com/ReadArticle.aspx?ArticleID=10739>

Mayo chooses METI mannequins

Mayo Clinic has selected Sarasota-based Medical Education Technologies, Inc. (METI) to provide patient simulation technology for a new 14,000-square-foot simulation center in Rochester, MN. Five of METI's computerized adult medical mannequins, capable of recognizing and responding to medical treatment and drugs, and two virtual reality surgical simulators have been acquired by Mayo Clinic. The simulators will be the center of learning experiences at the new facility, which recreates the operating room, emergency room and intensive care unit environments. (Contact: Brian Bailey, 917-541-6854, www.meti.com)

Tampa Bay Ranks Among “Top Logistics Metros in the U.S.”

Expansion Management ranked the communities of Tampa Bay among the “Top Logistics Metros in the U.S.” for logistics infrastructure. The study compared the Tampa/St. Petersburg/Clearwater metro area among 362 metropolitan statistical areas according to 10 major categories: overall transportation and warehousing industry climate; work force/labor costs, availability and skill levels; road and highway basic infrastructure and spending; road density, congestion and truck safety; road and bridge conditions; fuel taxes and fees; railroad access; water ports; air service; and interstate highway access. More info: www.expansionmanagement.com (For relocation information on the Tampa Bay region, contact Jennifer Taylor, Tampa Bay Partnership, 813-878-2208, jtaylor@tampabay.org)

Moffitt and Florida Atlantic University Sign Affiliation to Collaborate on Cancer Drug Research and Educational Endeavors

Florida Atlantic University's Charles E. Schmidt College of Science entered into an affiliation agreement with H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute to engage in collaborative research on new cancer drugs and technology, seek funds to underwrite these cooperative efforts and create educational activities of mutual interest. The FAU agreement is in addition to affiliate agreements with 15 hospitals in the Southeastern U.S. as well as a 10-year affiliation with the University of South Florida, on whose campus Moffitt resides. (Contact Andrea Brunais, 813-632-1478, mediarelations@moffitt.usf.edu)

Sarasota-Manatee Manufacturers Association Launches Capabilities Index

Sarasota-Manatee Manufacturers Association (SAMA) recently developed a Manufacturing Capabilities Index to provide information on what area manufacturers are able to produce in-house. This database for manufacturers with facilities in Sarasota or Manatee County is thought to be the first comprehensive tool capable of identifying processes by which products are made, thus making it easy for companies to find production partners. Visit www.Mfgcapabilities.com (Contact: Peter Straw, 941-376-4272)

2006 Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg to be Run April 2nd, 2006

The 2006 Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg has been scheduled for Sunday, April 2, 2006, to run through the streets of St. Petersburg, Fla. "There was so much excitement surrounding last year's race weekend and we're looking forward to eclipsing that with an even better show in 2006," said Tim Ramsberger, vice president of Andretti Green Promotions, which manages the event. The event, which will be the second race and the first non-oval event on the 2006 IndyCar Series schedule, will feature race activities beginning on Thursday, March 30. Tickets for the 2006 Honda Grand Prix are expected to go on sale in October. <http://www.gpstpete.com> (Contact Tim Ramsberger, 727 824-7223, tramsberger@gpstpete.com)

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