

PARTNERSHIP SERVICES: TOOLS FOR BUSINESS



A TEAM OF YOUR OWN

The Greater Oklahoma City Partnership offers a multi-talented team of state and local economic development specialists to be assigned to your project. These specialists will work together to meet your specifications – delivering rapid response times and optimizing your new Greater Oklahoma City location.

INFORMATION SERVICES

We will provide the data you need in a 10-county aggregate, one county at a time, or any other way you specify. And we'll provide it in the form you prefer – via email, secured Web site, fax or overnight delivery. We'll not only provide you with data on our region, but also comparative data on 48 other metro regions. These demographic and operating cost comparisons will provide valuable insight on Greater Oklahoma City's advantages.

WEB-BASED PROPERTY LOCATOR

This one-stop, Web-based business portal gathers economic, planning, utility, geographic and demographic information into one dynamic resource. Available sites from throughout the region are entered and updated on an ongoing basis. Use the Web site below to check it out now.

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A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY PARTNERSHIP

OKC: A GROWING VISITOR PRODUCT

Oklahoma City's renaissance rolls on. Recent studies have shown that the city's MAPS (Metropolitan Area Projects) plan, coupled with private investments, have continued to attract even larger capital expenditures. As a result, downtown property values have significantly risen. And the number of visitors has increased correspondingly as well.



For proof of OKC's resurgence, you need look no further than Bricktown. This 30-block area just east of downtown was an abandoned warehouse district as recently as the late '80s. Today, it houses 41 active restaurants and clubs – a revitalization that began with the passage of MAPS in 1993. By 1998, early progress had led to an annual visitor rate of four million people.



That number continued to climb and, by 2005, the Bricktown Association estimated that 10 million visitors had passed through the area during that year.

Property market values in Bricktown have followed a similar path. The aggregate value of 24 selected sites for the study skyrocketed by 231 percent. One facility with a 1999 market value of \$129,950 saw an increase to \$1,600,000 by 2004. This rapid appreciation is

one of the most significant indicators of the economic growth flowing from the downtown MAPS projects – including the canal, ballpark, arena, convention center, civic center and library – and other attendance-generating assets.

Just south of downtown, MAPS has helped turn the Oklahoma

River into a seven-mile waterway with 15 miles of trails, 19 pedestrian bridges and landscaped parks. There, Regatta Park hosts an elite slate of rowing



championships. While the sleek new Chesapeake Boathouse is a striking landmark and busy site for rowers.

A rapidly growing number of hotels now serve Oklahoma City – more than 1,500 guest rooms are available downtown and 14,000 citywide. Right behind hotels are housing. More than 1,500 residential lofts and condos – 700 for purchase, 800 rentals – have been announced for completion by 2010.

The downtown renaissance has not only energized the urban core, its momentum radiates outward in every direction. "The pace and level of investment has not shown signs of slowing," said Roy H. Williams, president and CEO



of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. "There are signs of positive developments in business locations, hotels, housing, retail restaurants. Forward momentum is strong. The story of Oklahoma City's rebirth is still being told."

FAST FACTS

- **Aggregate capital investment planned or implemented totals more than \$2.5 billion**
- **The 25 most valuable sites in 2004 had an aggregate value of \$386 million**
- **Aggregate market value grew from \$12.2 million in 1999 to \$40.2 million in 2004 – a 231 percent increase**
- **Plans for new investment at the Oklahoma Health Center exceed \$300 million**
- **When all current hotel projects are completed, capacity downtown will be 1,614 rooms**
- **Since 2003, 10 significant residential projects announced or completed could add more than 2,200 units downtown**

Information above is based on an area bounded by Classen Blvd. on the west, 23rd Street on the north, the Centennial Expressway and Oklahoma Health Center on the east, and I-40 on the south.

THE OKC WORKFORCE: CAPABLE AND PLENTIFUL



Robin Roberts

Executive Vice President
of Economic Development,
Greater Oklahoma City
Chamber

DEAR FRIENDS,

Most of you probably already know that Oklahoma City is a leader in the energy industry. Companies maintaining headquarters here include giants such as Devon Energy and Chesapeake Energy.

But maybe what's not so clear is *why* they remain here. To ask the CEOs, the answer is clear.

They'll tell you that OKC's greatest natural resource has nothing to do with natural gas or oil. That it's the *people* here — our workforce — that are the difference-makers.

"I believe our key strategic advantage is our people," states Larry Nichols, chairman and CEO of Devon Energy. "Oklahoma City plays a role in that, because we have been able to attract a lot of highly qualified people that do not necessarily want to work in a large city. Quality people have helped us built quality assets over the decades."

Echoes Aubrey McClendon, chairman and CEO of Chesapeake, "Your people are very important, you've got to have good assets. And OKC has that."

Oklahoma City has that because we *cultivate* it. The metro area has outstanding higher education programs. Located within the 10-county region are 15 colleges and universities — including the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University — plus two community colleges.

And our Career and Technology Education System is one of the best in the nation. There are nearly 330,000 Oklahomans currently enrolled in the state's 57 tech centers, which include 10 facilities in the metro area.

The higher education institutions had a Fall 2005 enrollment of 118,435; career techs reported 133,883 students for 2004-2005. With an average graduation rate of XX percent, that means that more than 200,000 skilled graduates are entering the workforce each year.

This educational pipeline is producing big results for area businesses. It could serve to bolster your company, as well. Come discover what local CEOs have discovered — that OKC's workforce is armed, available and *abundant*.



AVIATION CENTER TAKING OFF

BOEING SET TO BECOME PARK'S FIRST TENANT

Greater Oklahoma City's presence in the aerospace industry continues to expand. The region's latest achievement: dedication of the first hangar at the new Maintenance Repair and Overhaul Technology Center (MROTC), a 370-acre aviation park near Tinker Air Force Base.



Boeing, the world's largest manufacturer of military aircraft and commercial jetliners, will use three hangars for contract modifications on the Air Force's AWACS aircraft based at Tinker. More than 300 employees will be hired to implement these modifications, which initially will include updating flight navigation and communications systems. Future modernizations will include new mission hardware and software, improved operational consoles and upgraded radar equipment. The first hangar and a tow-way connecting to Tinker AFB are scheduled for completion by November; the remaining two hangars are expected to be complete in August 2008.

The \$500 million MROTC will eventually house both military and commercial operations over 17 hangars — including more than a million square feet of hangar and back-shop space, 500,000 square feet of industrial space and 100,000 square feet of research and classroom space. Additionally, as many as 1,000 high-paying jobs are expected to be created.

NEW HANGAR FOR OKC AIRPORT, TOO

The growing market in the maintenance, repair and overhaul industry has benefited Oklahoma City's Will Rogers World Airport as well. A \$13.6 million aircraft hangar is now under construction that will serve as the first new major development of aeronautical facilities on undeveloped land at the airport.

The hangar is leased to ARINC, an engineering and communications company that serves aviation, airports, defense, government and transportation industries. ARINC will use the hangar to modify A-37 aircraft. They are expected to add 100 jobs over the next five years.

The 77,000-square-foot hangar will be "wide-body" capable and can hold up to four luxury business jets at one time. Included will be 200,000 square feet of administration, engineering and service shop space, plus 8,600 square feet of covered storage area. The hangar was designed for the possibility of adding an adjacent hangar that could capitalize on ARINC's continued growth.

"We hire a lot of high-tech-degreed engineers in state, and we serve the major air logistics center with a variety of aircraft at Tinker Air Force Base," said Doug Miller, vice president of the aircraft and mechanical systems division of ARINC's Engineering Services division. "Hangar space has been very scarce and this will give us a good location to perform our integration services and install modifications."

OKC'S GLOBAL LOGISTICS ADVANTAGES

Oklahoma City has significant competitive advantages to offer global corporations:

- Excellent highway interstate connections at both the north-south (I-35) and east-west crossroads (I-40)
- Favorable imbalance in trucking shipments gives new manufacturers the edge in contract rate negotiations
- Good location for national distribution operations where customers are uniformly distributed around the U.S.
- Good air freight situation for manufacturers or inbound shippers
- Good location for receiving Asian cargo from either East or West Coast ports offers more flexibility in routings



OKC'S AEROSPACE & AVIATION INDUSTRY REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Oklahoma and aviation share a long and storied history, spurred in part by the same spirit that drove pioneers seeking a homestead during the land runs, and drove wildcatters to the state in search of the next big oil strike. This same enterprising spirit, aided in no small part by a climate conducive to flight, led Oklahomans to conquer the last untamed wilderness known to man: the skies.

Today, the aerospace and aviation industry and Oklahoma continue growing this mutually beneficial relationship — nowhere more visibly than in the greater Oklahoma City region.

A recent economic impact study commissioned by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber shows that 265 public- and private-sector aerospace and aviation firms in the 10-county region — Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, Oklahoma, Payne and Pottawatomie Counties — employ nearly 38,000 workers, producing an estimated \$3.3 billion in goods and services and earning \$1.9 billion in income. The average annual pay for aerospace and aviation employees in 2005, the study says, was \$49,660, 155 percent of the regional income average, and 167 percent of the state income average across all industries.

For the study, aerospace and aviation employers in the greater Oklahoma City region were divided into four groups: Federal Government/Military, Tinker AFB Contractors, Air Transportation and Manufacturing & Maintenance. Of these, Federal Government/Military firms employed the greatest number of individuals, including 26,000 workers at Tinker AFB and 5,600 workers at the FFA Mike Monroney Center, representing more than 81 percent of aerospace and aviation employment in the region.

The group comprised of Tinker AFB Contractors — private companies providing contract services and located adjacent to Tinker AFB — consists of 34 firms that employ a total of 2,079 workers. Air Transportation includes civilian airports, airlines, courier services, flight schools, ground support services and airplane dealers and storage; the 117 employers in this segment support 1,802 workers. Finally, between the 104 Manufacturing & Maintenance firms in the greater Oklahoma City area, 2,287 workers total are employed.



While all 10 counties in the greater Oklahoma City region have an aerospace and aviation presence, Oklahoma County — home of Tinker and the FFA Mike Monroney Center, as well as various transportation and manufacturing/maintenance companies — is home to 98 percent of the aerospace and aviation jobs in the region. Of the other counties, the study shows, Canadian, Cleveland and Payne counties have the largest aerospace and aviation employment base with approximately 150 workers or more.

The aerospace and aviation industry in the greater Oklahoma City region is an important factor in overall employment numbers as well, comprising 4.7 percent of total employment in the 10-county region. In Oklahoma County alone, with 37,200 aerospace and aviation workers, this figure rises to 7.2 percent.

Aside from the direct effect of the aerospace and aviation industry on the greater Oklahoma City region economy, the study also states that the industry is well known to generate substantial ripple, or multiplier effects, in other industry sectors. With many high-skilled workers earning above-average wages, the need for education and training and the natural clustering of aerospace and aviation companies, the study says that an additional 35,656 jobs *statewide* are supported by the nearly 38,000 aerospace & aviation workers in the greater Oklahoma City region, with an additional \$971 million in wages generated *statewide* for workers in other industries as a result of the \$1.9 billion earned by greater Oklahoma City area aerospace and aviation employees.

All of which means Oklahomans can continue making lazy circles in the sky for quite some time.

OKC ACCOLADES

“AMERICA’S 50 HOTTEST CITIES”

OKC ranked #8 based upon site location consultants’ choice of best U.S. cities for business expansions and relocations.

— *Expansion Management* magazine, January 2005

“THE BEST CITIES FOR DOING BUSINESS”

OKC ranked #23 in the “large cities” category. The study evaluated 393 population centers across the nation and identified job creation and other signs of business vitality.

— *Inc. magazine*, May 2006

“TOP 40 REAL ESTATE MARKETS”

OKC ranked #5 in the U.S.

— *Expansion Management* magazine, October 2006

“BEST PLACES FOR BUSINESS AND CAREER”

OKC ranked #13 out of 200 metro areas based on growth in jobs and earned income, plus a measure of activity in critical technologies that foster future growth

— *Forbes*, May 2006

“2006 MILITARY COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE”

OKC ranked #1 in a study that compared the quality of life in 126 metro areas that are home to active duty military installations.

— *Expansion Management* magazine, August 2006

“HOT CITIES FOR ENTREPRENEURS”

OKC ranked #18 in the “large cities” category.

— *Entrepreneur* magazine, October 2005

“TOP LOGISTICS METROS IN THE U.S.”

OKC ranked among the best in this fifth annual study of logistics infrastructure found in the 362 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA).

— *Expansion Management* magazine, September 2005

“100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE”

— America’s Promise, a Virginia-based nonprofit group founded by Colin Powell, September 2005

“AMERICA’S TOP BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY METROS FOR 2005”

Based upon the results of the annual MAYOR’S CHALLENGE rankings of overall business climate and attractiveness to growing companies from around the world.

— *Expansion Management* magazine, July 2005

“2005 FIVE-STAR KNOWLEDGE WORKER METROS”

— *Expansion Management* magazine, May 2005

A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

STUDENTS TAKE PART IN UNIQUE INTERNSHIP

Although there are approximately 25,000 students who graduate from Oklahoma City colleges and universities each year, many go on to accept jobs or pursue other opportunities out of state. To help combat this brain drain, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber created Greater Grads.

A program designed to grow the number of college graduates who live and work in central Oklahoma, Greater Grads consists of three key initiatives: an aggressive internship program, a regional career fair and a comprehensive website resource.

The Greater Grads Summer Internship Program (SIP) was created in collaboration with the Downtown College Consortium, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and Oklahoma City Community College. The chamber, in recognizing that students who complete summer internships in state are more likely to get jobs in the same community through their contacts and experiences, developed SIP to encourage employers to create internships, as well as to educate the interns about Oklahoma City’s quality of life.

Chamber officials worked closely with all 17 metro area institutions of higher learning and developed working relationships with the career service personnel at each. Together, they combined to develop a series of sessions that were designed to inspire, motivate and educate students about the advantages

of living and working in Oklahoma City.

Nearly 200 interns from 35 schools and 17 states participated in the first Greater Grads Summer Internship Program. There were six training sessions; each was held at a different Oklahoma City landmark location and had its own theme – topics ranged from “High Brow to Late Night” (a discussion of the city’s diverse cultural opportunities) to “Upscale Tailgating” (sports and recreation-centered). In addition to learning about the city and meeting community leaders, the interns engaged in specially designed “icebreakers” that

enabled them to get to know their fellow interns.

DID IT CHANGE ANY OPINIONS?

The internship was creative, fun and unique. But did it work? The answer was a resounding “yes!”

Before the program, only 33 percent of students indicated they were “very likely” to stay in central Oklahoma following graduation. After the program, the number rose

to an impressive 60 percent. Additionally, 88 percent of those surveyed said they’d encourage their supervisor to send interns to next year’s program; 87 percent said they themselves would gladly participate in the next SIP.

Based on such a successful initial campaign, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber plans to expand the Summer Internship Program for 2007. Other components of Greater Grads will move forward as well. The annual Career Fair will be held in April and www.greatergrads.com will continue to be upgraded and enhanced.

“As a result of these sessions, my views have changed. Two months ago, I had plans to live in New York City for at least a year after graduation. Now I realize that my life can be just as fulfilling here in Oklahoma City.”

Tanaye Moaning
Oklahoma State Fair Intern





SANDRIDGE PLUGS INTO CITY'S ENERGY

Many experts in the oil and gas industry believe that Oklahoma City is America's newest energy capital. Tom Ward is one such believer.

A co-founder of Chesapeake Energy in 1989, Ward helped grow the Oklahoma City-based company into the nation's third-largest independent producer of natural gas. Following his resignation from Chesapeake in February 2006, Ward went on to purchase a 46 percent stake in SandRidge Energy (known then as Riata Energy). He was also named chief executive officer and chairman.



Tom Ward
Chairman and CEO,
SandRidge Energy, Inc.

In his new role as CEO, Ward elected to relocate SandRidge headquarters from Amarillo to Oklahoma City. There, he knew he'd find the energy-friendly climate he was seeking.

"Oklahoma City has become the hub for anybody

who doesn't want to live in Houston," said Ward. "From the standpoint of being able to hire quality people, employees – from the field level all the way through executives – are extremely comfortable calling the city home."

Added SandRidge Chief Financial Officer Dirk Van Doren, "It's a good oil town. We will certainly expand either by the bit or by acquisitions. It'll be fun. We hope to grow."

SandRidge is a private company that focuses on exploration and production in oil and natural gas; most of the exploration takes place in west Texas.

The company has a three-year lease at The Tower in northwest Oklahoma City, but anticipates quickly needing more space as the company continues to grow. SandRidge currently employs approximately 1,200 people – 70 in the OKC office and the rest out in the field.

Oklahoma industry leaders praise SandRidge's relocation as a boon to the economy. Said Jeremy Rich, the association's executive director, "For too long, we saw great companies leaving the state. Now it's wonderful to see a guy like Tom Ward bring a company into the state. It's a real sign this industry has an impact on our economy."



TRONOX OPTS-IN FOR OKC

Tronox Inc., the world's third-largest producer and marketer of titanium dioxide pigment, recently announced plans to retain its corporate offices in Oklahoma City. New offices for Tronox will be a block from its old headquarters in the former Kerr-McGee building, which is now owned by Anadarko Petroleum. Anadarko acquired Kerr-McGee in 2006; Tronox once formed the chemicals division of Kerr-McGee.

"Our preference was definitely to stay in Oklahoma," said Debbie Schramm, Tronox spokeswoman. "As part of Kerr-McGee, we enjoyed a rich history and association with the state. But our board had to evaluate our options and incentive packages to do what was best for the company."

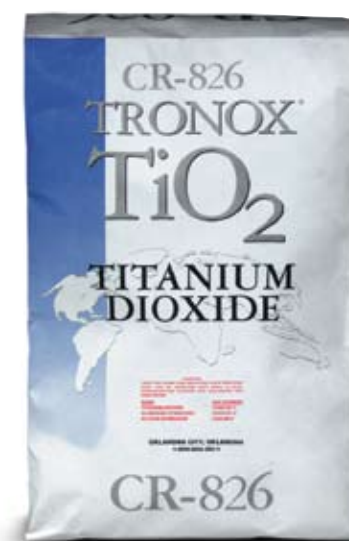
"Our preference was definitely to stay in Oklahoma,"

said Debbie Schramm,
Tronox spokeswoman.

Oklahoma's tax incentives and Quality Jobs program – which offer cash rebates to companies in exchange for the creation of new jobs – helped play a critical role in that decision.

Tronox employs 200 workers downtown and another 100 scientists and engineers at its research and development facility in north Oklahoma City. The company reports an annual state payroll of more than \$25 million.

Ted Fisher, D-Sapulpa, author of the bill that extends tax credits to companies like Tronox, stated, "This is a company with very high-caliber, high-income jobs. They had lots of options to move. We're grateful we were able to keep those jobs in Oklahoma."



TRONOX

BUILDING A BETTER BUSINESS CLIMATE



J. Larry Nichols,
Devon Energy
Chairman, Greater Oklahoma
City Chamber

DEAR FRIENDS,

As 2007 chairman of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, I approach this position no differently than I do my role as CEO of Devon Energy. Because ultimately, the end goal

is the same — to build the best business we can.

Toward that end, the chamber is working on several key issues that should serve to enhance OKC's business climate. One is focused on garnering funding for the bioscience and technology industry. We're building toward a final goal of one billion dollars, which will be used for the growth of research programs and projects for both the public and private bioscience sectors of our state.

Other economic measures include the Opportunity Fund. The 2006 legislature provided an initial installment of \$45 million that will be a start for our state to assist in closing economic development deals. Additionally, we're working to maintain or raise the funding level achieved by the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST). OCAST received \$10 million in increased funding in 2006.

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is also addressing lawsuit legislation. We're working to pass major and meaningful reform that will allow the business and health care sectors of our state to grow and flourish without the added burden of increasing costs for liability insurance.

Tax cuts and deductions are being implemented. The state personal income tax, presently at 6.25 percent, will be reduced over the next four years to 5.25 percent. Once fully implemented, it will result in a savings of \$600 million a year to state taxpayers.

Combined, these activities should provide us with a great launching point that will only build upon the success and momentum of 2006. The potential of Oklahoma City is truly limitless, and we're working to make it a pleasure for you to do business here.



THE BIOLOGY OF OKC'S BIOSCIENCE BOOM

A recent study into the greater Oklahoma City bioscience industry proves the worth of the maxim "plan ahead," according to Carl Edwards, Vice Chair, Biosciences for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber.

"There has been a great deal of work, on the part of a lot of people, to create jobs and investment in bioscience," Edwards said. "This study shows us that we have been a success — the bioscience industry isn't just a dream for Oklahoma City's future, it is an important part of our reality today."

The reality today, according to the study conducted for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber by economists Robert C. Dauffenbach and John McGraw of the University of Oklahoma and Larkin Warner, professor emeritus, Oklahoma State University, shows that 44,440 individuals are directly employed in the bioscience industry in Oklahoma City and the surrounding region. Total employment generated by the industry, including "spin-off" jobs, exceeds 90,000.

In dollar amounts, the economic impact of bioscience employment in the region (consisting of 11 counties, including Canadian, Carter, Cleveland, Grady, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, Oklahoma, Payne and Pottawatomie Counties) is \$1.95 billion in direct bioscience jobs, and a total impact, including "spin-off" jobs, of \$3.4 billion.

The bioscience industry consists of two major sectors: bioscience goods and services production and bioscience research and education.

All told, the goods and services segment employs 39,862 workers. The study also divides this segment into five sub-sectors, including agricultural feedstock and chemicals; drugs and pharmaceuticals; hospitals and labs; medical devices and equipment; and research and testing.

Of the sub-sectors, the study reveals that hospitals and labs have the greatest number of establishments (316) employing the greatest number workers (37,203) in the greater Oklahoma City region, or 93.3 percent

of bioscience goods and services employment. The agricultural feedstock and chemicals sub-sector was second, with 1,055 employees.

The research and education sector consists of jobs at two of Oklahoma's major research institutes — Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation — as well as bioscience jobs at state institutions of higher learning in the greater Oklahoma City region. In all, the bioscience research and education segment employs 4,578 in the 11-county region.

In 2003, Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry initiated the Economic Development Generating Excellence (EDGE) project to establish a \$1 billion research endowment to grow bioscience industry and research in Oklahoma. And in 2005, The Oklahoma Higher Education Promise of Excellence Act was signed, establishing a \$475 million bond issue, part of which will be used for higher education research and laboratory facilities.

Compared to six communities of equivalent size, including Birmingham, Dallas, Kansas City, Louisville, St. Louis and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, the Oklahoma City region holds its own. The greatest advantage is in space and facilities available to support the start-up and growth of bioscience companies. Oklahoma City also has a talent pool to match — with 2,500 bioscience degrees awarded in the greater Oklahoma City region in 2002, only St. Louis graduated more bioscience students.

The greater Oklahoma City area remains committed to increasing the impressive advances displayed in the recent bioscience economic impact study. Just as, in decades past, Oklahoma City business and community leaders established the Oklahoma Health Center and the Presbyterian Health Foundation Research Park, today the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is working with community leaders to establish a road map, called Vision³, to enhance the region's bioscience future.

DISTRIBUTION: OKC'S AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Located equidistant from both coasts and situated at the crossroads of the national interstate and state highway systems, Oklahoma City is a logistically attractive setting for distributors both regional and international.

OKC is where I-35, a major north-south thoroughfare and gateway to Mexico, intersects with I-40, the east-west artery with direct connections to Los Angeles and New York. Interstate 44, the route to St. Louis and the Midwest, also passes through the city. In all, nine federal highways converge here, resulting in more than 130 miles of highway in Oklahoma City.

While Oklahoma City's highway system is logistically advantageous as a center for interstate travel, it also makes getting to any point within the city a breeze; considering that OKC is spread across 608 square miles, travelers can reach any part of the city in 20 minutes or less. City residents enjoy one of the shortest commute times in the nation.

Due to its central location in the state, region and nation, Oklahoma City has become a principal distribution center, and in September 2005 was named one of the "Top Logistics Metros in the U.S." by *Expansion Management* magazine in its fifth annual logistics evaluation of the 362 Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

And a 2006 study by Taimera Management Company, conducted for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, said

that, "For projects involving truck delivery or distribution, OKC's infrastructure is excellent."

Approximately 90 percent of freight moved to or from the Oklahoma City region moves by truck – interestingly, the ratio of inbound vs. outbound freight in Oklahoma City is three tons inbound for every two tons outbound, giving new manufacturers locating to Oklahoma City ample leverage for negotiating attractive rates on outbound shipping.

About 15,000 common and/or contract motor freight carriers operate in Oklahoma, due to the ease of accessibility to communities throughout the state and throughout the nation.

Oklahoma City's rail and air logistics have also made the city a principal site for distribution.

Two major railroads – Union Pacific and Burlington Northern & Santa Fe – operate rail transport to and from the Oklahoma City area. These major lines, combined with shorter regional lines, combined add up to 4,000 miles of track, connecting Oklahoma City to cities, markets and ports both regional and nationwide.

Oklahoma City is also home to Will Rogers World Airport, another major hub for goods distribution by air, rail and road. Located adjacent to I-44 and Burlington Northern & Santa Fe rail service, the airport is home to six major and five regional carriers including American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, Southwest and United airlines. Combined,

these nine carriers offer connections to hubs in 12 of the 13 principle gateways for international airfreight. Will Rogers also offers service for each of the major airfreight companies – FedEx, UPS, Airborne, Emery and Burlington – as well as freight service by each of the six major carriers.

Due to Oklahoma City's climate – the state averages 360 "good weather" flying days annually – Will Rogers World Airport boasts unparalleled airfreight reliability. The airport's foreign trade zone allows the deferment, reduction or elimination of duties admitted to the zone.

With businesses becoming ever more reliant on the global economy, Oklahoma City's situation at the heart of the U.S. continues to be an appealing location for distributors, especially for those importing goods from Asia.

The Los Angeles-Long Beach port has long been the preeminent destination for shipping goods from Asia, but as this port becomes increasingly congested, many companies are utilizing the Panama Canal to reach ports on the East Coast – Savannah, Charleston and Norfolk being the most popular. Oklahoma City has a strategic advantage in that Asian cargo can be easily received from either coast, offering more flexibility in routing.

With a central location, advanced infrastructure and easy accessibility, Oklahoma City continues to be a logistics dream come true for businesses both local and global. OKC has the goods on distributing your business's goods.

