



This is a bi-monthly newsletter e-mailed to the Greater Oklahoma City Partnership to highlight economic development successes throughout the region. Please forward to your key stakeholders to keep them informed of the benefits of our partnership.

October 2012

RECENT PARTNERSHIP RESULTS

FMC Technologies:

FMC Technologies, an oil and gas company headquartered in Houston, anticipates adding 77 jobs in Oklahoma City in the next few years. The company has existing operations in Oklahoma City. Some of the jobs will be relocations from Houston.

Cameron International:

A manufacturing company with existing operations in Oklahoma City chose to locate a new, 105-employee operation within the city. The average wage will be \$49,855 and the company anticipates capital investment of \$12 million.



PARTNERSHIP NEWS



Foreman to Lead Greater OKC Chamber's Economic Development Efforts

Kurt Foreman has joined the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber as Executive Vice President, Economic Development. The announcement follows a national search conducted by the organization. Before coming to Oklahoma City, Foreman served as President of the North Louisiana Economic Partnership. He previously worked in economic development organizations in Pittsburgh, PA; Oshkosh, WI; Fairfax County, VA and Washington, DC. He also worked as a site consultant, working directly with companies to choose new locations. In his new capacity, Kurt will help oversee the mission and activities of the 10-

county Greater OKC Partnership.

Legislative issues facing the business community

As we discussed in our last meeting, the legislative session has ended. It was a challenging session for many economic issues but there were many successes. Even though the session just ended, the process for the next session has already begun with interim studies. These studies give good insights to what issues could be at the forefront of our state's next legislative session. You can find a list of the House studies [here](#) and the Senate studies [here](#). Some issues to keep an eye on are state pension changes, performance pay and teaching salaries, income tax reduction and various road and bridge

plans. We have plans to discuss many of the state questions and what they could mean for economic development at our next meeting.

Marketing the Region

Last year, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber launched [GreaterOKC.tv](#), a dynamic online channel that features nearly 1,000 videos about the region's business community and culture. These videos don't just focus on Oklahoma City but on all the surrounding communities. The channel also features [Velocity](#), a digital magazine that is released quarterly. Velocity is a fully interactive magazine that is packed with videos, photos and links that bring the story of our region to life. Please take advantage of these tools and use them to promote your community and the successes we are having in Central Oklahoma. Pass them along to your friends, family, coworkers, peers and clients.

Accolades Keep Coming

The national media continues to take notice of the Greater Oklahoma City region's strong economy as the accolades continue to pile up. This summer our region has been called the "Most-Business Friendly" and been ranked among the "Most Fit". Our state has been ranked first for "Cost of Living" and for "Oil and Gas Investment" in the world. It is one thing for us to brag but when what we are talking about gets validated by third-parties it adds to the credibility. These accolades help shine a positive light on our region and help combat some of the negative stereotypes we face. You can always find a list of updated rankings for the metro [here](#).

United Announces Nonstop Flight to Cleveland

United Airlines has announced it will connect its Cleveland hub to Oklahoma City with a nonstop daily flight to Will Rogers World Airport. The flight will begin Feb. 14 and Cleveland Hopkins International Airport will be the 22nd airport served from Will Rogers. Local energy companies' interest in Ohio helped create demand for the flight.

ODOC Upgrades ePulse System

ODOC has upgraded the current version of ExecutivePulse to the newest system. The new version has been built from the ground up and offers completely new user interface and navigation. ODOC is doing some training on the new system but we also have materials to help familiarize you with the new system. Please contact [Mark Zitzow](#) for more information.

OKJobMatch.com

As we all know, workforce is the No. 1 issue most of us face as economic developers. If you missed our last meeting, Shawna McWaters-Khalousi stopped by to talk to us about OKJobMatch.com. This new site aims to help connect employers with the workforce they need. This website is free and is another tool we can use to help combat workforce issues we face. Be sure to visit [OKJobMatch.com](#) for more information.

Save the Date

We will hold our annual Holiday Luncheon Wed., Dec. 12 from noon to 1:30 p.m., at the Petroleum Club North, 1 N. Sooner Rd., in Edmond. Please mark it on your calendars and be on the lookout for the official invitation coming soon.

Next Partnership Meeting

The next Partnership Meeting will take place Wed., Oct. 31 from 10 to 11:35 a.m., at the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, 123 Park Ave. Our speaker will be new Chamber Vice President Kurt Foreman, who will give his perspective on regional economic development and have an open Q&A session with partnership members.

Del City

Del City Residents to Vote on Renewing Sales Tax

Voters in Del City will decide on Aug. 28 if they want to renew a 1.5-percent sales tax to fund upgrades on municipal building and parks. If passed the goal is to have all the projects completed in the next five years.

Edmond

Francis Tuttle Starts Construction in Edmond

Construction has begun on the Francis Tuttle Business Innovation Center. The center will be located on the NE corner of I35 and Covell Road and will feature business and industry services, adult and career development courses, the Center for Municipal Excellence and a business incubator.

Guthrie-Edmond Regional Airport Receives Grant

The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission approved a \$1.2 million grant for capital improvements at the Guthrie-Edmond Regional Airport.

Edmond to Spend \$2 Million on Infrastructure

Edmond City Council members recently approved an agreement with the Covell-35 development that commits the city to spend \$2 million on water, sewer, storm sewer and street improvements for the new hotel and conference center at I-35 and Covell Road.

Norman

SouthWest NanoTechnologies (SWeNT) Announces Agreement To Distribute Its Carbon Nanotube Products In Asia Through Itochu Plastics Inc.

SouthWest NanoTechnologies, Inc., has entered into a distribution agreement with Itochu Plastics Inc., part of the Itochu group, to distribute throughout Asia commercially-produced specialty multi-wall and single-wall carbon nanotubes and carbon nanotube (CNT) inks, pastes and dispersions.

Norman Voters Pass \$42 Million Bond Package

A \$42 million bond package was approved by Norman voters to help improve transportation infrastructure in the city. The initiative was passed with 62 percent of the vote and will help Norman make use of federal matching funds.

Oklahoma City

Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation Wins Two Grants from National Institutes of Health

The National Institutes of Health Awarded more than \$4 million in grants to two researchers based at OMRF. One researcher focuses on lupus while the other grant will help with blood vein research.

Study Looks at S. Meridian Corridors

Oklahoma City is thinking of creating a business improvement district involving Meridian Avenue, south of the Oklahoma River. The hope is to entice businesses in the area to help create new projects that could benefit them and the city at large. The city has approved a study on the possible business improvement district.

Shawnee

FireLake Casino Hotel Tower Construction Shows Progress in Shawnee

The hotel at FireLake Grand Casino is getting closer to completion. The 14-floor tower will have 144,000-square-feet and 262 suites. It is now the tallest structure on I-40 between OKC and Little Rock.

SEDF Purchases Land for Development

The Shawnee Economic Development Foundation recently purchased a piece of land to develop into a new industrial park or that they can offer to those interested in locating to Shawnee. The 40-acre site is already zoned with water, sewer, electricity, natural gas at site and a complete phase one review.

Stillwater

Belgian Aerospace Company to Start Operations in Stillwater

ASCO, a Belgian-based company that manufactures aircraft parts, recently purchased the former Mercury Marine MerCruiser factory in Stillwater. The company plans to invest up to \$100 million dollars into the community and add 600 jobs by 2015. ASCO designs and makes aircraft parts for companies like Boeing, Airbus and Bombardier.

Total Energy to Build Oil Storage Tanks in Stillwater

Total Energy, a New York-based energy infrastructure firm, will open a plant in Stillwater. The company has purchased the former Quad Graphics plant and plans to turn it into a state-of-the-art facility to build storage tanks capable of storing up to 300,000 gallons of oil. The plant will employ more than 200 people when it begins operations in 2013 with 100 more being hired by 2015.

PARTNERSHIP RESOURCES

Customized Commercial Property Widget

As part of the new and improved OKCEDIS.com relaunch, your community can have its own customized commercial property widget. The process could not be easier and several communities have already taken advantage of these widgets. All we need is contact information for your organization, geographic area, logo and social media links. An e-mail blast highlighting properties throughout the region was sent to approximately 430 site consultants to notify them of the recent relaunch of OKCEDIS. For more information contact [Mark Zitzow](mailto:Mark.Zitzow).

EVENTS IN THE REGION

Watkins Distinguished Lectureship on International Trade

Where: **Wes Watkins Center-Oklahoma State**

When: *Monday, October 29*

The Wes Watkins Distinguished Lectureship Series is an endowed lectureship honoring one of Oklahoma 's most prominent and devoted public servants, former U.S. Representative Wes Watkins. Congressman Watkins, an undergraduate and graduate OSU alumnus, is committed to outreach, international trade and the economic development of Oklahoma and the nation. This lectureship is being delivered by Valerie Berset-Price, a dual US-Swiss citizen and successful entrepreneur with over 20 years' international business credentials working for European, Latin American, and US-based companies. Berset-Price will speak about the role of global cultural intelligence in international trade.

Speakers: Valerie Berset-Price

Small Business and Small Manufacturer Regional Summit-Oklahoma City

Where: **Jim Thorpe Event Center**

When: *Tuesday, October 30*

Topic: Business Basics

Programming will include structured participant discussions aimed at identifying the top five key issues affecting small businesses in each region of the state. They will also focus on solution-orientated discussions for issues including: workers compensation reform, intangible tax credit, work force development, federal health care or regional items targeting aerospace and defense.

Speakers: Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, State Chamber President Fred Morgan and State Chamber COO Chad Warmington

SBA/ 8(A) Hubzone Workshop

Where: **Langston University-OKC**

When: *Wednesday, October 31*

Topic: Business Basics

Need a little help in completing your application for access to federal contracts? Or, are you interested in knowing about SBA's certification process?

Speakers: John Veal

Small Business, Big Technology: Veteran's Entrepreneur Conference

Where: **NW Oklahoma State University**

When: *Thursday, November 1*

Topic: Business Basics

Join us for the inaugural Northwest OSBDC Veterans' Entrepreneur Conference! This year's theme will be "Small Business, Big Technology". The conference promises to offer advice, services and information vital to starting a small business! The morning will include speakers, while the afternoon will consist of four breakout sessions focusing on different small business issues. The conference is available at no charge and will include a lunch.

Business Basics 101-OKC

Where: **One Sante Fe Plaza, Ste 100, Oklahoma City**

When: *Thursday, November 8 from 2 to 4:30 p.m.*

Topic: Business Basics 101 will focus on the information one needs for business start up. This time tested intro seminar is recommended for those wishing to be clients of the SBDC in Metro Oklahoma City area to prepare you to work with our staff on an individual basis that is more detailed to your specific needs. The first half will help you learn how to focus on your business concept; your potential market and how to reach them; the money generation possibilities; who and what you need to begin your concept in space, equipment, cash and personnel. This is not a full business planning seminar, what we call a "sticky note" business plan, but each item could be used to develop a full plan for start-up financing.

Fee is \$49

State of Creativity Forum

Where: **Cox Convention Center-Oklahoma City**

When: *Tuesday, November 13*

Join innovators and entrepreneurs, policymakers and business leaders, technology experts and trailblazers from around the world for the 2012 State of Creativity Forum, a memorable day of inspiration and collaboration. This one-day forum will amp up your imagination with new energy, know-how and connections, increasing your capacity to create and innovate in everyday life.

Business Basics 101-OKC

Where: **One Sante Fe Plaza, Ste 100, Oklahoma City**

When: *Thursday, November 8 from 2 to 4:30 p.m.*

Topic: Business Basics 101 will focus on the information one needs for business start up. This time tested intro seminar is recommended for those wishing to be clients of the SBDC in Metro Oklahoma City area to prepare you to work with our staff on an individual basis that is more detailed to your specific needs. The first half will help you learn how to focus on your business concept; your potential market and how to reach them; the money generation possibilities; who and what you need to begin your concept in space, equipment, cash and personnel. This is not a full business planning seminar, what we call a "sticky note" business plan, but each item could be used to develop a full plan for start-up financing.

Fee is \$49

About the Partnership

No matter where a primary job employer locates, everyone in the region "wins." The 10-county Greater Oklahoma City Partnership was established in 2003 for strategic economic development. Together, we are working to secure regional corporate locations, business retention and expansions and develop tools for local economic development professionals. Our cities, counties and governmental entities are co-dependent on each other. The Greater Oklahoma City Partnership looks forward to leveraging resources, uniting leadership, marketing our region and increasing our competitiveness.

Future Issues

If you have announcements to be included in future issues of this newsletter, please e-mail Marcus Elwell at melwell@okcchamber.com to submit information.

You have received this e-mail because you are a member of the Greater Oklahoma City Partnership and we consider you a valuable part of the economic development process of the Greater Oklahoma City region.

This email was sent by:
The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber
123 Park Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
405-297-8900
www.greateroklahomacity.com

If you would like to be removed from this list, [unsubscribe](#).
Thank you for your continued participation in the Partnership.