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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Triumph of Greater Akron  
Chamber named top agency by national publication  
Area called "Hotbed of High-Tech Innovation"

The honors and awards just keep coming Greater Akron's way – but we're not complaining! This spring, the editors of *Site Selection* magazine named our chamber as a Top Group for 2007. Each year, *Site Selection* recognizes 10 economic development agencies (non-state level) that excelled in their efforts to attract business expansion.

"These are the agencies so often at the nexus of a deal," said Mark Arend, editor of *Site Selection* magazine. The top groups were chosen based on four categories: new jobs, new jobs per 10,000 residents, new investments, and new investments per 10,000 residents. Top groups were ranked according to their scoring in these categories and then evaluated according to more subjective criteria, including innovative programs, leadership and customer service.

"The Top Group Award is a strong testament to the incredible economic development team we have in the Akron region including the City of Akron, Summit, Portage, and Medina counties, and the State of Ohio," said Daniel C. Colantone, President and CEO of the Greater Akron Chamber.

Data sources used to compile the rankings included the Conway New Plant Database, nomination survey forms submitted by economic development agencies, editorial research conducted by *Site Selection*, and information from economic development Web sites.

The magazine noted the commitment of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. to expand its headquarters here, but said there's more to the story than tires. "What many executives may not know... is that Akron is also developing a reputation as a hotbed of high-tech innovation," the magazine wrote in its latest issue. "Many of these jobs are being created in the advanced materials cluster, an offshoot of the rubber industry. As a result, Akron has earned a new nickname: the 'Polymer Center of the Americas'."

The magazine also praised the Midwest, once thought to be the country's weakest economic link. "The bright lights of the big cities may grab the attention of the major media," *Site Selection* writes, "but when it comes to economic development, no one does it better than Middle America."

For more coverage on all ten top group award recipients, visit [www.siteselection.com](http://www.siteselection.com).

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(See Conway Data, Inc. press release attached.)

***The mission of the Greater Akron Chamber is to drive economic development and prosperity for the people of the Greater Akron Region.***

**Serving Medina, Portage & Summit Counties**

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Conway Data, Inc.

# Press Release

## *Site Selection's* 2007 Top Deals and Top Groups

Atlanta, May 1, 2008: *Site Selection* has named the Top Deals in North America and abroad for 2007, and the Top U.S. Economic Development Groups of 2007.

The Top Deals of 2007 are highlighted by facility projects from the alternative energy, steel, transportation, electronics and biopharmaceutical industries. Among the 20 Top Deals and Honorable Mentions in North America, Mississippi, New York and North Carolina each garnered two apiece. Notable among the 20 highlighted global projects four in India — which saw three Top Deals in 2006 and four in 2005 — and three in the Philippines.

In evaluating the top economic development projects of the year, the editors of *Site Selection* took into account total capital investment; number of jobs created; regional economic impact; value of jobs created; creativity of the deal; role of incentives in the deal; competition for the project to locate elsewhere; and speed to market.

“Chronicling major multinational corporate site selection affords us a glimpse into some of the most competitive companies on the planet,” said Adam Bruns, managing editor of *Site Selection*, who authored the Top Deals article. “As our reporting throughout the year bears out, the cities, states and nations that seek their investments also know how to compete at a high level. The best deals aim to create sustainable advantage for all parties.”

### **Top Groups Hail From the Heartland**

*Site Selection* magazine has also selected its Top 10 local economic development groups in the U.S. for 2007. Ohio leads the way with three honored groups, followed by Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Texas with two groups apiece.

“As we considered the nominations for the Top Development Groups this year, it became clear that the most competitive organizations shared several characteristics,” said Ron Starner, director of publications and general manager of *Site Selection* publisher Conway Data, and author of the Top Groups article. “They provide market access to expanding companies, strong logistics support networks, highly qualified and abundant labor pools, competitive business costs and good old-fashioned ingenuity to get deals done.”

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Local economic development groups were first ranked according to four objective categories: new jobs, new jobs per 10,000 residents, new investment amount and new investment per 10,000 residents. Then they were scrutinized for more subjective attributes — among them innovation, leadership and customer service.

The entire Top Groups and Top Deals articles appear in the May 2008 edition of *Site Selection* and at [www.sitenet.com](http://www.sitenet.com).

*Site Selection* magazine, published by Conway Data Inc., delivers expansion planning information to 44,000 executives of fast-growing firms. Now in its 54th year, *Site Selection* is also available via *Site Selection Online* ([www.siteselection.com](http://www.siteselection.com)). *SiteNet Dispatch*, a weekly e-mail newsletter, goes to more than 28,000 industry professionals. *Site Selection* is the official publication of the Industrial Asset Management Council ([www.iamc.org](http://www.iamc.org)).

Conway Data is an international publishing and association management company headquartered in Atlanta. The firm manages the Industrial Asset Management Council, the Development Hall of Fame and the World Development Federation (WDF), offers consulting services and awards the annual Conway Safe Skies Award.

**Top North American Deals of 2007 (in alphabetical order by company)**

**Amazon.com**

Seattle, Washington  
\$1.5 billion, 3,000 jobs

**Freightliner**

Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico  
\$300 million, 1,600 jobs

**Google**

Lenoir, N.C.  
\$600 million, 210 jobs

**Hemlock Semiconductor**

Thomas Township (Saginaw County), Michigan  
\$1 billion, 500 jobs

**LM Glasfiber**

Little Rock, Ark.  
\$150 million  
1,000 jobs

**Rolls-Royce**

Prince George County, Va.  
\$500 million, 500 jobs

**SolarWorld**

Hillsboro, Ore.  
\$400 million, 1,000 jobs

**ThyssenKrupp**

Mount Vernon (Mobile and Washington counties), Ala.  
\$3.7 billion, 2,700 jobs

**Toyota Motor Co.**

Blue Springs (Tupelo), Miss.  
\$1.3 billion, 2,000 jobs

**Westinghouse Electric Co.**

Cranberry Woods (Greater Pittsburgh), Pa.  
\$400 million, 931 jobs

**North America Honorable Mention**

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**Alstom**

Chattanooga, Tenn.  
\$200 million, 350 jobs

**Canon USA**

Melville, N.Y.  
\$357 million, 750 new jobs

**Eastman Chemical**

Kingsport, Tenn.  
\$1.3 billion, 400 jobs,

**Honda Aircraft Co.**

Greensboro, N.C.  
\$100 million, 300 jobs

**International Sematech**

Albany, N.Y.  
\$600 million, 450 jobs

**Lonza Biologics**

Portsmouth, N.H.  
\$300 million, 350 jobs,

**PACCAR**

Columbus, Miss.  
\$400 million, 500 jobs

**Procter & Gamble**

Box Elder County, Utah  
\$315 million, 300 jobs

**Amylin Pharmaceuticals**

West Chester, Ohio  
\$400 million, 500 jobs

**Ubisoft**

Montreal, Que.  
\$454million, 1,000 jobs

**Top International Deals of 2007**

**ArcelorMittal**

Jharkhand and Orissa, India  
\$24 billion

**Botnia**

Fray Bentos, Uruguay  
\$1.1 billion, 5,000 jobs

**Fiat**

Betim and other sites in Minas Gerais, Brazil  
\$2.9 billion, 5,500 jobs,

**Hanjin Heavy Industries**

Mindanao, Philippines  
\$2 billion, 20,000 jobs

**Hindustan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp.**

India  
\$4 billion

**Hon Hai Precision Industry (Foxconn)**

Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
\$5 billion

**Intel**

Dalian, China  
\$1.3 billion initially (\$2.5 billion overall), 1,700 jobs

**Renault-Nissan Alliance**

Tangier, Morocco  
\$883 million, 6,000 jobs

**Samsung Electronics**

Kaluga, Russia  
\$3.5 billion, 2,660 jobs

**Texas Instruments**

Clark Freeport Zone, Philippines  
\$1 billion, 3,000 jobs

**International Honorable Mention:**

**Chery Automobile/Iran Khodro**

Iran  
\$370 million

**Cone Denim**

Managua, Nicaragua  
\$100 million, 750 jobs

**GlaxoSmithKline**

Shanghai, China  
\$100 million, 1,000 jobs

**HSBC**

Quezon City, Philippines

3,000 jobs

**Merck**

Carlow, Ireland  
\$297 million, 170 jobs

**Moser Baer**

Chennai, India  
\$496 million, 4,000 jobs

**PG Bison**

Ugie, South Africa  
\$187 million, 2,700 jobs

**PSA Peugeot Citroën**

Kaluga, Russia  
\$469 million, 2,600 jobs

**Qimonda**

\$220 million, 3,000 jobs in Johor, Malaysia and  
\$2.9-billion DRAM chip fab in Singapore

**Renault-Nissan**

Chennai, India  
\$902 million

**Top U.S. Economic Development Groups of 2007** (in alphabetical order)

Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce, Akron, Ohio  
World Business Chicago, Chicago, Ill.  
Cincinnati USA Partnership, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Davidson County Economic Development Commission, Lexington, N.C.  
Piedmont Triad Partnership, Greensboro, N.C.  
Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association, St. Louis, Mo.  
The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, Scranton, Pa.  
Siouxland Initiative, Sioux City, Iowa  
Community Development Foundation, Tupelo, Miss.

**Honorable Mention**

Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, Dallas, Texas  
Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce, Dyersburg, Tenn.  
Greater Houston Partnership, Houston, Texas  
Ingham County Economic Development Corp., Mason, Mich.  
McHenry County Economic Development Corp., McHenry, Ill.  
Memphis Regional Chamber of Commerce, Memphis, Tenn.  
Greater Omaha Economic Development Partnership, Omaha, Neb.  
Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce, Plattsburgh, N.Y.  
Saginaw Future Inc., Saginaw, Mich.  
Wayne Economic Development Council, Wooster, Ohio

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