



DATE: March 5, 2008

CONTACT: Rebecca J. Guzy Woodford
Vice President, Marketing & Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Akron Metro Area Ranks Second in Country for Economic Development Success

Site Selection magazine announced Monday that the Akron metro area ranks second in a list detailing the top metro areas in the U.S. for new and expanded corporate facilities in 2007. The Akron metro area has never been previously ranked. The ranking is based on the number of projects clinched in a year.

The Akron metro area tied for number two in the country among metro areas with populations of 200,000 to one million with 29 projects finished in 2007, which was only one fewer project than winner - Greensboro-High Point, North Carolina. Chamber President Dan Colantone said collaboration between the private sector and the government had led to many companies reaffirming Akron commitments. One of the biggest Akron projects was the agreement with Goodyear Tire and Rubber to remain in Akron.

"Goodyear came to us and indicated that a number of states had come to them to convince them to leave Ohio, because they wanted to expand their headquarters," Ohio Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher told the magazine. "We partnered with them, the City of Akron, the County, the Port Authority, and a private developer to close an \$890 million project that retained about 3,000 jobs and will create more jobs in the future."

The State of Ohio also fared well in *Site Selection's* analysis of corporate location projects with significant impact, winning the 2007 Governor's Cup Award for the state with the most new and expanded facilities. Ohio earned the 2007 Governor's Cup with 399 significant corporate location projects, after claiming the 2006 Cup with 431 projects and coming in second the previous two years. Illinois came in second this year with 362 projects, followed by Tennessee (293), North Carolina (291), and Texas (281).

Conway Data publishes *Site Selection*, the oldest publication in the corporate real estate and economic development field. The magazine's New Plant database, which was used to gather the ranking results, focuses on new corporate location projects with significant impact. *Site Selection's* yearly analyses are regarded by corporate real estate analysts to be "the industry scoreboard."

For more information about the Governor's Cup Award, visit www.siteselection.com.

###

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