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**Conway Data, Inc.**

# Press Release

## **Alabama Agency Claims Its Second *Site Selection* ‘Competitiveness Award’**

**Atlanta, May 2, 2007:** *Site Selection* has awarded the Alabama Development Office (ADO) the 2006 Competitiveness Award, recognizing that agency’s success at attracting new capital investment last year. This award, which ADO also won in 2005 for industrial investment announced in 2004, recognizes the state-level economic development group scoring the most points in a 10-category index of new plant activity as tracked by *Site Selection*’s proprietary New Plant Database. Coverage of this award, along with *Site Selection*’s annual Top Groups and Top Deals coverage, appears in the magazine’s May 2007 issue.

ADO earned 144 points out of a possible 200, improving on its 2005 win with 123 points. North Carolina placed second with 125 points, followed by Indiana (114), Georgia (111) and Ohio (108).

To qualify in a given category, a state must finish in the top 20, at which point it is assigned points according to where in the top 20 it fell.

“This index provides a balanced, objective look at which state-level economic development groups are actually delivering superior project and job numbers,” says *Site Selection* Editor Mark Arend. “Per capita criteria help ensure that states compete on an equal footing.” The 10 criteria used are:

- \* Total new and expanded facilities per 1 million population in 2006;
- \* Total capital investment in new and expanded facilities per 1 million population in 2006;
- \* Total new jobs created at new and expanded facilities per 1 million population in 2006;
- \* Total actual number of new and expanded facilities in 2006;
- \* Percentage growth in new and expanded facilities from 2005 to 2006;
- \* Three-year growth change (from 2003 to 2006) in new and expanded facilities;
- \* Ranking in *Site Selection*’s annual business climate survey;
- \* Number of top 100 metros in the annual ranking of top metros;
- \* Number of top 100 small towns in the annual ranking of micropolitan areas; and
- \* Number of 100-plus-job projects per one million population in 2006.

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Even as the *Site Selection* May issue went to press in April, ADO was using all its competitive skills to land a nearly \$3-billion ThyssenKrupp steel plant in the Mobile area; Louisiana was the opponent in that contest. A location decision is expected in mid-May. But regardless of how that turns out, ADO plans to build on its momentum.

"It has been a goal of ADO for the past four years to focus job growth in both the urban and rural areas of the state," says ADO Director Neal Wade. "I think the job creation numbers for 2006 clearly indicate that we have enjoyed record job growth throughout Alabama. Even today, we are working more mega projects than ever before that could continue to expand job growth in all parts of the state."

*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.

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