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Conway Data, Inc.

# Press Release

## *Site Selection* Names 2008 Top Deals, Top Groups and Most Competitive State Economic Development Agency

Atlanta, May 4, 2009: *Site Selection* Magazine's May issue reminds its readership of senior-level corporate executives and plant location decision makers that even in a challenging economy major deals are taking place, creating hundreds and thousands of jobs. "Now for the Good News" is a suite of articles drawing attention to the most economically significant projects – the Top Deals – and the most effective local and regional economic development agencies – the Top Groups. The publication also recognizes the most competitive state-level business-recruitment agency of 2008, the Ohio Department of Development, with the 2008 Competitiveness Award, which is based on an index of 10 criteria linked to *Site Selection* publisher Conway Data Inc.'s proprietary New Plant Database.

"Economic development activity remains robust in key pockets of the global economy as our Top Deals and Top Groups coverage makes clear," said Mark Arend, *Site Selection*'s Editor in Chief. "There is no shortage of evidence that industrial production in major economies is below previous levels. But that does not mean new projects are not happening. On the contrary, the numbers of \$1-billion-plus capital investment projects and those generating thousand-plus jobs are comparable to previous years. We are happy to tell that story in the pages of *Site Selection*."

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.

"The Top Deals of the year represent high-investment, job-creating corporate facility projects fought for by multiple territories," said Adam Bruns, managing editor of *Site Selection*. "These are game-changing projects for many of the communities in which they land."

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

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*Site Selection* magazine has also selected its Top 10 local economic development groups in the U.S. for 2008. Texas, Ohio and North Carolina each have two honored groups in the Top Ten, and several are repeat winners from the 2007 Top Ten, including World Business Chicago, the Cincinnati USA Partnership, Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, The Siouland Initiative and the Community Development Foundation of Tupelo, Miss.

"The Top Economic Development Groups of the Year share several attributes," said Ron Starnier, executive vice president and general manager of *Site Selection* publisher Conway Data, Inc. "Chief among them are an abundance of pre-approved shovel-ready sites, aggressive marketing program, best-in-class customer service and creative incentive packages. Without these tools in your arsenal, it is hard to compete for projects in today's economy. Companies want the locations that deliver the greatest impact to the bottom line."

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 2009 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 55th 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 2008 (in alphabetical order by company)**

**AREVA Enrichment Services**  
Idaho Falls, Idaho  
\$2 billion, 1,500 jobs

**Cessna Aircraft**  
Wichita, Kan.  
\$780 million, 1,009 jobs

**Foxconn**  
San Jeronimo, Chihuahua, Mexico  
\$185 million, 9,350 jobs

**Hemlock Semiconductor/Dow Corning Corp.**  
Clarksville, Tenn., \$1.2 billion, 900 jobs  
and Hemlock, Mich., \$1 billion, 300 jobs

**MPI Research**  
Kalamazoo, Mich.  
\$330 million, 3,300 jobs

**Schott Solar**  
Albuquerque, N.M.  
\$100 million, 350 jobs

**Shaw Group**  
Lake Charles, La., \$100 million, 1,400 jobs  
and Baton Rouge, La., 1,500 jobs

**Spirit Aerosystems**  
Kinston, N.C.  
\$570 million, 1,000 jobs

**Vestas Wind Systems**  
Three Colorado locations  
\$700 million, 2,750 jobs

**Volkswagen**  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
\$1 billion, 2,000 jobs

**North American Honorable Mention**

**American Titanium Works**  
Laurens and Greenville, S.C.  
\$435 million, 330 jobs

**AREVA/Northrop Grumma**  
Newport News, Va.  
\$363 million, 540 jobs

**Austal**  
Mobile, Ala.  
\$120 million, 1,100 jobs

**Essar Steel Minnesota**  
Nashwauk, Minn.  
\$1.6 billion, 700 jobs

**GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas**  
Wilmington, N.C.  
\$704 million, 900 jobs

**NetJets**  
Columbus, Ohio  
\$200 million, 735 jobs

**Peak Sun Silicon**  
Millersburg, Ore.  
\$718 million, 500 jobs

**REC Silicon**  
Becancour, Quebec, Canada  
\$1.2 billion, 300 jobs

**Shire Pharmaceuticals**  
Lexington, Mass.  
\$394 million, 680 jobs

**Ternium**  
Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico  
\$4.2 million

**Top International Deals of 2008**

**Bosai Minerals Group Co. China**  
Linden, Guyana  
\$1 billion, 1,000 jobs

**China Union**  
Bong, Liberia, \$2.6 billion, 3,000 jobs

**Daimler**  
Kecskemét, Hungary  
\$1.1 billion, 2,500 jobs

**Digital Display Devices**  
Campania, Italy  
\$1.4 billion, 1,000 jobs

**Masdar**  
Ichershausen, Thuringia, Germany and Abu Dhabi,  
UAE  
\$230 million, 180 jobs

**National Instruments**  
Penang, Malaysia  
\$80 million, 1,500 jobs

**Peru LNG**  
Melchorita, Peru  
\$3.8 billion

**Renault-Dacia**  
Mioveni, Romania  
\$930 million, 660 jobs

**Sanyo**  
**Quang Chau Industrial Zone**  
**Bac Giang, Vietnam**  
\$95 million, 12,000 jobs

**Tata Motors**  
Sanand, Gujarat, India  
\$417 million, 2,000 jobs

**International Honorable Mention:**

**Bosch**  
Zhuhai, China  
\$58 million, 1,500 jobs

**BSS Steel Rolling Mill**  
Abese, Ogun, Nigeria  
\$145 million 1,000 jobs

**Neste Oil**  
Rotterdam, Netherlands  
\$1 billion, 100 jobs

**Rolls-Royce**  
Singapore  
\$221 million, 330 jobs

**The Silicon Mine**  
Sittard/Geleen, Netherlands  
\$617 million, 400 jobs

**Goodyear**  
Dalian, China  
\$500 million

**Ford**  
Chennai, India  
\$500 million, 1,500 jobs

**Ricoh Co.**  
Rayong, Thailand  
\$92 million, 1,200 jobs

**NorSun**  
Jurong, Singapore  
\$300 million, 300 jobs

**Wacker Schott Solar**  
Jena, Thuringia, Germany  
\$375 million, 600 jobs

**Top U.S. Economic Development Groups of 2008**

**TOP TEN GROUPS:**

Greater Houston Partnership, Texas  
Dayton Development Coalition, Ohio  
Siouxland Chamber of Commerce, Sioux City, Iowa  
Greater Statesville Development Corp./Mooresville-South Iredell Economic Development Corp., N.C.  
Dallas Regional Chamber, Texas  
World Business Chicago, Illinois  
Cincinnati USA Partnership, Ohio  
Indy Partnership, Indiana  
Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, Pa.  
Community Development Foundation, Tupelo, Miss.

**HONORABLE MENTIONS:**

Greater Akron Chamber, Ohio  
Regional Growth Partnership, Toledo, Ohio  
Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition, Kansas  
Albuquerque Economic Development, N.M.  
Greater Des Moines Partnership, Iowa

Baldwin Economic Development Alliance, Daphne-Fairhope, Ala.  
Fort Worth Chamber, Texas  
Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, Tenn.  
Economic Futures Group of Spartanburg County, S.C.  
Duluth Economic Development Authority, Minn.

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