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Press Release

Ohio Wins *Site Selection* Magazine's Governor's Cup Award for 2007

Atlanta, March 3, 2008: Ohio has won the 2007 *Site Selection* Governor's Cup, which the 54-year-old Atlanta-based magazine has awarded annually since 1978 to the U.S. state with the most new and expanded corporate facilities as tracked by Conway Data Inc.'s New Plant database. Conway Data publishes *Site Selection*, the oldest publication in the corporate real estate and economic development field, and the official publication of the Industrial Asset Management Council (IAMC, at www.iamc.org). *Site Selection's* yearly analyses are regarded by corporate real estate analysts as "the industry scoreboard." The magazine's circulation base consists of 44,000 executives involved in corporate site selection decisions, most at the CEO/President/COO level.

Ohio claims the 2007 Governor's Cup with 399 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).

Much of the credit for Ohio's reclaiming the top spot goes to Lt. Governor Lee Fisher, head of the state's economic development efforts and the Ohio Department of Development. Gov. Ted Strickland gives Fisher and his team full credit for executing Strickland's vision of making Ohio a pro-business, low-cost location in which to grow industry.

"The fact that tax reform was passed by a Republican governor and legislature and is now embraced by a Democratic governor says there is predictability and stability in terms of our business climate," Strickland tells *Site Selection*. "Economic development is likely to occur where there is a positive business climate in terms of taxation, an emphasis on education at every level, including

work-force development, and where the corporate and political interests are working together to make Ohio attractive.”

“Manufacturing remains the largest sector of Ohio’s economy, and the new tax system eliminates the state and local taxes that have been the greatest hindrance to capital investment, particularly in manufacturing,” says Fisher. “Repeatedly, we have been able to show businesses that we are a much better value for them, not just when you take into account tax credits, grants and loans, but also the present-day value of Ohio’s tax reform.”

“Ohio’s second consecutive Governor’s Cup win proves that traditionally industrial states can attract more new facilities and new corporate investment than states that have transitioned to service economies when the whole package is considered,” says Mark Arend, editor in chief of *Site Selection*. “Ohio’s recent tax reform, new work-force initiatives and Governor Strickland’s commitment to a strong business climate clearly are paying off.”

The magazine’s New Plant database focuses on new *corporate* location projects with significant impact. It does not track retail and government projects, or schools and hospitals. New facilities and expansions included in the analyses must meet at least one of three criteria: (a) involve a capital investment of at least US\$1 million, (b) create at least 50 new jobs or (c) add at least 20,000 sq. ft. (1,858 sq. m.) of new floor area.

More New Plant Tallies

For metro areas with populations over 1 million, the **Top 10 Metros** for new and expanded corporate facilities for 2007, in order, were Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill./Ind./Wis.; Cincinnati-Middletown, Ohio/Ky./Ind.; St. Louis, Mo./Ill.; Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, Texas; Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minn./Wis.; Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas (tied for sixth); New York-Newark-Edison, N.Y./N.J./Pa.; Detroit/Warren/Livonia, Mich.; and Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Va.

In the **second tier** of metros, comprising those with populations between 200,000 and 1 million, the top performers, in order, were Greensboro-High Point, N.C.; Omaha-Council Bluffs, Neb./Iowa, and Akron, Ohio (tied for second); Wichita, Kan., and Dayton, Ohio (tied for fourth); Syracuse, N.Y., and Raleigh-Cary, N.C. (tied for sixth); Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Mich.; Tulsa, Okla.; and, in a tie for tenth, Lexington-Fayette Co., Ky., and Knoxville, Tenn.

Tier Three, comprising metros with populations between 50,000 and 200,000, was led by Sioux City, Iowa/Neb./S.D.; Morristown, Tenn.; Valdosta, Ga.; Jackson, Mich., and Johnson City, Tenn. (tied for fourth); Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa, Bowling Green, Ky., and Rocky Mount, N.C. (tied for sixth); and, in a three-way tie for ninth, Auburn-Opelika, Ala.; Decatur, Ala.; and Kingston, N.Y.

In the magazine's ranking of **Top Micropolitans** — cities of 10,000 to 50,000 people which cover at least one county — Lexington-Thomasville, N.C. claimed the top prize among the nation's 674 micropolitan areas, followed by Statesville-Mooresville, N.C.; Wooster, Ohio; Daphne-Fairhope, Ala., and Tupelo, Miss. (tied for fourth); and Findlay, Ohio.

All of the above stories are posted at the magazine's award-winning Web site, www.siteselection.com.

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(Charts for 2007 New Plant tallies are below.)

**Overall Top 10 States
2007 Governor's Cup**

Rank	State	Totals
1.....	Ohio	399
2.....	Illinois	362
3.....	Tennessee	293
4.....	North Carolina	291
5.....	Texas	281
6.....	New York	244
7.....	Michigan	210
8.....	Virginia	207
9.....	Florida	203
10.....	Kentucky	197

**Top 10 Metro Areas: Tier One
New and Expanded Facilities in 2007**

Rank	Metro Area	Totals
1...	Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill./Ind./Wis.	236
2...	Cincinnati/Middletown, Ohio/Ky./Ind.	111
3....	St. Louis, Mo./Ill.	95
4...	Houston/Baytown/Sugar Land, Texas	75
5...	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minn./Wis.	74
T6...	Nashville/Davidson/Murfreesboro, Tenn.	73
T6...	Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington, Texas	73
8...	New York-Newark-Edison, N.Y./N.J./Pa.	72
9...	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.	67
10...	Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Va.	62

**Top U.S. Micropolitans
New and Expanded Facilities in 2007**

Rank	Town	Totals
1.....	Lexington-Thomasville, N.C.	30
2.....	Statesville-Mooresville, N.C.	21
3.....	Wooster, Ohio	17
T4.....	Tupelo, Miss.	14
T4.....	Daphne-Fairhope, Ala.	14
6.....	Findlay, Ohio	11
T7.....	Effingham, Ill.	10
T7.....	Ottawa-Streator, Ill.	10
9.....	Batavia, N.Y.	9
T10.....	Moses Lake, Wash.	8
T10.....	Alexandria, Minn.	8

**Top 10 Metro Areas: Tier Two
New and Expanded Facilities in 2007**

Rank	Metro Area	Totals
1....	Greensboro/High Point, N.C.	30
T2....	Omaha-Council Bluffs, Neb./Iowa	29
T2....	Akron, Ohio	29
T4....	Wichita, Kan.	27
T4....	Dayton, Ohio	27
T6....	Syracuse, N.Y.	25
T6....	Raleigh-Cary, N.C.	25
8....	Grand Rapids/Wyoming, Mich.	24
9...	Tulsa, Okla.	23
T10...	Lexington-Fayette Co., Ky.	22
T10...	Knoxville, Tenn.	22

**Top 10 Metro Areas: Tier Three
New and Expanded Facilities in 2006**

Rank	Metro Area	Totals
1....	Sioux City, Iowa/Neb./S.D.	23
2....	Morristown, Tenn.	15
3...	Valdosta, Ga.	13
T4...	Jackson, Mich.	10
T4...	Johnson City, Tenn.	10
T6...	Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa	9
T6...	Bowling Green, Ky.	9
T6...	Rocky Mount, N.C.	9
T9...	Decatur, Ala.	8
T9...	Auburn-Opelika, Ala.	8
T9...	Kingston, N.Y.	8