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The Partnership welcomes HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium as first royal visit to Partnership Tower

Delegates to discuss Houston-Belgium synergies in energy, life sciences and logistics

HOUSTON— Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium is in Houston today as part of an economic mission to Texas. HRH Princess Astrid, the sister of Belgium's current monarch King Philippe, will engage in a business meeting and MOU signing between Belgian and Houston-area companies at Partnership Tower. The delegation also includes business executives, trade representatives and members of the Belgian government.

"We are extremely proud that Princess Astrid and her delegation are the first royal visit to arrive at Partnership Tower, Houston's new 'front door.' Belgium is already Houston's 12th largest trading partner and we expect this relationship to continue to grow," said Jamey Rootes, chair of the Greater Houston Partnership and president of the Houston Texans. "Partnership Tower reflects the vibrancy of the Houston region and is a representation of many of the things that make Houston so special."

"The Partnership welcomes Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid and her esteemed delegation to Houston," said Bob Harvey, president and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership. The Partnership is also hosting a business forum to connect Houston-area companies with members of the Belgian delegation. Targeted sectors include energy, life sciences and logistics. "Trade has nearly doubled between our respective regions since 2005. Petrochemicals and logistics are the cornerstones of our relationship, with life sciences emerging as a prominent area of opportunity," said Bob Harvey.

HRH Princess Astrid is representing 117 Belgian companies, and the mission includes stops in Houston, Austin, San Antonio and College Station. The Belgian delegation's trip began on Saturday, Dec. 3 and will conclude on Dec. 10. While in Houston, the delegation is also meeting with Mayor Sylvester Turner, and representatives from the Texas Medical Center and Port of Houston.

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The Greater Houston Partnership works to make Houston one of the world's best places to live, work and build a business. It represents 11 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker and Waller. With more than 1,000 member organizations, the Partnership represents approximately one-fifth of the region's workforce. Visit the Partnership at houston.org