

**CONTACT:** Kimberley Baker  
Director, Marketing/Media Relations  
(713) 844-3638 – Office

## NEWS RELEASE

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**March 2, 2015**

### **GREATER HOUSTON REGION NAMED #2 METRO FOR CORPORATE RELOCATIONS AND EXPANSIONS**

HOUSTON –*Site Selection* magazine has recognized the Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land Metropolitan Statistical Area (Houston MSA) as one of the top metros in the nation for corporate relocations and expansions. The magazine released its ranking of the top states and metros in its annual “Governor’s Cup” issue earlier today.

The annual metro ranking considers criteria that are key factors for job growth and retention. The Houston region logged 265 new or expanded facilities, behind the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, Ill.-Ind.-Wis. region with 385. Houston has garnered a No. 1 or No. 2 ranking since 2011. The Houston MSA attained the top ranking in 2009, 2012 and 2013.

“This honor from the corporate site selection standard bearer, *Site Selection* magazine, confirms our region’s stature as one of the best places to live, work and do business,” said Bob Harvey, President and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership. “Houston is a city with no limits, filled with infinite possibilities and unrivaled opportunities.”

In addition to the Houston MSA being named the second most robust metro in the nation, the state of Texas earned the top spot in the magazine’s state rankings.

“Houston consistently is a top performer in our annual ranking of Tier 1 Metros – those with a population over 1 million, with a second place finish nationally and first place finish in the South Central Region for project activity in 2014,” says Mark Arend, editor in chief of *Site Selection* magazine. “This means that those charged with locating corporate facilities are, in large measure, finding in Houston the right combination of site criteria across a diverse range of industry sectors.”

Among the nation’s 20 largest metro areas, Houston continues to lead the nation in employment growth, creating 120,600 jobs in 2014, a 4.2 percent annual growth rate. Houston’s GDP grew 5.2 percent in 2013, faster than any other major metro area.

-MORE-



*Site Selection's* New Plant Database focuses on new corporate facility 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 \$1 million, (b) create at least 20 new jobs or (c) add at least 20,000 sq. ft. (1,858 sq. m.) of new floor area.

*Site Selection* Governor's Cup, which the 61-year-old Atlanta-based magazine has awarded annually since 1978, goes to the state with the most new and expanded corporate facilities as tracked by Conway Data Inc.'s New Plant Database. *Site Selection's* yearly analyses are regarded by corporate real estate analysts as "the industry scoreboard." The magazine's circulation base consists of 48,000 executives involved in corporate site selection decisions, most at the CEO/President/COO level.

For more information on the Houston region or to become a member of Greater Houston Partnership, visit [www.houston.org](http://www.houston.org).

###

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 1,400 member organizations, GHP represents approximately one-fifth of the region's workforce. *Opportunity Houston<sup>SM</sup>*, is an economic development initiative of the Partnership. Visit the Partnership at [www.houston.org](http://www.houston.org).