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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 1, 2011

NATIONAL MAGAZINE LAUDS HOUSTON'S GROWTH SECOND IN NATION FOR CORPORATE LOCATIONS, EXPANSIONS

HOUSTON – While other cities are struggling to create growth, Houston is maintaining its reputation as a bustling area with boundless economic growth possibilities, according to *Site Selection* magazine. In the magazine's recently released 2011 "Top Metro" rankings, the greater Houston region comes in as the second most robust metro for corporate location and expansion activity in the U.S. This is a key factor for job growth and retention in the Houston region.

The announcement was made by *Site Selection* in its annual "Governor's Cup" issue, released earlier today.

In the magazine's annual ranking of corporate business facilities and sites, Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill./Ind./Wis. MSA with 184 projects claimed the top spot for metro areas with populations over 1 million followed by Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land with 152 projects and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington with 127 projects. The Houston MSA was previously the 2008 "Top Metro" and ranked fifth in the 2009 rankings.

"*Site Selection's* endorsement of the Houston region as a hotbed for corporate attraction and expansion is another indication that our area continues to resonate with top domestic and global decision-makers," said Jeff Moseley, President and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership. "We will continue to show that the Houston region is the most attractive place to locate or expand your business in the United States."

In addition to the Houston metro designation, Texas earned the No. 1 spot in state rankings for corporate project attraction. 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)

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

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The 57-year-old Atlanta-based magazine has awarded the “Governor’s Cup” 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.

“Greater Houston’s pro-business reputation, focus on regional partnership and global connectivity continues to resonate with multinational corporations looking to maximize expansion and relocation opportunities,” said Mark Arend, editor-in-chief of *Site Selection*. “The Governor’s Cup is a clear example of this reputation, because it objectively measures actual project activity.”

GHP, one of the largest and most prominent non-profit business organizations of its kind in the nation, represents the 10-county Houston region and collaborates with more than 36 economic development organizations to promote the growth of high-paying jobs, international trade and capital investment.

Site Selection is available via *Site Selection Online* at www.siteselection.com. For more information on the Houston region or to become a member of the Greater Houston Partnership, call 713-844-3647, or visit Houston.org.

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The Greater Houston Partnership is the primary advocate of the Houston’s business community and is dedicated to building regional economic prosperity. It represents 10 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller.

Opportunity Houston is an aggressive five-year marketing and lead generation program that will help grow jobs, increase capital investment and expand foreign trade for the region by the end of 2015. Visit the Greater Houston Partnership on the World Wide Web at houston.org.

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