

## Year-to-Date Activity Report June 2009

### **Project Activity**

Project activity in 2009 is ahead of 2008 numbers. As of May 28, the region has recorded 69 project closings, eight involving some significant involvement from the Partnership. A complete list of closed projects is attached. The project pipeline stands at 46, lower than the more typical average of 100 projects in the pipeline.

Projects of interest include:

*Project Baker* – The Partnership is working with this prepared foods company on a major investment in a manufacturing facility in the region. The company has established a testing location in the region.

*Project Student* – An Australian-based student recruitment firm was in town on March 25 for a site visit. The company is exploring sites in Chicago, Cincinnati and Washington DC.

*Project Excellence* – A plastics manufacturer in the food packaging industry is looking at establishing a manufacturing presence in the region. Site visits occurred earlier this year and announcement is anticipated shortly.

*Project Start* – a BioStart graduate is looking to establish its first site in Indiana. The Partnership is working with client to identify sites in SE Indiana. Two site visits occurred in March.

This year project activity has focused on two areas of interest: food processing & packaging and service providers to Fortune 500 companies. Projects have involved both domestic and international firms.

### **CEO Engagement**

First CEO-level retention visit meetings occurred with US Bank, Kroger, and Citi. Others scheduled with CBC companies and large employers not headquartered in this region. Plans are to complete 20 CEO engagement visits by the end of July. Among the companies to be visited are Avon, GE Aviation, Luxottica, Pierre Foods and Standard Textile.

### **Industry Cluster Councils**

Work continues on the establishment of several industry cluster councils. The councils will include representatives from local private, public and educational organizations. The first council meeting was held on March 26 and focused on

the Life Sciences industry. Other meetings will include the IT industry, consumer products/creative services and aerospace.

### **Other News**

- Cincinnati USA was named the #4 metro area for business attraction and expansion by *Site Selection* magazine. It's the seventh consecutive year it has been in the top 10.
- Cincinnati USA Partnership was named a Top 10 Economic Development organization by *Site Selection* magazine for 2008. The magazine determines the Top Groups and Honorable Mention agencies by assessing their success in attracting new facilities according to per capita and total capital investment and per capita and total new jobs created, among other criteria.
- The Partnership worked with Girindus on the Girindus Leadership in Oligonucleotides Symposium (G.L.O.S.) on March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> to promote the region's Life Sciences industry to a delegation of European journalists. The effort has already generated two news articles in Germany.
- Work on the Business Outreach protocol continues on two fronts. First, the State of Ohio may include a business outreach protocol in a legislative update to the state's incentive programs. Second, the Partnership held a meeting of four southwest Ohio counties on May 12<sup>th</sup> to initiate a local business outreach protocol agreement similar to the one adopted by communities in the Dayton region.
- The Partnership met with 22 site selection consultants and other economic development representatives as part of its Chicago Business Development Mission on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The Partnership participated in the German Business Development Mission from April 20-24<sup>th</sup>. As part of the trip, the Partnership hosted an "Invest in the U.S." seminar in Stuttgart with 30 attendees. It also had conversations with seven prospects primarily in the advanced energy industry who are exploring expansion opportunities in the US.

### **Upcoming Schedule**

UK/France Business Development Mission – June 8-19

New York Business Development Mission – September TBD

6/25/2009

Cincinnati USA Partnership

441 Vine Street; 300 Carew Tower

Cincinnati, OH 45202

jschutte@cincinnati-chamber.com