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Press Release

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Ohio Wins Site Selection Magazine's Governor's Cup Award for 2008

Atlanta, March 9, 2009: Ohio has won the 2008 *Site Selection* Governor's Cup, which the 55-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 2008 Governor's Cup with 503 projects, after claiming the 2007 Cup with 399 projects. This is Ohio's third consecutive Governor's Cup and its fourth in six years. Texas came in second this year with 497 projects, followed by Michigan (296), Pennsylvania (290) and North Carolina (245).

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. Fisher and his team are charged with executing Gov. Strickland's vision of making Ohio a pro-business, low-cost location in which to grow industry, a task made more daunting in the current economic climate.

"We cannot allow challenges of the moment to deter us from doing the things that will enable us to participate fully in the recovery that will come," Strickland tells *Site Selection*. "We

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have to maintain our commitment to those efforts that will be essential once the economic storm has passed. The very intense, focused steps that our Department of Development has taken are the key.”

Passage of an energy bill in May 2008 helped lay the groundwork for a reinvigorated energy sector in the state, which is behind much of the capital investment in new projects. Among other things, the bill requires that 25 percent of energy sold in Ohio must come from advanced and renewable energy technologies, such as clean coal and wind turbines, by 2025. But others factors were also at work.

“We were one of the first states to pass a bipartisan stimulus plan in the amount of \$1.57 billion that targeted funds for infrastructure, higher education internships and targeted industries of growth, like advanced energy and bioscience,” Lt. Gov. Fisher explains. “In most cases, money is going directly to businesses rather than to research and development and universities, so we can stimulate job creation more quickly.”

“As with Ohio’s previous Governor’s Cup wins, the 2008 award demonstrates that companies will invest in those industrial states that are taking the steps needed to be competitive, especially in today’s economic context,” says Mark Arend, editor in chief of *Site Selection*. “It is not enough to say your state is ‘pro-business.’ Site selectors are looking for specific measures to be in place, and Ohio is delivering.”

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 2008, in order, were Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, Texas; Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas; Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill./Ind./Wis.; Cincinnati-Middletown, Ohio/Ky./Ind.; Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.; New York-Newark-Edison,

N.Y./N.J./Pa.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Columbus, Ohio; Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, Ohio; and Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, N.C./S.C., and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C./Va. (tied for tenth).

In the **second tier** of metros, comprising those with populations between 200,000 and 1 million, the top performers, in order, were Dayton, Ohio; Akron, Ohio; Toledo, Ohio; Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Pa.; Des Moines, Iowa; Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Mich.; Greensboro-High Point, N.C., Tulsa, Okla., and Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, Ohio/Pa. (tied for seventh); and Omaha-Council Bluffs, Neb./Iowa.

Tier Three, comprising metros with populations between 50,000 and 200,000, was led by Sioux City, Iowa/Neb./S.D.; Springfield, Ohio; Danville, Va., and Decatur, Ala. (tied for third); Florence, S.C.; Jackson, Mich., and Wheeling, W.Va./Ohio (tied for sixth); and Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford, Va., Bowling Green, Ky., Dubuque, Iowa, Elkhart-Goshen, Ind., Muskegon-Norton Shores, Mich., Owensboro, Ky., and Tuscaloosa, Ala. (tied for eighth).

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

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

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(Charts for 2008 New Plant tallies are below.)

**Overall Top 10 States
2008 Governor's Cup**

Rank	State	Totals
1.	Ohio	503
2.	Texas	497
3.	Michigan	296
4.	Pennsylvania	290
5.	North Carolina	245
6.	New York	208
7.	Virginia	186
8.	Illinois	185
9.	Kentucky	162
10.	Indiana	143

**Top 10 Metro Areas: Tier One
New and Expanded Facilities in 2008**

Rank	Metro Area	Totals
1.	Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, Texas	179
2.	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas	156
3.	Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill./Ind./Wis.	138
4.	Cincinnati-Middletown, Ohio/Ky./Ind.	124
5.	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.	108
6.	New York-Newark-Edison, N.Y./N.J./Pa.	99
7.	Pittsburgh, Pa.	79
8.	Columbus, Ohio	77
9.	Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, Ohio	67
T10.	Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, N.C./S.C.	60
T10.	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C./Va.	60

**Top U.S. Micropolitans
New and Expanded Facilities in 2008**

Rank	Town	Totals
1	Statesville-Mooresville, N.C.	17
T2	Daphne-Fairhope, Ala.	12
T2	Tupelo, Miss.	12
T4	Batavia, N.Y.	11
T4	Ottawa-Streator, Ill.	11
6	Wooster, Ohio	10
T7	Ashtabula, Ohio	9
T7	Lexington-Thomasville, N.C.	9
9	Wapakoneta, Ohio	8
T10	Adrian, Mich.	7
T10	Lincolnton, N.C.	7

**Top 10 Metro Areas: Tier Two
New and Expanded Facilities in 2008**

Rank	Metro Area	Totals
1.	Dayton, Ohio	41
2.	Akron, Ohio	39
3.	Toldeo, Ohio	38
4.	Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Pa./N.J.	29
5.	Des Moines, Iowa	28
6.	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Mich.	27
T7.	Greensboro-High Point, N.C.	24
T7.	Tulsa, Okla.	24
T7.	Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, Ohio/Pa.	24
10.	Omaha-Council Bluffs, Neb./Iowa	23

**Top 10 Metro Areas: Tier Three
New and Expanded Facilities in 2008**

Rank	Metro Area	Totals
1.	Sioux City, Iowa/Neb./S.D.	20
2.	Springfield, Ohio	10
T3.	Danville, Va..	9
T3.	Decatur, Ala.	9
5.	Florence, S.C..	8
T6.	Jackson, Mich	7
T6.	Wheeling, W.Va./Ohio	7
T8.	Blacksburg-Christianburg-Radford, Va.	6
T8.	Bowling Green, Ky.	6
T8.	Dubuque, Iowa	6
T8.	Elkhart-Goshen, Ind.	6
T8.	Muskegon-Norton Shores, Mich.	6
T8.	Owensboro, Ky.	6
T8.	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	6