



Tyler Economic Development Council

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January / February 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 25, 2009, 3:30
TEDC Board Meeting
Genecov Room
April 8, 2009, 11:30
TEDC 20th Annual
Investor Luncheon
Holiday Inn Select

TXAIRE

Representatives from the Texas A&M Texas Engineering Extension Office (TEEX) were in Tyler January 9 to get an update on the TXAIRE Project. Dr. James Nelson, Dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science, and Dr. Arlene Horne, UT Tyler Director of Specialized Research, provided an overview of the TXAIRE Project, which was funded with a \$3.75 million grant from the Governor's Emerging Technology Fund. Staff has been hired, the testing lab has been set up, research has started with families experiencing respiratory health issues, and a private sector commitment has been made by Trane to provide air conditioning equipment for proposed test homes on the UT Tyler campus. TEDC, UT Tyler and TEEX will work together to schedule a forum this spring that will give updates on TXAIRE to various private and public sector groups.



PERRYMAN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK On January 15, TEDC and TACC co-hosted the 25th Annual Perryman Economic Outlook Conference at the Rose Garden with 400 attending. Perryman predicted "positive growth" for Tyler with an "outlook about the same," although it will see some rough months. "Tyler is going through it, but this area has done quite well despite manufacturing job losses," he said. "Once we get through it, Tyler is poised for long-term growth." His report states the short-term outlook for the Tyler metro area economy is positive, with real gross product anticipated to increase approximately \$1.54 billion over the next 5 years. During this timeframe, some 9,100 wage and salary jobs are expected to be created. Of the anticipated 9,100 new jobs forecast to be created in the Tyler MSA from 2008 to 2013, the sectors and projected increases in workers are agriculture (100); mining (25); construction (300); durable manufacturing (400); nondurable manufacturing (100); trade (2,500); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (300); information (200); finance, insurance, and real estate (300); services (5,300); and government (800). Dr. Perryman's complete report is available at www.tedc.org.

JOB LOSSES While the economy in Texas and Tyler is faring better than most of the nation, there have been 2,052 jobs lost in 2008 through January 2009. Lost jobs include Carrier-300 (many of these jobs should be replaced by bringing several outsourced parts and products back into the plant); Goodyear-900; Trane-334; Tyler Pipe-285; NDS Plastics (Troup)-40; and a couple of other smaller firms.

DECKER ENERGY On December 5, the Lindale Economic Development Corp. (LEDC) issued a press release detailing the renewable energy plant targeted for LEDC property along I-20. The project with Decker Energy, based in Winter Park, FL, will create 25 new jobs and have a capital investment of \$130 million. Decker has applied to TCEQ for an environmental permit for construction and plans a public hearing on their air permit in March.

PROSPECT ACTIVITY In December/January, TEDC responded to six requests for proposals from the Governor's Office:

- A company is looking for a 10 acres to construct a 100,000 sf facility to develop a medical device. They would create 350 new jobs and invest \$11 million.
- A manufacturer is looking for 150 acres and would create 100 new jobs.
- A chemical manufacturing company is seeking 50 acres, would invest \$35 million and hire 43 employees.
- A company is looking for 10 acres to construct and lease a 70,000 sf (expandable to 125,000 sf) facility for a medical manufacturer. They would hire 250 employees and invest \$12 million (excluding facility).
- A company that assembles washer and dryer units is looking for 55,000 sf and would create 210 new jobs. A data center is seeking 35 acres to construct a 65,000 sf facility expandable up to 250,000 sf). They would hire 30 employees (with average salaries around \$80,000) and invest \$120 million.

NOTE: All requests from the Governor's Office are in the early stages of site selection.

MOTOR TRIKE

On December 2, Jeff Vey, co-owner of Motor Trike in Troup, contacted Tom Mullins requesting assistance with making contacts in Washington, D.C. in support of an application the company is making to the US Department of Energy for a federal loan program targeting fuel-efficient vehicles. TEDC helped with contacts in Congressman Gohmert's Office and the Washington, D.C. State of Texas Office.



SEALTITE expects to occupy their new 57,000 sf building this month. Much of the new equipment is already in place. The company projects 30 new jobs will be created by this expansion, adding to their current base of 100.