



Charlotte County Economic Development Office Joins Suncoast Technology Forum

SARASOTA, Florida (June 22, 2011) - The Charlotte County Economic Development Office has recently become a member the Suncoast Technology Forum. Charlotte County will become the third regional economic development entity to join the organization along with the Sarasota Economic Development Corporation and the Manatee Economic Development Council, who were founding members. Kay Tracy, the Charlotte County Economic Development Office Interim Director, will be serving on the Board of Directors. Kay will be a welcome addition to the Board which includes: STF President, Matthew Anderson of Milestone Marketing Associates, Ravi Ghai, Competitive Strategies, Lauren Kratsch, Economic Development Council Manatee Chamber of Commerce and Joan McGill, Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County, to name a few of the distinguished members.

Kay Tracy commented, "With 111 members throughout the region, the Charlotte County Economic Development Office is looking forward to having a strong, professional organization available for technology companies looking to relocate or expand in our community. We are also interested in bringing events and seminars to the county that will help promote and encourage growth in the high tech sector, as well as develop high level employee skill sets."

Suncoast Technology Forum's focus is on accelerating the technology ecosystem in Sarasota, Manatee and now Charlotte counties. Suncoast Technology Forum concentrates its efforts in support of technology professionals and their businesses across multiple business sectors. These efforts include attracting and retaining top industry talent and deeper collaboration with area schools and universities to develop the highly skilled workforce the area will need to support a growing high tech sector well into the future. The organization also supports the efforts of the Florida High Tech Corridor Council, a regional economic development initiative of the University of Central Florida (UCF), the University of South Florida (USF) and the University of Florida (UF) whose mission is to grow high tech industry in the region through research, workforce development and marketing programs. To learn more about the Suncoast Technology Forum, please visit their web site at <http://www.SuncoastTechnologyForum.com>.

About Suncoast Technology Forum

Suncoast Technology Forum was founded in 2005 by a group of local entrepreneurs, professionals and the Sarasota and Manatee economic development organizations. STF is a professional association of people united to make the bi-county area a place where technology-based business and innovation thrives. STF's mission is to create a technology-rich community, support technology entrepreneurship, and connect technology professionals with appropriate resources in the Florida Gulf Coast Region: "In short, to grow and promote the technology ecosystem in Sarasota and Manatee counties." For more information about the Suncoast Technology Forum, call 941-870-0078, email info@suncoasttechnologyforum.com, or visit www.suncoasttechnologyforum.com.

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