

Houston's Greatest

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership will be honored at the end of November as the 2007 "Houston's Greatest Economic Development Ally."

This award is presented each year to an organization that excels in the fields of economic development, marketing and research, community outreach and workforce training.

Meeting workforce demands in the region

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, partners with several local educational institutions as a collaborative effort to promote workforce training in the region.

San Jacinto College and College of the Mainland are two of four local community colleges to secure \$4.7 million in grants to develop and retain workers in the petrochemical and refining industry.

Port of Houston and Seabrook's resolution

The Port of Houston Authority and the city of Seabrook recently signed a landmark Memorandum of Settlement Agreement, defining mutually agreed-upon terms for the continued development of Bayport container terminal facilities.

"This memorandum of understanding is a reflection of the dedication and hard work of a lot of people that benefits the entire region," said Bob Mitchell, executive director of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. "Nothing is more powerful than a partnership."

Site consultant tours region

Dana Olson, president and CEO of EcoDev, LLC was hosted by Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership as part of our outreach efforts to showcase site consultants on the advantages and opportunities in Bay Area Houston.

Many times, these site consultants influence decision makers on locations for business expansion plans.

Recruitment Snapshot

Effective Teleservice, a call center operation, has landed in Pasadena with 150 new jobs.

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership worked closely with Pasadena's Economic Development Director to provide data on multiple sites within the city.



Solutions for Small Businesses

The Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program administered through Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. It provides technical assistance to small businesses at no charge, and is funded by NASA and the State of Texas.

The Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program received seven requests for technical assistance during the month of October.

For information call Nick Gardner at 281-486-5535.

ITGlobe invests in regional economic powerhouse

Manufacturers and companies located in the Bay Area Houston region looking for a presence in the India market need only look as far as the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's newest member.

ITGlobe, Inc. specializes in serving U.S. manufacturers by exporting their high-tech products and services for aerospace and defense markets in India.

Founded in 2001, the company is primarily focused on the India market and works closely with the Indian Space Research Organization and defense or-



ganizations. The company has partnered with U.S. based man-

ufacturers of RF products and structural materials for aerospace and defense electronic structures.

The company manages all aspects of pre-sales, sales, after-sales support, export administration and commercial management for its U.S. partners for India territories.

In addition, ITGlobe, Inc. also has a software development unit based in India, and is currently establishing a mechanical design center for aerospace structures based in Bay Area Houston and India.

"We are in the business of sup-

porting U.S. manufacturers of high-tech products and services to increase their international business by developing the India market for them," said Ravnish Luthra, vice president of ITGlobe's International Operations.

"We maintain a pool of software developers and analysts to provide software and mechanical design services to Houston based companies."

They are registered with the U.S. State Department and are a top international partner for India territory for Southwest Microwave. Bay Area Houston Economic

Partnership president Jim Reinhardt said, ITGlobe, Inc. is a great addition to the membership roster, which includes more than 265 businesses.

"ITGlobe brings unique services to the table and is a respected resource for those companies looking towards the India market."

"We hope to partner with many Houston based aerospace and defense manufacturers," Luthra said.

"And we see Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership a platform for us to get in touch with many community related projects in our own area."

More jobs, Pasadena

Kaneka's newest facility

Kaneka Texas continues to grow by leaps and bounds; its most recent groundbreaking ceremony comes within one year from its last groundbreaking.

Kaneka Texas marked its fourth expansion with continued strides not only as a benchmark leader in economic vitality, but as a steward in our community.

"We have had a continuous history of plant expansions," said Steven Skarke, site manager and senior vice president of operations for Kaneka Texas. "Major additions to the original plant occurred in 1987 and 1993, making it the largest modifier facility in the world. Two additional business units were added in 1990, but the latest three-year growth spurt is the largest that we have seen, and I hope, not the last."

Kaneka Texas began operations at its Pasadena facility in 1984, and in 2003, the company contacted Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership for its assistance in its first expansion efforts.

When asked how Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership aided in Kaneka's expansion process ...
"We could not have done it on our own."

—Steve Skarke
Site Manager and Senior Vice President of Operations for Kaneka Texas

"Kaneka Texas contacted our organization when the land it wanted to expand on was not available," said Paul Chavez, marketing director for the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. "Our organization was able to help expedite Kaneka through a land swapping negotiation and foster the relationships necessary to promote its continued growth," Chavez said.



Courtesy of Kaneka Texas. Breaking ground on the newest expansion at Kaneka. From left to right: Mayor of La Porte Alton Porter, Senator Mike Jackson, Kaneka Corporation Chairman of the Board Masatoshi Takeda, Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia, Consul General of Japan Tsutomu Osawa and Mayor of Pasadena Jack Douglass.

Kaneka Texas has evolved from a small facility with 50 employees, to a large and diverse campus that produces products from nutritional supplements to everyday products found in your home.

"The completion of the fourth expansion will bring total employment to almost 350 workers, which is a 600 percent increase in the number of jobs Kaneka Texas provided prior to its expansions," Chavez said.

Kaneka has continued to build upon one successful venture after another including one of the most recent expansions for the dietary supplement called Coenzyme Q10, which meets the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality and USDA standards.

Without the aid of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, Kaneka Texas' expansions may have not been feasible.

"We could not have done it on our own" Skarke said. "Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership was instrumental in helping us make the right contacts to facilitate the incentive process."

Skarke continued by saying, "Kaneka is dedicated to the Bayport Industrial Complex and the incentives allow us to keep this location competitive among other choices around the world."

The Bayport Industrial Complex continues to

be the ideal location for specialty chemicals and plastic venue.

Groundbreaking ceremony

Special attendees at the groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 10 included Senator Mike Jackson, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia, Mayor of La Porte Alton Porter, and Mayor of Pasadena Jack Douglass.

Garcia spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony and thanked Kaneka Texas.

"We thank Kaneka for selecting this region for its expansion and welcome the job opportunities the company provides to our community," Garcia said.

Construction is expected to be completed on the new modified silicone polymer facility by the end of September 2008 and will aim to begin commercial operations by March 2009.

Modified silicone polymer is used worldwide as the base polymer in the production of quality sealants and adhesives for industrial, homeowners and automotive applications.

Kaneka Texas facility is expected to add an additional \$35 million in capital improvements in Bay Area Houston with this latest project.

Please go to bayareahouston.com to read the entire article.

Expanding boundaries

Clear Lake Shores joins partnership

Clear Lake Shores recently joined the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership becoming the organization's 13th municipal partner.

The city's investment signifies the synergy that exists between the other 12 cities and two counties that share a united vision of future prosperity for the Bay Area Houston region.

Clear Lake Shores is an island community nestled between the shores of Clear Lake and Jarboe Bayou. The city started out as a small fishing village in 1926 and has developed into a diverse, eclectic waterfront community that is home to more than 1,400 residents.

The city offers a wide array of recreational opportunities and is home to a bird sanctuary, five waterfront parks and three marinas.

One of the marinas, Watergate Marina, is the largest privately owned marina in the country with 1,300 slips; hence, Clear Lake Shores has been declared the "The Yachting Capital of Texas" by the U.S. Senate.

"Clear Lake Shores is such a unique place and demonstrates the high quality of life that we promote to companies looking to relocate to our region," said Barbara Cuttlinger, marketing manager for Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is a distinguished regional economic development organization that strives to attract, retain and expand industries in the Bay Area Houston region and now represents 13 cities and two counties. Investing in the partnership

seemed a natural choice.

"We realize everything that happens around us impacts Clear Lake Shores," said Susan Landwer, director of Clear Lake Shores Economic Development Corporation. "As the surrounding area has rapidly changed, our connection with other cities has become increasingly more important. Clear Lake Shores' investment in the organization greatly enhances our ability to collaborate with other cities on a regional basis regarding economic development."

Clear Lake Shores recently adopted a strategic plan that includes measures to develop properties located on FM 2094.

"The organization provides the type of leadership and expertise the city will need for this planned development," said



Clear Lake Shores' City Hall.

Mayor of Clear Lake Shores Vern Johnson. "Although there are only a handful of businesses in Clear Lake Shores, being a part of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership ensures that our city will maintain its high quality of life and that our business interests are represented throughout the region."

The organization welcomed Clear Lake Shores membership and its investment in the region.

"Clear Lake Shores was the missing link in our geographic

service area," said Jim Reinhardt, president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. "With the addition of Clear Lake Shores, our organization now represents every city that comprises the Bay Area Houston region. I applaud Mayor Johnson and the city council for their decision to invest in our organization; moreover, their commitment to the region and their citizens."