

Rockford

I L L I N O I S  U S A

ROCKFORD AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL QUARTERLY RESULTS REPORT

4th Quarter - 2010

Welcome to the Fourth Quarter Investor Results Report. Enclosed is a summary of economic development activity for the 4th Quarter of 2010. The collective efforts reported is the work of our region's team of professionals and elected officials attracting and retaining businesses. Please help the Rockford Region celebrate the many successes it has achieved in 2010. Thank you for your continued support of the RAEDC.

Sincerely,

Janyce Fadden, RAEDC President

REGIONAL ECONOMIC STATISTICS

In November, 2010, employment increased .2% in the Rockford MSA (metropolitan statistical area) with 149,094 employees.

Sectors increasing the most:

- Manufacturing (2.7%)
- Retail Trade (2.7%)

In 2010 2,051 primary jobs (jobs whose goods or services are exported outside the region) were won in our region through attracting, expanding, or retaining employment.

Primary employment has increased .62% in 2010, and secondary and tertiary employment has increased 1.36% during this same timeframe.

And, our region has attracted, expanded, or retained 1,528 jobs so far in 2010 from committed project wins. This exceeds our goal for this year by 756 jobs.

THRIVING BUSINESS CLIMATE

Active assistance was provided to 169 companies, representing 10,980+ new & retained jobs, \$997.5 Million in capital investment, and 8.4 Million sq. ft. new or renovated space.

35 Voice of the Customer visits were completed in the fourth quarter of 2010, and a total of 121 were completed for the year.

The National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) Conference was attended by the RAEDC and eight RAEDC investor companies. The booth was sponsored by the RAEDC and planned in collaboration with attending companies. Each attending company reported strong lead generation as a result of attending.

The RAEDC co-organized the GE Aviation Supplier Symposium in collaboration with GE Aviation and Congressman Manzullo. Over 125 regional aerospace companies attended to have B2B meetings with GE Aviation, Woodward and other regional aerospace companies.

A grant was received by the RAEDC to implement an Illinois SBDC International Trade Center through Rock Valley College, leveraging current international initiatives to receive additional funding to provide one on one export consulting to regional companies.

The fourth quarter Manufacturing Coffee Talk with Mayor Larry Morrissey was hosted at Anderson Packaging. It was attended by 71 people from 42 companies. This event included a presentation for resources available to manufacturers, including remarks from EIGERlab, the Workforce Investment Board, and NIU.

TARGETED MARKETING & RECRUITMENT

A community-wide effort was established to attract Embry-Riddle. This includes an extensive amount of branding, marketing materials, focus groups, GIS data development, research compiling and analysis, development of www.RockTheAir.com, and more.

The RAEDC had 88 media hits this quarter. Over 9,000 website hits were received in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Staff updated websites for the RAEDC, MyEDD, 2010 International Bioenergy Days, Rockford Global Green Cooperative Initiative, and EIGERlab, as well as updating social media networks for the RAEDC and MyEDD. Additionally, eBlasts for each targeted industry and eNewsletters were standardized and templates were created.

WORLD CLASS BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE

In cooperation with the BA Committee and RAEDC Investor communities, staff is compiling a list of industrial development and redevelopment sites throughout Winnebago and Boone Counties. The property/site list will be prioritized and converted into a call list. Once more detailed information is determined, action plans can be developed to 1) extend needed infrastructure, 2) extend development incentives and 3) market the property.

RREDD staff is working with its CEDS Strategy Committee to update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Boone and Winnebago Counties. This will help shape the priorities and the scope of work for 2011.

Staff has been collaborating with RMAP to prepare for the start of the Regional Sustainability Planning Process in early 2011. This includes hiring three interns for the Rockford Region Vital Signs project to understand the economic impact of 18 different areas of sustainability.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

A \$1 Million HUD grant was awarded to develop the area's first Regional Sustainability Plan. A joint program through the EPA, HUD, and DOT coordinated with RMAP and Housing Authorities. Proposal includes funding for the Rockford Region Vital Signs. Only 45 communities in the Country were awarded grants.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

The Rockforward! Leadership Council has committed \$75,000 of the 2011 Emerging Opportunities Fund to be sure every opportunity is covered in the attempt to secure Embry-Riddle.

The Rockforward! Leadership Council was given the opportunity to tour CICS-Patriots Charter School in October. In 2008, \$50,000 of the Emerging Opportunities Fund was invested in the Charter School Initiative and the tour showed how this investment was used.

2010 PROJECTS WON

Advanced Heat Treat: invested \$550,000 in a 22,000 sq. ft. expansion, 10 jobs committed.

American Bentonite International: a kitty litter plant invested \$1 Million in a 100,000 sq. ft. facility, with 10 jobs committed.

The Connection: call center with a variety of clients in Loves Park. Up to 450 jobs committed.

Davi: an industrial machine manufacturer invested \$1 Million in a 20,000 sq. ft. facility, with 10 jobs committed.

Ewikon Molding Technologies: acquired a 9,000 sq. ft. facility

Gleason Cutting Tools: expanded machining lines in Rockford as its parent company closes plant in England. 20-25 jobs committed.

Gunite Corporation: completed a 50,000 sq. ft. renovation consolidating from IN its primary foundry operations to Rockford. 100 jobs committed.

Haldex Hydraulic Systems: consolidated operations from NC to provide customers with one point of contact for customer service, applications support, engineering, quality and logistics. 31 jobs committed.

Harrison Harmonicas: a start-up that manufactures the only harmonica made in the USA, invested \$500,000, 5 jobs committed.

Ingersoll Machine Tools: invested \$5 Million in a 120,000 sq. ft. expansion for a wind power project. Up to 200 jobs committed.

Peoria Interior Company: a furniture warehousing company, invested \$75,000 in a 10,000 sq. ft. facility, 25 jobs committed.

Phoenix University: established a 5,000 sq. ft. education facility, with 15 jobs committed; a \$1 Million investment.

Pyramid Plastics: expanded its facility by 50,000 sq. ft. with a total of up to 30 additional jobs.

Quest Global: opened a 5,000 sq. ft. office for engineering support services with a total of 50 jobs and an investment of \$1 Million.

Ring Container: invested \$7.4 Million in an 8,000 sq. ft. facility expansion.

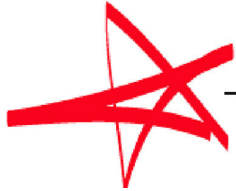
Rockford Drop Forge: invested \$1 Million in renovations to prepare space for new equipment & vacate a public street. 15 jobs committed.

Rotary Concepts: relocation from Janesville, WI brought \$1 Million investment in 10,000 sq. ft. facility specializing in filling and sealing equipment for food service industry. 15 jobs committed.

SEC Group Inc: opened new 5,000 sq. ft. engineering office in Rockford. 12 jobs committed.

UPS: embarked on modernization program with support from the State of Illinois for its Rockford and Hodgkins facilities helping to stabilize approximately 500 jobs in our region.

Woodward: broke ground on 2008 announcement to build a \$21.2 Million, 47,700 sq. ft. engine systems test facility.



2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

Manufacturing Coffee Talk, February 22
First Quarter Investor Event, February 23

April

Go-Global IV, April 12-13
Second Quarter Investor Event, April 13

May

Manufacturing Coffee Talk, May 24

August

Manufacturing Coffee Talk, August 23

November

Manufacturing Coffee Talk, November 29
Annual Meeting & Dinner, November 30

Additional information on these events can be found at: www.rockfordil.com



Rockford is perfect for Embry-Riddle, Embry-Riddle is perfect for Rockford.

You Can Make a Difference In Bringing Embry-Riddle to Rockford

In partnership with the Rockford Area Economic Development Council, the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is challenging the regional community to build a \$1 million endowed scholarship fund to encourage Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to choose Rockford as a site for a residential campus. If Embry-Riddle decides to make Rockford its home, the endowed scholarship fund will be used each year to attract students from the Midwest region to Embry-Riddle's Rockford campus.

The presence of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Rockford means millions of dollars of economic growth to the regional area – more jobs, more money, and more people. Make your pledge now! All pledges are being counted toward the scholarship total with the goal of \$1 million. The sooner the goal is reached, the stronger the statement to Embry-Riddle. According to Ken Dufour, Rockford-based owner of Aviation Management and Embry-Riddle Trustee, "this scholarship fund might just be the game-changer."

To make a pledge, or to see others who have supported this campaign, go to www.cfnil.org.