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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Pittsburgh Regional Alliance Partnership is Selected as One of the Nation's Top 10
Economic Development Organizations**

*Recognition from Leading Commercial Real Estate Publication Validates the Pittsburgh Region's
Economic Development Momentum*

(PITTSBURGH – May 4, 2009) – The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA) Partnership has been named one of the nation's Top 10 economic development organizations by [Site Selection](#) magazine. This distinction is based on its performance last year across a range of criteria including total capital investment in the region, total jobs created, the contributions of regional economic development partners toward the attainment of these numbers, overall economic vitality scope of economic strength, diversity of industry and ability to generate breakthrough deals.

In line with *Site Selection's* own criteria for a top economic development organization, the PRA's inventory included \$4+ billion in capital investments and 290 corporate expansion, relocation and development projects. These projects are expected to create, over time, 13,208 new jobs for the Pittsburgh region and will retain 17,047 jobs—representing total employment impact of more than 30,000 jobs.

The PRA is the 10-county Pittsburgh region's public-private economic development partnership that markets southwestern Pennsylvania and is supported and staffed by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. Recently, the PRA Partnership announced its annual inventory of regional economic development deals, or "wins," and 2008—despite the economic downturn—was a noteworthy year for the region.

"The PRA is proud to contribute to the positive momentum that propels economic development in southwestern Pennsylvania. We're especially proud that our region can experience such momentum in spite of an economic crisis which has hit hard in many cities and regions across the country," said PRA President Dewitt Peart. "Our success is possible because of the efforts of the 50 organizations, representing southwestern Pennsylvania's economic development community, that comprise the PRA Partnership. *Site Selection's* ranking is a testimony to the fact that collectively we can achieve far more than any of our organizations would individually. Together we are demonstrating—to the nation and to the world—that southwestern Pennsylvania is a great place to do business. We are creating an environment here that supports business investment, job creation and prosperity."

"Pittsburgh profits from its diverse economy," said Allegheny Conference on Community Development CEO Dennis Yablonsky. "We capitalize on the region's key industry sectors—information technology, life sciences and advanced manufacturing. In these sectors, our technical expertise, human capital and innovation distinguish us from competitor regions. At the same time, we are positioning ourselves to be a leader in the energy sector, where the region has the innovation, natural and business assets to be a leader."

- MORE -

Page 2 – PRA is Named Top Economic Development Organization by *Site Selection*

During 2008, the region continued its emergence as an energy industry hub. Westinghouse Electric, one of Pittsburgh's historical industrial giants, continues to erect its 800,000-plus SF headquarters, which will make the Pittsburgh region the epicenter of the global commercial nuclear power industry. Beyond nuclear power, nine companies—primarily natural gas exploration and services—established operations in the region last year. Companies manufacturing for and supplying to the energy industry, including alternative energy, were among last year's wins in this emerging sector. They include Converteam, Elliott Co., Holtec Manufacturing and Plextronics.

Further underscoring the region's economic development momentum, which got the attention of *Site Selection*, Pittsburgh also ranked as No. 9 in the top 10 large cities categorized by *fDi* in its [North American Cities of the Future report](#). In the same report, Pittsburgh ranked in the top 5 in the following categories for large cities: best human resources (No. 2); best foreign direct investment strategy (No. 4); and largest number post-secondary students (No. 2).

The PRA markets the benefits of conducting business in southwestern Pennsylvania to companies worldwide that are growing, relocating or expanding. The organization also supports the growth of existing regional employers. PRA economic development professionals tailor their project management services to meet individual needs and serve as central points of contact for companies looking to locate or expand in the region. The PRA's one-stop project management offerings include site selection assistance, market research and analysis, and access to information on financial assistance.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A list of all the PRA partners is available [here](#).

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The **Pittsburgh Regional Alliance**, an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, markets the benefits of conducting business in southwestern Pennsylvania to companies all over the world that are growing, relocating or expanding. For more information, visit www.pittsburghregion.org.

The **Allegheny Conference on Community Development and Affiliates** – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.alleghenyconference.org.