

Contact: Philip Cynar
Pittsburgh Regional Alliance
412-281-4783, ext. 4573
pcynar@pittsburghregion.org

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

For a Third Consecutive Year, Recognition from Leading Commercial Real Estate Publication Validates the Pittsburgh Region's Economic Development Momentum

(PITTSBURGH – April 26, 2010) – The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA) Partnership has been named one of the nation's Top 10 economic development groups by [Site Selection](#) magazine. This distinction is based on its performance in 2009 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.

An affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, the PRA is the 10-county Pittsburgh region's public-private economic development partnership that markets the benefits of conducting business in southwestern Pennsylvania to companies worldwide that are growing, relocating or expanding. Recently, the PRA Partnership announced its own annual inventory of regional economic development deals, or "wins", and 2009 was a respectable year for the region, despite one of the deepest economic downturns in history.

In line with *Site Selection's* own criteria for a top economic development organization, the PRA's inventory of regional economic development projects included \$3 billion in capital investments and 197 corporate expansion, relocation and development projects. These projects are expected to create, over time, 7,238 new jobs for the Pittsburgh region and will retain 8,683 jobs—representing total employment impact of approximately 16,000 jobs.

"Positive economic development momentum is continuing in the Pittsburgh region because of the resilient efforts of the PRA Partnership, 50-plus organizations representing the region's economic development community," said PRA President Dewitt Peart. "*Site Selection's* ranking testifies to the fact that collectively we can achieve more than any of our organizations would individually.

"The Pittsburgh region has a balanced, diversified economy that has continued to perform even when the going is tough," said Allegheny Conference on Community Development CEO Dennis Yablonsky. "Investing in the Pittsburgh region opens doors to unique opportunities across a growing and diverse portfolio of industries including advanced manufacturing, financial and business services, energy, health care and life sciences, and information and communications technology. World-class expertise spanning government, business and academia is available to tap, and Pittsburgh's community of thinkers and doers is accessible and open to forging collaborations that breed success. The PRA partners are playing to these unique regional strengths, as well as to our highly qualified workforce and exceptional quality of place, and continue to attract business investment, industry expansion and job growth to the Pittsburgh region," said Yablonsky.

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During 2009, the region saw approximately 75 percent of business investment wins in its five key industry sectors. The largest number of wins, 46, was in advanced manufacturing, underscoring that sector's vitality. Energy, which cuts across a number of industry sectors, accounted for 44 wins. Wins in the energy sector reinforce the region's dominance in traditional and renewable energy sources, as well as conservation and distributions systems. Opportunities presented by the Marcellus Shale natural gas play continued to drive this sector, attracting 24 company investments. Notably, 16 of these 24 investments were attractions or relocations of companies into the Pittsburgh region.

Additionally, the Pittsburgh region continued to excel in attracting sought-after corporate and regional headquarters projects. Among the corporations constructing, expanding or relocating headquarters operations in the region during 2009 were American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.; Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation; Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.; Education Management Corporation; Fenner Dunlop Americas; First Niagara; Taggart Global; Talisman Energy; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.; and Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC. "These headquarters investments are a vote of confidence from the corporate community for our region and its assets including plentiful, affordable corporate sites; relatively low cost of doing business; and an educated, ample workforce with the financial and business service skills required to run headquarters operations," said the Allegheny Conference's Dennis Yablonsky.

In addition to marketing the Pittsburgh region to companies in other parts of the U.S. and abroad, the PRA 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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For more information about **The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance**, 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.