

Spring 2009

www.austinchamber.com

INVESTOR REPORT

Opportunity Austin. A Central Texas Business Initiative.



Austin

Chamber of Commerce

Opportunity Austin

Austin Designing Energy Systems of the Future

Austin is one of the most progressive cities in the U.S. and infamous for its high-quality of life, live music scene, entrepreneurial spirit and strong commitment to the environment. Working to continue its search for greener alternatives, Austin has implemented the "Pecan Street Project," a collaborative effort to change the way we look at energy distribution.

The landmark project is an idea shared by the City of Austin, Austin Energy, the University of Texas, the Austin Chamber of Commerce, and the Environmental Defense Fund. With the hopes of designing energy systems of the future, these organizations are working together to develop the infrastructure and technology needed to move the city's utilities into a more efficient and decentralized direction. Important to the success of the project is the collaboration to gain stimulus funding from the Department of Energy.

While Austin has been considered one of the most earth-friendly communities in the U.S. for a number of years now, this new-age urban energy system will no doubt help the city to maintain its reputation.



Forbes Ranks Austin Among Best Places for Business and Careers



In a recent March story, Forbes.com ranked Austin No. 8 on the list of Best Places for Business and Careers. This year Austin jumped 39 spots compared to last year's rank of No. 47. The study explored 200 metropolitan cities and examined each on 11 different criteria. Factors such as subprime mortgages, job growth over the past five years and employment projections for 2011 played a major role in improving the city's status.

Cities in front of Austin included Raleigh, N.C., Fayetteville, Ark. and Lincoln, Neb. While no metropolis can escape damages of the current recession, this study is a good indicator of the ones expected to turn around the quickest.

Green Task Force to Amplify Opportunity Austin Efforts

The Austin Chamber is currently facilitating the organization of a comprehensive economic development plan surrounding the clean technology industry sector. Leveraging targeted strengths, the Chamber's goal is to grow a cluster of clean energy technology companies that complement and leverage the strength of regional technology expertise.

Under the direction of Jack McDonald, Vice Chair for Technology and Chairman of the AusTech Alliance, a Green Collar Job Task Force will coordinate regional workforce training issues for the Austin-Round Rock MSA around the numerous opportunities in the renewable and clean energy sectors.

The proposed goal of this program is to train and/or retrain up to 25,000 Central Texas residents over 10 years for "green collar jobs" to complement the economic development attraction targets and existing industry base in the region and assist with re-employment of the approximately 55,000 Central Texas workers currently unemployed (March 09).

Austin and Texas in the News

Austin-Round Rock No. 1 Big City for Jobs. Job growth between 2004 and 2008 was a whopping 14.8 percent and between 2007 and 2008, overall growth remained in the black. Job growth stagnated in 2008, but avoiding net losses was enough to propel this city to the top of the list.
(New Geography, 4/15/09)

Texas tops in production of wind power. Year-end numbers show Texas leading in wind capacity and largest wind farms installed (6 of the nation's top 10). Texas installed the largest amount of new capacity in 2008, moving it into a league of its own. More new wind capacity was added in Texas than in any country except China and the U.S.
(American Wind Energy Association, 4/13/09)

Texas voted best for business. Texas was ranked No. 1 on the magazine's list, based on surveys done by 543 CEOs, for the fourth straight year.
(Chief Executive, 3/25/09)

Texas is America's top exporter. For the seventh year in a row, Texas is the top exporter in the country. Part of the state's success on the exporting front is attributed to predictable business regulations and low taxes.
(Austin Business Journal, 2/12/09)



Washington, D.C. Federal Advocacy Initiative

Join fellow regional leaders June 15 to 17 to learn from and interact with industry experts and advocate for issues important to the Central Texas business community on Capitol Hill.

Register to vsega@austinchamber.com no later than June 3.

IndyMac Bank Announces Austin Expansion

Austin is first among the top fifty metros for job growth, largely due to expansions from existing businesses. IndyMac Bank is the latest to announce plans to expand the local workforce.

Currently IndyMac Bank, acquired last year by OneWest Bank Group, employs 800 Central Texans and has made plans for an additional 300 jobs through the end of 2009 with another increase of 300 jobs by the end of 2010.

This announcement by IndyMac Bank on its new projected growth in Austin is critical to the Opportunity Austin effort to diversify and expand the economy and speaks volumes to the level of talent in our region's workforce.

Red Oxygen Relocating American Headquarters

Red Oxygen
Chose Austin
as American
Headquarters

The Austin Chamber and Opportunity Austin recently announced that Red Oxygen, one of the leading developers and distributors of Enterprise Text messaging software applications and services, has made plans to open their American Headquarters in Austin.

In the process of launching their new 2,000 square-foot facility near downtown, Red Oxygen plans to create 10 to 12 new high-paying jobs for Austinites. The average office salary of \$50,000 will provide excellent employment opportunities and take-home pay for Central Texans.

Analogix Selected As Texas Emerging Technology Fund Recipient



The Chamber and the Central Texas Regional Center of Innovation and Commercialization (CenTex RCIC) announced that the state of Texas has chosen Analogix Development Corporation (dba Axelo Inc.) as the recipient of an award funded through the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (ETF). This company, which has produced the first natural movement 3-D game controller for the PC and gaming markets, will receive a \$250,000 pre-seed project award for the commercialization of its motion sensing technology.

"In tough economic times, it's more important than ever that government and industry work together to create high-paying jobs here at home and keep Texas on the cutting edge of technology," said Jack McDonald, Chairman and CEO of Perficient, Inc. and CenTex RCIC Chair. "We're pleased to announce this investment in Analogix as another step in our plan to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in Central Texas and build a leading position in the gaming industry."

Opportunity Austin Welcomes CyrusOne Data Center to Austin

Opportunity Austin recently announced that CyrusOne, a leader in high-availability, high-density data center services, plans to open a new 50,000 square-foot data center in located in Austin's premier data center business park, The MetCenter.

"We are excited about CyrusOne's decision to invest in Austin by locating its next data center in Central Texas," said Gary Farmer, Chair, Opportunity Austin and President, Heritage Title Company. "The addition of CyrusOne's uniquely designed facility is a great fit for Opportunity Austin's strategy to develop a high tech environment for existing local business as well as those entering the Austin market."

Unlike any provider in Austin, CyrusOne will provide its typical high power densities, fully redundant colocation services that are engineered in a 2N configuration for power and cooling. Disaster recovery and business continuity services in the Austin site will be available immediately, while data center space will come online third quarter of 2009.

Michael W. Rollins, CCE
President, Austin Chamber of Commerce
210 Barton Springs Road, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78704
tel: 512.322.5615 fax: 512.478.9615
email: mrollins@austinchamber.com
www.austinchamber.com



Relocations

- Batter Blaster**
17 jobs; San Francisco, CA
- CyrusOne**
50,000 sf; Houston, TX
- Red Oxygen**
12 jobs; Brisbane, Australia
- SmartSpark Energy Systems**
20 jobs; Champaign, IL

Expansions

- BAE Systems**
25 jobs; 33,000 sf; Austin
- Gerson Lehrman Group**
50 jobs; 10,000 sf; Austin
- Integrated Bank Technology**
17 jobs; 4,000 sf; Cedar Park
- On-X Life Technologies**
6 jobs; 20,000 sf; Austin
- Sony Online Entertainment**
13,500 sf; Austin
- St. Jude Medical**
20,000 sf; Austin
- Touch International**
100 jobs; Austin

PROSPECT ACTIVITY (2009: January to March)

Serious relocation inquiries

434

Prospect visits

51

Total actual
company
relocations

3

434 companies have worked with Opportunity Austin on potential relocations to the region.

51 prospects have visited with the assistance of Opportunity Austin.

3 relocations have been announced.