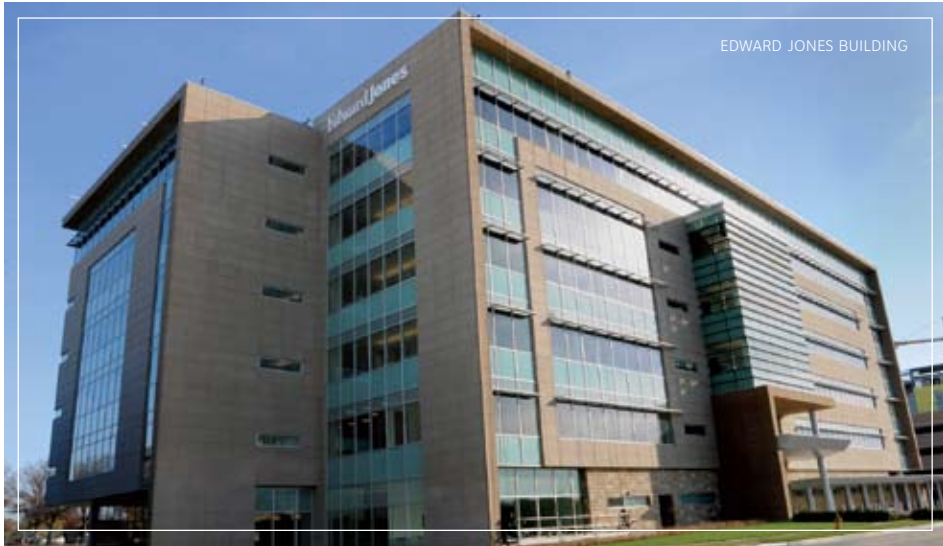


**“Edward Jones is thriving in St. Louis.
These are very exciting times for our company and our hometown.”**

James D. Weddle, managing partner of Edward Jones

EDWARD JONES CONSIDERS ST. LOUIS REGION A GOOD INVESTMENT FIRM EXPANDS TWO LOCATIONS IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY



EDWARD JONES BUILDING

www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones

in the U.S., Canada and the U.K. Edward Jones is on track to add 500 new positions in St. Louis County by 2011, and 1,000 by 2016, as it continues to expand its financial advisor network.

The new facilities will provide the professional work environment that the additional associates will require. “We have clear goals to grow to 17,500 financial advisors over the next five years, enabling us to increase the number of individual clients served from six million to more than twice that,” says James D. Weddle, managing partner of Edward Jones. The growing number of associates in St. Louis will support this vast and expanding network.

The growth is further proof that St. Louis maintains its position, established years ago, as an important retail investment center. With several large investment firms in the area (including Edward Jones, Wachovia Securities, Stifel Nicholas and Scottrade), St. Louis has one of the largest concentrations of brokerage firms and talent in the country outside of New York.

With an investment of approximately \$260 million, Edward Jones, a financial-services company specializing in individual investors, is expanding operations at two locations in the St. Louis area, creating hundreds of new jobs and additional office space.

The first building completed as part of the development was dedicated Nov. 3, 2008, in Maryland Heights, Mo. and creates approximately 200,000 square feet of new office space and a parking garage. One additional building totaling approximately 372,000 square feet is under construction and scheduled to be complete in September 2009.

Plans allow for the construction of up to six more buildings in subsequent phases for the Maryland Heights campus.

Additional expansion is under way in Des Peres, Mo., where the firm’s headquarters functions are located. Targeted for completion by late 2009, the expansion will increase the size of the existing headquarters building, adding 225,000 square feet of office space and a parking structure.

All of the expansions are required to support anticipated continued growth of the firm that currently has more than 12,000 financial advisors in nearly 11,000 branch offices

A Quick Look AT ST. LOUIS

The St. Louis region is one of the top locations for corporate headquarters in the nation, including 12 of America’s Largest Private Companies.

Forbes “America’s Largest Private Companies”

Enterprise Rent-A-Car	(21)
Graybar Electric Company, Inc.	(63)
Edward Jones	(94)
McCarthy Building Cos.	(143)
Schnuck Markets Inc.	(170)
World Wide Technology Inc.	(173)
UniGroup, Inc.	(209)
Apex Oil Co.	(256)
Maritz Inc.	(314)
Barry-Wehmiller Companies	(385)
Alberici Corp.	(400)
Kellwood Corp.	(437)

Source: *Forbes*, November 3, 2008.

ST. LOUIS REGION WINS 2008 ALL-AMERICA CITY AWARD

AWARD IS CONSIDERED THE “OSCAR” OF COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FOR CIVIC PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT



The St. Louis region won the 2008 All-America City Award, presented by the Denver-based National Civic League. St. Louis was the only “region” to make the finalist group from among the nominees, and the only metro region in the nation to be designated an All-America City this year.

“Being recognized as a region that is building a stronger community by tackling challenges through collaboration, inclusiveness, and innovation underscores the theme of our region’s branding effort, **“St. Louis: Perfectly Centered. Remarkably Connected.”** said Richard C.D. Fleming, president and chief executive officer, St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association, which led the effort.

Over 100 communities submitted applications for the All-America City Award. St. Louis was one of 10 designated as an All-America City this year. The St. Louis region’s nomination and presentation focused on the revitalizing of the region’s central city, connecting the region through trails and parks, and empowering the region’s youth to succeed through an innovative arts and entrepreneurial program.

ST. LOUIS CENTRAL TO EMERSON’S GLOBAL DATA NETWORK \$60 MILLION LEED-CERTIFIED HUB ONE OF FOUR IN THE WORLD

Emerson (NYSE: EMR), a Fortune 500 global manufacturing and technology company, is building a state-of-the-art, \$60 million, 35,000-square-foot data center at the company’s headquarters campus. The facility, which is anticipated to open next summer, will support Emerson’s worldwide network of manufacturing and engineering operations, enhance business efficiency, improve productivity and further strengthen network security.

The company’s North St. Louis County world headquarters is one of four sites participating in Emerson’s consolidation of 100 data centers from around the world. The new data center will use the latest technologies from a division of Emerson, Emerson Network Power and its brands, including Aperture, ASCO, Knurr and Liebert. In addition to being the company’s flagship data center, it also will serve as a showcase for Emerson customers facing the same IT challenge: how to be energy efficient while achieving 100 percent reliability 24/7.

Utilizing additional eco-friendly features such as natural daylight and a reduced footprint, the new facility also will use 17.5 percent less energy per year and qualifies for LEED Silver certification. It also will feature



ARCHITECTS’ RENDERING OF EMERSON’S DATA CENTER

solar panels on the roof of the building to provide more power.

Emerson Network Power provides innovative solutions and expertise in areas including AC and DC power and precision cooling systems, embedded computing and power, integrated racks and enclosures, power switching and controls, monitoring, and connectivity.

Due to the St. Louis area’s available telecom infrastructure, affordable energy and high-quality commercial real estate, St. Louis is becoming an established hub for mission-critical data centers. Numerous companies

have recently built large data centers in the area including MasterCard, Scottrade and Monsanto.

www.emerson.com



NATIONAL NEWS

“...St. Louis was the only winning region. And its victory says something significant about America today: Recovered and triumphant downtowns—provided there’s visionary local leadership—are on a roll.”

“St. Louis: After 52 Years, “All-America City Again.” Neal Peirce of *The Washington Post*, June 22, 2008.

“St. Louis is a great place to settle because it’s not overbuilt and is reasonably priced relative to income. Thanks to the attractive cost of living, many large corporations—including brewing behemoth Anheuser-Busch and financial heavies Stifel Nicolaus and Edward Jones—call St. Louis home.”

“Best Cities To Buy A Home,” *Forbes.com*, July 14, 2008.



BIOENERGY GIANT ABENGOA BUILDING \$200 MILLION ETHANOL FACILITY

PLANT TO PRODUCE 88 MILLION GALLONS OF ETHANOL ANNUALLY

St. Louis-based Abengoa Bioenergy, a worldwide leader in ethanol production, is building a state-of-the-art facility, valued at over \$200 million, for the production of commercial ethanol at the Tri-City Port District in Madison County, Ill., five miles from downtown St. Louis. Expected to be fully operational by the end of 2009, the plant is designed to produce 88 million gallons of ethanol annually.

“This facility will be one more significant step for the United States in its quest to achieve energy independence and benefit the environment at the same time,” said Javier Salgado, president and chief executive officer of Abengoa Bioenergy. The company will add 60 permanent positions to the area’s workforce.

Abengoa Bioenergy, a division of the Spanish company, Abengoa SA, is the largest European ethanol producer and one of the largest in the United States. Abengoa is a technology company with a presence in more than 70 countries where it operates with its five business units: Solar, Bioenergy, Environmental Services, Information Technology, and Industrial Engineering and Construction. Abengoa Bioenergy’s headquarters is located in the city of Chesterfield, St. Louis County, Mo.

www.abengoabioenergy.com

ABENGOA BIOENERGY

HONEY BUNCHES OF OATS IS SWEET ON ST. LOUIS ST. LOUIS-BASED RALCORP ACQUIRES POST CEREAL

With the recent acquisition of the Post ready-to-eat cereal business, the country’s third-largest cereal manufacturer, St. Louis-based Ralcorp (NYSE: RAH) plans to add as many as 80 new jobs within 15 months to support the brands. This is over and above the 50 jobs added thus far in 2008.

Since the company spun off from Ralston Purina (now Nestlé Purina PetCare) 10 years

ago, Ralcorp has added \$1 billion in sales through 19 transactions. The Post deal will increase Ralcorp’s revenue by 50 percent from about \$2.2 billion a year to \$3.3 billion with Post cereals accounting for about 32 percent of total sales. “Post was part of a huge operation. We hope to release creativity and bring focus to this specific product category,” says David Skarie, co-chief executive and president of Ralcorp.

The Post Brand portfolio includes iconic names such as Grape-Nuts, Alpha-Bits, Shredded Wheat and Honey Bunches of Oats. The new positions in St. Louis will provide

administrative support functions for the brands. In addition to branded and private label ready-to-eat cereals, Ralcorp’s diversified product mix includes cereal bars, snack mixes, crackers and cookies and breakfast foods. Their headquarters is located in downtown St. Louis.



www.ralcorp.com

AIR PRODUCTS TO BUILD PRODUCTION FACILITY FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE MEMBRANE PRODUCTS

NEW FACILITY IN ST. CHARLES WILL CREATE 100 NEW JOBS

Pennsylvania-based Air Products (NYSE: APD), the worldwide leader in production of gas separation and purification membranes, is constructing a new production plant in Fountain Lakes Commerce Center in the city of St. Charles, St. Charles County, Mo. The facility will be built in two phases, with Phase I to include a 98,047-square-foot building, and Phase II incorporating a 171,790-square-foot building. Phase I will be complete by mid-2009, with Phase II on-stream in early 2010.

The new facility will increase capacity of Air Products full line of PRISM® membrane products increasing membrane output by over 50 percent. The company will add 100 jobs.

“The new facility will ensure our ability to meet the strong demand for high performance membranes. Membrane technology is being used increasingly in new and growing applications, and we will be positioned to meet that need with facilities capable of producing multiple size membrane product offerings,” said George Lewis, global business manager, Equipment Sales at Air Products.

Air Products will continue to operate its current PRISM® membrane production plant in St. Louis County, which opened in 1984 and has been expanded several times, most recently in 2007.

Founded in 1940, Air Products has built leading positions in key growth markets such as semiconductor materials, refinery hydrogen, home healthcare services, natural gas liquefaction, and advanced coatings and adhesives. With annual revenues of \$10 billion and operations in over 40 countries, Air Products employs 22,000 around the globe.

www.airproducts.com





ARCHITECT'S RENDERING OF SCHATTEDECOR PLANT

ST. LOUIS PICKED FOR DECORATIVE PAPER PRINTER'S FIRST NORTH AMERICAN PLANT
GERMANY-BASED SCHATTEDECOR PLANS \$47 MILLION INVESTMENT

Schattdecor, a German manufacturer of paper for decorative laminates, is building the company's first North American plant in Maryland Heights, St. Louis County, Mo. A global leader in the industry, Schattdecor has operated its North American sales office at the site for approximately 13 years.

"The products we produce in St. Louis will be targeted for the North American market," explains Tom Drazen, sales manager for North America. Currently, Schattdecor

imports the company's products made in Germany, Italy or China via air and ocean freight.

"Because the new manufacturing facility will be centrally-located, we will be able to ship to our clients throughout the U.S. and Canada at a greatly reduced cost." The manufacturing and printing plant will bring up to 100 new jobs to the St. Louis area, and is expected to be in full operation by early 2010.

www.schattdecor.com



DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH GUIDES UNGERBOECK'S EXPANSION

COMPANY PRESIDENT CITES ST. LOUIS WORKFORCE AS KEY



Ungerboeck Systems International, a global leader in event business management systems, is enlarging its world headquarters in Dardenne Prairie, St. Charles County, Mo. by 25,000 square feet. The expansion provides enough space for an additional 150 employees in professional services and software development. The company, which serves all sectors of the events industry, has experienced double-digit growth for the past 12 years.

The company founder and president, Dieter Ungerboeck, notes several reasons why the St. Louis area is the perfect location for his company. "The region's cost of living is reasonable, the area doesn't experience over-inflated real estate prices, and it is easy to travel in and out," Ungerboeck explains. "But for our company, the quality of the [St. Louis] labor force is the key. In order to compete without sending jobs overseas, we need a highly-educated workforce that can provide real value to our customers. Missouri colleges provide us a majority of our employees and more than 80 percent of our software developers."

www.ungerboeck.com



MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE BOASTS BEAUTIFUL VIEWS BY BIKE
NEW BIKEWAY IS PART OF 600-MILE WEB OF GREENWAYS THAT WILL CRISSCROSS THE REGION



Fisher, executive director of The Great Rivers Greenway District. "The Bikeway links residents in neighborhoods and communities to each other while providing an exciting venue to view and experience the power and majesty of the Mississippi River."

The Bikeway is part of The River Ring, an interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails that is designed to encircle the St. Louis region, enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors. Eventually, The River Ring will comprise a 600-mile web of more than 45 greenways that will crisscross the region and provide access to trail and greenway projects in Missouri and Illinois.

With the opening of the Bikeway and Trestle, St. Louis becomes one of only three cities in the world to convert a former railroad trestle into a recreational area. The other locations are New York City and Paris.

www.mepprd.org

www.greatrivers.info



Developed through a joint project of The Great Rivers Greenway District and Metro East Park and Recreation District, the McKinley Bridge Bikeway affords spectacular, unobstructed views of the St. Louis riverfront. The bridge's 2,600-foot long, 14-foot wide cantilevered lane, separated from vehicular traffic, connects the Confluence Bikeway in Illinois to the North Riverfront Trail via the 2,400-foot long Trestle at Branch Street. All together, the Bikeway and Trestle is a new 1.25 mile expanse.

"The McKinley Bridge Bikeway demonstrates the power of regional collaboration to improve transportation options for all residents of the bi-state region," says David

COVIDIEN IMPROVES 'HEALTH' OF ST. LOUIS FACILITIES
COMPANY TO INVEST \$100 MILLION IN FACILITY EXPANSION

Covidien (NYSE: COV), a leading global healthcare products company, is investing \$100 million over the next five years in two facilities in St. Louis County. The plans for the 12,000-square-foot Maryland Heights expansion include a new radiopharmaceutical production line. The facility in the city of Webster Groves will be augmented to contain a 9,000-square-foot pilot lab, allowing the company to rapidly scale up production of pharmaceutical products.

"We believe St. Louis offers a strong talent base of skilled professionals," says Timothy R. Wright, president, Covidien Pharmaceutical Products and Imaging Solutions. "We expect to take advantage of that resource by hiring locally as well as attracting people from

outside the region." Covidien may add up to 30 new jobs in research & development and science-related fields, increasing the company's more than 2,500-strong workforce in the area.

"The expansion projects Covidien is planning will strengthen our ability to remain a leader in the global healthcare market well into the future," continues Wright. "These efforts will not only benefit Covidien and its employees, but they will also have a positive impact in the communities where we operate. We have found St. Louis County to be a great place to operate and we feel strongly that we will be able to continue our long-standing position in this region."

www.covidien.com



Covidien enjoys a long history in St. Louis that dates back more than 100 years when it was first known as Mallinckrodt and then Tyco Healthcare. Today, the company maintains five facilities in St. Louis County and another two in Missouri.

GLOBAL IN VITRO DIAGNOSTICS LEADER EMBRACES ENVIRONMENT IN EXPANSION
BIOMÉRIEUX BUILDING AN ECO-FRIENDLY RESEARCH FACILITY

France-based bioMérieux, a world leader in the field of in vitro diagnostics, is investing \$9 million in the company's Hazelwood, St. Louis County, Mo. location. The company is expecting construction on the 40,000-square-foot facility to be complete by September 2009 and plans on hiring new personnel as it grows. bioMérieux currently employs 570 at its Hazelwood facilities.

The development, designed by world-renowned architect Jean Loup Patriarche, will target Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification by embracing a number of eco-friendly initiatives including natural lighting, improved insulation, altered thermostats and recycling. "The new facility is something all of us at bioMérieux are proud of," says Marc Mackowiak, president and chief executive officer of bioMérieux. "This building highlights the company's dedication to the community, its employees and the environment."

Over 60 percent of bioMérieux's \$1.5 billion worldwide revenues are generated by the products made in St. Louis, the Vitek 2 and BacT lines, which are used all over the world to identify bacteria and potential therapies. Because bacteria mutate and new or drug-resistant strains are created constantly, the need for bioMérieux's identification and diagnostic tools only increases.

The primary focus at the facility is on the development and production of automated lab systems for environmental monitoring, sterility testing,

pathogen screening, quality indicators, microbial identification, quality control organisms, microbial limits and preservative effectiveness testing.

www.biomerieux.com



ARCHITECT'S RENDERING OF BIOMÉRIEUX RESEARCH FACILITY

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION FUELS CONOCOPHILLIPS EXPANSION OF REGIONAL REFINERY
JOINT VENTURE INVESTS \$3.6 BILLION IN ST. LOUIS-AREA PLANT

In a joint venture with EnCana Corporation (TSX, NYSE: ECA) of Canada, ConocoPhillips (NYSE: COP) is investing a total of \$3.6 billion in the company's Wood River refinery in Madison County, Ill. The Coker and Refinery Expansion (CORE) project will increase the refinery's upgrading capacity and production of clean transportation fuels for the Midwest.

"The CORE project will transform Wood River into a more modern, efficient refinery

producing a high proportion of clean transportation fuels in the heart of one of North America's largest consumer markets. This refinery expansion and coker addition captures the capital and operational efficiencies of building on a well-established refinery. It will be a key component of growing our integrated oil business at a highly competitive capital cost," says Brian Ferguson, EnCana's executive vice president and chief financial officer.



The CORE project will add a 65,000 barrels-per-day coker to enable processing of heavy-duty crude oil, more than doubling capacity. It will increase clean product yield by 10 percent and create more than 1,500 new jobs. The project is expected to be fully operational by 2011.

www.conocophillips.com

AIRCRAFT SERVICES CAPABILITIES GROW WITH NEW HANGAR



MIDCOAST AVIATION COMPLETES 146,000-SQUARE-FOOT BUILDING AT ST. LOUIS DOWNTOWN AIRPORT

Midcoast Aviation has opened a new 146,000-square-foot, narrow-body aircraft hangar at the St. Louis Downtown Airport in Cahokia, St. Clair County, Ill.—expanding its service and customization capabilities to commercial-size narrow-body jets. The company can now work on and completely customize private jets made by commercial manufacturers such as Boeing and Airbus.

This increase in services will mean new jobs for the St. Louis area. "With the expansion of the hangar for small-body jets, we expect to hire up to 200 aircraft technicians and skilled craftsmen in the coming year," says Ann Hein, director of marketing and employee communications.

Midcoast provides scheduled and unscheduled maintenance service for corporate and individually-owned private jets. In addition, Midcoast custom-finishes "green" aircraft to its business and personal clients' specifications.

With roots in the St. Louis aviation industry since 1971, Midcoast Aviation is based at the St. Louis Downtown Airport, which serves the metro area and is only five minutes from downtown St. Louis.

www.midcoastaviation.com



MIDAMERICA ST. LOUIS AIRPORT LANDS ROLE AS CARGO HUB FOR LATIN AMERICA

CENTRAL U.S. LOCATION PERFECT FOR PERISHABLES, SUCH AS FRESH FLOWERS



With an initial 15-ton shipment of fresh flowers from Bogotá, Colombia, MidAmerica St. Louis Airport became a key distribution hub for Miami-based Teqflor International Logistics. Located in St. Clair County, Ill., MidAmerica has a 10,000-foot runway to serve cargo shipments.

"Eighty percent of Latin American exports are perishables and need to get to the point of sale quickly," says Manuel Aragon, partner in Teqflor International Logistics. "The MidAmerica St. Louis Airport serves as an excellent and necessary gateway to middle America regions."

MidAmerica St. Louis Airport is expected to play a role in increasing Midwestern trade with 21 different Latin American countries. The airport has been approved by Customs and Border Protection as a Port of Entry and has been secured by the Foreign Trade Zone Board for the operation of Foreign Trade Zone #31.

www.flymidamerica.com



FURNITURE BRANDS CONSOLIDATES OPERATIONS IN CLAYTON

SHARED SERVICES FUNCTIONS AT ST. LOUIS COUNTY LOCATION

Furniture Brands International (NYSE: FBN), a company with a 100-year history in St. Louis, is furthering its transition to an operating company model by consolidating shared services functions at its Clayton, St. Louis County, Mo. headquarters. The company's new world headquarters, which totals 53,500 square feet, provides 40 percent more space for up to 150 additional employees.

The parent company of well-known lines such as Broyhill, Thomasville, Lane, Drexel Heritage, Henredon and other designer brands, Furniture Brands expects to increase its local workforce to 225 employees. "Since we've enjoyed a tremendous amount of success in St. Louis over the years, it made sense for our company's future growth to consolidate financial, accounting, information technology, human resources and supply-chain functions here," says chairman and chief executive Ralph P. Scozzafava. "A centralized, shared services model will not only generate cost savings, but more importantly, promote the collaborative culture that is essential to Furniture Brand's future success."

Furniture Brands began more than 100 years ago as International Shoe Company. Today, the firm is one of the nation's leading designers, manufacturers and retailers of home furnishings.

www.furniturebrands.com



The St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association (RCGA) is the chamber of commerce and economic development organization for Greater St. Louis, which includes 16 counties in Missouri and Illinois. RCGA markets the St. Louis region nationally and internationally to attract targeted industries to the area. It further spurs economic development by aiding the expansion and startup of companies within the region.

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www.gotostlouis.org

