

Newsletter

Charlotte County
Economic Development Office



April 2008

Special Thanks to Enterprise Charlotte Foundation Premier and Major Investors:

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Charlotte Regional
Medical Center



EMBARQ



Wilson Miller

New Directions In Planning, Design & Engineering

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WACHOVIA

Arcadia Aerospace Industries

Thursday, April 17, 2008 was a fine day at Charlotte County. Not only was the weather perfect, but an important announcement was made at the Punta Gorda Airport with local dignitaries and members of the media in attendance.

Charlotte County Economic Development Office and the Charlotte County Airport Authority were very pleased to announce that Arcadia Aerospace Industries (AAI) will be opening a facility in Punta Gorda. Scheduled to open in June 2008 at the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park (ECAO), AAI will generate 28 new jobs, bring in another 32 indirect jobs, and create an economic impact of \$2.5 million in its first year.

Over the next five years the local impact is expected to exceed \$28 million. AAI em-



Arcadia Aerospace Industries Chief Operations Officer Chuck Bushman. We chose Charlotte County Airport because of the ready to use facility they had available for us. We didn't have the headaches from permitting that are associated with building a new building."



The conference room of the Punta Gorda Airport was abuzz with activity as local dignitaries and regional media attend the press conference to announce the arrival of Arcadia Aerospace Industries to Charlotte County.

employees are expected to earn between 50% to 200% above the average wage of Charlotte County.

Arcadia Aerospace Industries is building a new automated Non-Destructive Inspection (NDI) and Portable Coordinate Measurement (PCM) Facility for aerospace component manufacturers. The state-

of-the-art instrumentation and automated systems will be utilized in the structural composites marketplace.

AAI has initiated, with assistance from the Charlotte Technical Center, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and Edison College, a free training program which will provide opportunities for local residents to become certified

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Level I NDI inspectors in ultrasonics. AAI will also be able to offer clients a talented staff of engineers capable of building custom tooling and machinery for all of the company's in-house inspection applications.

The Charlotte County Economic Development Department and the Charlotte County Airport Authority have spent a significant amount of time over the last year working with AAI and its community partners, the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, Charlotte County Airport Authority Board, Enterprise Charlotte Foundation, Enterprise Florida, Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, Charlotte Technical Center, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and Edison College to bring the AAI facility to Charlotte County. Charlotte County links its recruitment efforts to the targeted industries identified by the state of Florida, of which aerospace technology is recognized as a prime candidate for positive economic impact.

Florida ranks as the 4th largest cyber-state for high-technology employment; 3rd largest state of high-tech companies and the 3rd largest exporter of high-tech goods and services. Florida has a robust base of technology-driven business, with 21,021 high-tech companies employing 276,358 high-tech, high-skilled workers.

ADT Arrives in Charlotte County

In March of this year, another business chose to make Charlotte County their new home. ADT, America's number one security company, consolidated its regional presence into its newly expanded Charlotte County facility. Once fully staffed, ADT will employ 130 employees, which will indirectly create another 45 indirect jobs and incremental value added to the local economy, bringing the total economic impact to approximately \$15.5M annually.

The Charlotte County Economic Development Office continues to work on its mission to recruit high skill, high wage jobs in order to diversify the economy and increase the tax base.



They are going to be a great company for the airport," said Don Root, Charlotte County's Economic Development Director, "there will be a lot of companies that will need the services of Arcadia Aerospace."