

SITE Selection

March 2005

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The 2004 Governor's Cup

**Gov. Rick Perry Claims
The Top Development Trophy
For Texas**

*Top Metros,
'Micropolitans'
and Industries*

*The Cost of
Sarbanes-Oxley
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2004
Governor's Cup
State of Texas
New and Expanded Facilities Champion
Presented by
Site Selection Magazine
February 2005

**Area Focus: Atlantic Canada, Northeast Region, New Mexico,
Illinois, South Carolina, Maryland, Mississippi River Corridor**

Texas'

Turn

The Governor's Cup returns to the Lone Star State, which demonstrated in 2004 what happens when a state has the right tools to compete.

by **MARK AREND**

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As if to underscore its claim to the 2004 Governor's Cup, Texas ended the calendar year with a December new-jobs announcement that dwarfs the number of jobs associated with any of the more than 660 qualifying projects that won the state the award. Countrywide Financial will add 7,500 employees to its payroll in the state, mostly at its operation in Richardson, which as part of the Dallas-Ft. Worth metro area enjoys top billing as a 2004 Top Metro (see page 154). And January 2005 saw a 1,600-job, US\$100-million investment from Tyson Foods for a meat-packing plant in Sherman.

Site Selection publisher Conway Data, Inc., has been tracking business expansion activity for more than 40 years. The Governor's Cup and other awards bestowed by the magazine are determined by the number of qualified projects logged into Conway Data's New Plant database. Qualifying projects involve a capital investment of at least \$1 million, create 50 or more jobs or involve new floor space of at least 20,000 square feet (1,860 sq. m.).

Texas lured enough such projects, large and small, in 2004 to bring the Governor's Cup back to the South after several years of Midwestern winners. Texas last won in 1992, when it shared the prize with North Carolina, but the Lone Star State is no stranger to back-to-back individual wins with a three-peat occurring in 1980, '81 and '82 (see the historical chart on page 3). At the rate Texas is racking up new facilities lately, and with a business climate ranked first in the U.S. by this publication (see the November 2004 cover story), it could happen again.

The Deal Clincher

Central to Texas' ability to lure projects is the \$295-million Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF) authorized by the legislature in 2003 to help seal deals that might have gone elsewhere. More than \$200 million of the fund has been spent so far, resulting in more than 22,000 new jobs at Texas Instruments, Countrywide Financial and numerous other projects, including the new Tyson Foods plant.

"The clincher on that project was the Enterprise Fund," says Gov. Rick Perry. "We had some stiff competition from Durant, Oklahoma, just across the border. We enjoy beating Oklahoma from time to time



Photo: © 2005 Bob Daemmrich Photo, Inc., Austin, Texas.

— we're having a hard time doing that on the football field, so we'll have to do it on the economic development front."

The governor has asked the current legislature to raise the TEF allocation to \$300 million to give him the tools needed to deliver job growth. But there are other arrows in his quiver, and the legislature itself deserves some credit, says the governor. "The legislature demonstrated disciplined fiscal responsibility in dealing with the 2003 budget, where we faced a \$10-billion budget deficit. Rather than take the easy way out by raising taxes and telling people it was too big a deficit to deal with solely by reducing spending, we didn't do that. I share that fiscal restraint with the lieutenant governor, David Dewhurst, and the Speaker, Tom Craddick, and with their leadership. It was a team effort of people who are committed fiscal conservatives. Texas is a textbook example of growing your way to prosperity," he notes. "You do not tax your way to prosperity."

A focus on education yields a skilled work force, and despite the budget deficit, the legislature allocated over \$1 billion in new funding to public schools, notes the governor. "That, coupled with the restraint on spending, sent a real message to the business community that not only do we get it from the standpoint of tax policy, but we also get it by continuing to support a skilled work force in the state."

Texas' regulatory climate is fair and balanced, he adds, pointing to passage in 2003 of a tort reform bill. "That bill is now perceived to be a national model

2004 Top 10 States

By Number of Projects

Rank	State	Count
1	Texas	668
2	Michigan	653
3	Ohio	620
4	New York	517
5	Illinois	356
6	California	355
T7	Georgia	319
T7	Pennsylvania	319
9	North Carolina	301
10	Virginia	273

Source: Conway Data, Inc.'s New Plant Database

Lone Star Dynasty

Over 27 years, Texas proves its dominance in *Site Selection* Governor's Cup

Texas is known for producing dynasties — the Dallas Cowboys of the 1990s, presidents and governors named Bush, the Hunt family, and the Ewings of TV fame, just to name a few.

But the biggest dynasty of all may be the Lone Star State itself. By claiming the *Site Selection* Governor's Cup for 2004, Texas became the all-time leader in Cup titles in the 27-year history of the corporate project competition.

Since 1978, Texas has claimed the Cup a record six times — in 1978, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1992 and 2004 — beating out five-time winners Michigan and Florida. Adding to its dominance is the fact that Texas placed second on five occasions, third six times, and fourth one time. Since 1978, Texas has finished in the Top Ten Governor's Cup ranking more than any other state — a record 26 times.

But Texas isn't the only state with an impressive track record of corporate facility performance. Florida and Michigan took turns flexing their muscle in the 1980s and 1990s. Florida won its five titles from 1986 to 1991. Michigan claimed its five No. 1 new plant rankings from 1997 to 2001.

Other dynasties of the past 27 years include Ohio, with four titles between 1993 and 2003, and California, with three titles between 1984 and 1987. The other multiple winner is North Carolina, which shared the No. 1 ranking with Texas in 1992 and won a title outright in 1996.

A check of the *Site Selection* archives shows that Texas has a history of securing large projects. In 1992, the Lone Star State landed **Koch Industries'** \$600-million expansion of its Corpus Christi refinery and **Temple-Inland Forest Products'** \$500-million expansion of its Evadale paperboard mill.

Shervin Freed, then a vice president with consulting firm A.T. Kearney in Chicago, was quoted in the February 1993 issue of *Site Selection* as saying, "Texas' proximity to growing Southwest markets, and especially to California, is a real plus. Of course, Texas is in an excellent position to take advantage of NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) in the future."

Judging from Texas' run of success in corporate project activity, Freed turned out to be a prophet.

— Ron Starner



GOVERNOR'S CUP HISTORY

Site Selection New Plant Winners

Year	No. 1 State	Total projects
1978	Texas	345
1979	Pennsylvania	226
1980	Texas	374
1981	Texas	619
1982	Texas	351
1983	New York	260
1984	California	412
1985	California	584
1986	Florida	248
1987	California	264
1988	Florida	335
1989	Florida	434
1990	Florida	394
1991	Florida	281
1992	Texas/North Carolina	405
1993	Ohio	669
1994	Ohio	911
1995	Ohio	888
1996	North Carolina	915
1997	Michigan	1,285
1998	Michigan	1,722
1999	Michigan	2,174
2000	Michigan	2,358
2001	Michigan	1,419
2002	Illinois	835
2003	Ohio	587
2004	Texas	668

Source: Conway Data New Plant Database

for other states,” says Gov. Perry. “The message to the business community is that you can come to the state, risk your capital and know that you will not be sued frivolously. It’s powerful legislation,” he adds. “*The Wall Street Journal* called it ‘10-Gallon Tort Reform.’ As the president goes forward with national tort reform, we wish him every bit as much good luck and godspeed as what we’ve had in Texas with it.”

Funds for a High-Tech Edge

Still, the role of the Enterprise Fund cannot be overstated. “The legislature’s committing \$295 million to that fund was a short-term difficult decision to make because of the economic situation we were in,” says Perry. “But long term, it was very visionary relative to the job creation climate in Texas. No other state in the nation has had the type of turnaround economically that Texas has had.” Indeed, the state comptroller announced recently that the state had \$6.4 billion more to spend than what could be spent in the last budget cycle, which should help give the Enterprise Fund a new lease on life.

But the governor has another ace up his sleeve. He is seeking from the legislature an additional \$300 million for the creation of the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (TETF). Half the funding would be dedicated to creating “regional centers of innovation and commercialization” to be developed jointly by institutions of higher education and the private sector. Two such centers already exist — Sematech in Austin and the Center for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging in Houston.

One quarter of TETF, or \$75 million, would be used to match research grants awarded by federal or private sponsors. The funds will help in-state researchers compete for out-of-state dollars, because sponsors will know that their investment will have double the impact. The remaining \$75 million will be used to attract renowned out-of-state research teams to Texas universities.

“My vision here is to create a way that in four or five years you have enough [commercialization of] these technologies to create enough wealth to perpetuate the fund,” says Gov. Perry. “The return on investment can be tremendous with some of these concepts.”

SITE

2004 U.S. Giants — Capital Investment

Rank	Company	City, State	Category	Product	SUS millions
1	Goldman Sachs	New York, N.Y.	N	Financial Services	1,800
T2	USEC, Inc.	Piketon, Ohio	N	Uranium	1,000
T2	IBM	Fishkill, N.Y.	N	Nanometer Chips	1,000
4	CITGO	Corpus Christi, Texas	N	Oil Refinery	828
5	Cheniere Energy	Cameron, La.	N	LNG Distribution	756
6	SteelCorr	PENDING	N	Steel Mill	700
T7	Genentech	Vacaville, Calif.	N	Biotechnology Products	600
T7	ExxonMobil	Sabine Pass, Texas	N	LNG Distribution	600
T7	Sempra Energy	Port Arthur, Texas	N	LNG Distribution	600
T7	British Petroleum	Pelican Island, Texas	N	LNG Distribution	600
T7	Oxychem	Corpus Christi, Texas	E	LNG Distribution	600
T7	Vista Del Sol LNG Terminal LP	San Patricio Cnty., Texas	N	LNG Distribution	600
13	Vought Aircraft	Dallas, Texas	E	Aerospace	598
14	General Motors Corp.	Shreveport, La.	E	Trucks	591
15	Alenia-Vought	Charleston, S.C.	N	Aerospace	566
T16	Saturn Corp.	Spring Hill, Tenn.	E	Automobiles	500
T16	Phoenix Int'l Terminal	Texas City, Texas	N	Logistics Services	500
T18	Maersk	Portsmouth, Va.	N	Logistics Services	450
T18	Freeport LNG Dev., LP	Freeport, Texas	N	LNG Distribution	450
T18	Calhoun LNG/Gulf Coast LNG Partners, LP	Port Lavaca, Texas	N	LNG Distribution	450

2004 U.S. Giants — Size

Rank	Company	City, State	Category	Product	Sq. Ft. X 1,000
1	Granite Falls Energy LLC	Granite Falls, Minn.	N	Ethanol Production	2,439
2	Ford Motor Co.	Detroit, Mich.	E	Automobiles	2,300
3	Wal-Mart/UTi Worldwide	Baytown, Texas	N	Retail Merchandise	2,000
4	Goldman Sachs	New York, N.Y.	N	Financial Services	1,900
5	Target	De Kalb, Ill.	N	Retail Merchandise	1,500
6	Lowe's	Plainfield, Conn.	N	Home Improvement Products	1,360
T7	Mattel	San Bernardino, Calif.	N	Toys	1,200
T7	Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	Fort Pierce, Fla.	N	Retail Merchandise	1,200
T7	ChevronTexaco	Houston, Texas	E	Petroleum Products	1,200
T10	Union Pacific Railroad	Omaha, Neb.	E	Railroad	1,100
T10	Dollar General Corp.	Spartanburg, S.C.	N	Retail Merchandise	1,100
12	Koch Industries	Rosemount, Mich.	E	Diesel Fuel	1,059
T13	National Dist. Centers	Chino, Calif.	E	Logistics Services	1,000
T13	PETSMART	Ottawa, Ill.	N	Pet Products	1,000
T13	John B. Sanfilippo & Son	Elgin, Ill.	E	Snack Products	1,000
T13	Kentucky Cabinet Co.	Corbin, Ky.	N	Kitchen Cabinets	1,000
T13	Union Tank Car Corp.	Alexandria, La.	N	Railroad Cars	1,000
T13	DHL	Wilmington, Ohio	E	Package Delivery	1,000
T13	Cinram Manufacturing	Olyphant, Penn.	E	CDs & DVDs	1,000
T13	Home Shopping Network	Piney Flats, Tenn.	N	Direct Mail	1,000
T13	Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	James City County, Va.	E	Retail Merchandise	1,000

2004 U.S. Giants — Employees

Rank	Company	City, State	Category	Product	Employees
1	Countrywide Financial	Richardson, Texas	E	Mortgage Services	5,000
2	Booz Allen Hamilton	Fairfax Cnty., Va.	E	Consulting Services	3,700
3	Vought Aircraft	Dallas, Texas	E	Aerospace	3,000
4	SAIC Fairfax	Fairfax Cnty., Va.	E	Consulting Services	2,920
5	Ameriquest Mrtg. Co.	Schaumburg, Ill.	E	Mortgage Services	2,100
6	Dell Products LP	N.C.	N	Computers	2,000
T7	Citicorp	Louisville, Ky.	N	Credit Card Services	1,600
T7	Sanderson Farms	Moultrie, Ga.	N	Food Processing	1,600
T7	Mag Instrument Inc./Maglite	Ontario, Calif.	N	Flashlights	1,600
10	Wal-Mart/UTi Worldwide	Baytown, Texas	N	Retail Merchandise	1,350
T11	U.S. Support Co.	Shreveport, La.	N	Customer Service	1,300
T11	DirectTV	Tulsa, Okla.	N	Satellite TV	1,300
13	IBM	Fairfax Cnty., Va.	E	Business Services	1,250
14	Verizon Wireless	Wilmington, N.C.	N	Telecommunications	1,211
15	Wal-Mart	Fort Pierce, Fla.	N	Retail Merchandise	1,200
16	Verizon Wireless	Charleston, S.C.	N	Telecommunications	1,100
T17	Echostar Communications Corp.	Tulsa, Okla.	E	Satellite TV	1,000
T17	Triumph Foods	Saint Joseph, Mo.	N	Food Processing	1,000
T17	DirectTV	Huntsville, Ala.	N	Satellite TV	1,000
T17	IBM	Tulsa, Okla.	E	Business Services	1,000
T17	Citigroup	Irving, Texas	E	Credit Card Services	1,000
T17	CitiCards	N.C.	N	Credit Card Services	1,000
T17	Wellborn Cabinet	Ashland, Ala.	E	Kitchen Cabinets	1,000
T17	Texas Instruments	Richardson, Texas	N	Semiconductors	1,000
T17	Wells Fargo Financial	Des Moines, Iowa	E	Financial Services	1,000

N= New E= Expansion

Source: Conway Data Inc.'s New Plant Database

Top Metro Delivers 'Texas Values'

Dallas-Fort Worth tops familiar standard-bearers in facility ranking.

For the past 40 years, **Pier 1 Imports** has made its home in Fort Worth, Texas. If Chairman and CEO Marvin Girouard has his way, the US\$2-billion company will call Fort Worth home for at least the next 40.

In 2004, Pier 1 moved into its new \$90-million corporate headquarters in the downtown central business district. "We could have gone anywhere, but we chose to stay home in Fort

by **RON STARNER**
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Worth," Girouard tells *Site Selection*. "We could have done this project somewhere else, but we had a good feeling with the city council of being wanted, and land was a decent value here compared to places like Atlanta, New York and Los Angeles."

In the end, he says, there were just

2004 Top States

With Most Top Metros

Rank	State	Metro Count
1	Texas	9
T2	Indiana	8
T2	Ohio	8
T2	Michigan	8
5	Pennsylvania	7
T6	Georgia	6
T6	New York	6
T8	Kentucky	5
T8	South Carolina	5
T8	Florida	5
T8	Tennessee	5
T8	California	5
T8	Virginia	5
T8	Wisconsin	5
T8	North Carolina	5

Source: Conway Data, Inc.'s New Plant Database

too many reasons to keep Pier 1 in Fort Worth. Many other executives are making the same decision when evaluating the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington market.

According to the Conway New Plant Database, the DFW metropolitan area recorded more new and expanded corporate facilities than any other metro area in the U.S. in 2004. With 277 corporate projects, DFW topped longtime stalwarts Detroit, which had 263 facility projects, and Chicago, which had 238.

What does it take to become *Site Selection's* Top Metro? The same qualities that made Texas the Governor's Cup winner, says Girouard: "A great quality of life, great public and private schools, great colleges and universities, and a work force that's reliable and affordable."

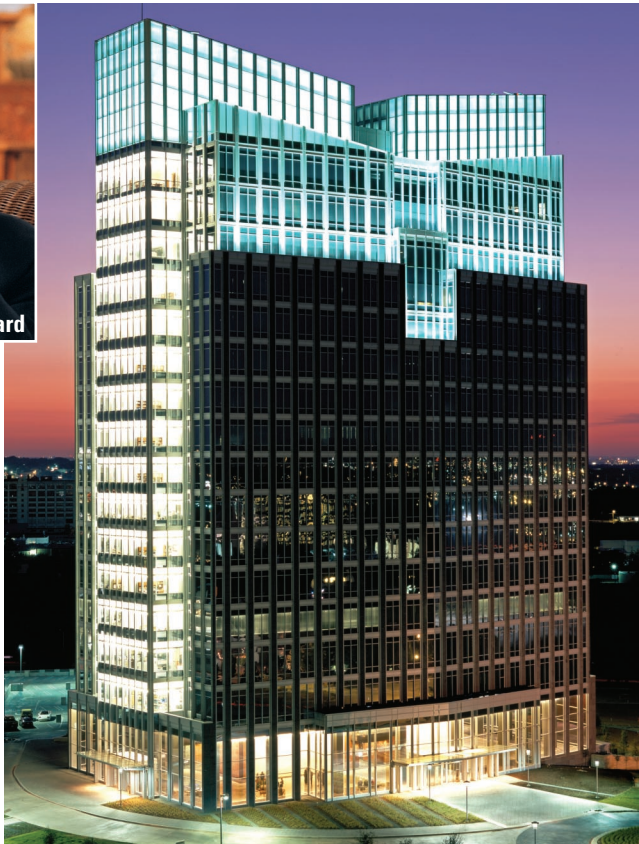
Girouard calls these pivotal site selection criteria "Texas values," and they begin with the people.

"I was born and raised in Texas," says the 1961 Texas A&M grad. "Pier 1 draws a lot of its labor force from the



Marvin Girouard

The 460,000-sq.-ft. (42,734-sq.-m.) Pier 1 Place in Fort Worth houses the corporate headquarters of Pier 1 Imports, a \$2-billion company that has been steadily growing from its Texas base for the past 40 years.



many suburbs around Fort Worth. There is a great work ethic here. We are able to attract people who are very loyal. In fact, all of our top executives have been here at least 15 years, and most have been here 20 to 25 years or more."

Girouard is one of them. Since joining the company in the mid-1970s as a buyer, he has helped shape the firm into one of the nation's largest specialty retailers, offering foreign-made crafts, furniture and tableware.

Today, the company has more than 1,200 stores and nearly 20,000 employees. Almost 1,000 of them work in Fort Worth. Girouard credits both Fort Worth and Texas with elevating the company's growth.

"There is no state income tax in Texas," he says. "That's certainly an appeal to our people. Housing prices have been very positive. And the downtown revitalization that has taken place over the last 10 years, driven by the Bass family, has been a positive experience. This has helped us attract and retain people over the years."

Girouard likes downtown Fort Worth so much that he decided to buy a piece of it — about 15 acres (6 hectares) for the 460,000-sq.-ft. (42,734-sq.-m.), 20-story headquarters called Pier 1 Place.

"We rented space before I became CEO about six years ago," Girouard says. "But I wanted to do something that would be our building. We found this piece of property, very close to the Radio Shack headquarters and right on the Trinity River — a premier piece of property in the city. We have a spectacular view on every floor of the building because there's nothing adjacent to us."

The city sealed the deal by abating certain taxes, rezoning the property for high-rise construction, and allowing one street to be closed and another expanded.

"The attitude and spirit of

the community in Fort Worth is like no other city I have ever seen," Girouard says.

David Berzina, executive vice president of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, says that thanks to projects like Pier 1 and Radio Shack, the Fort Worth CBD is 94 percent occupied. "That is unheard of in a major metro area," he said. "We are now the 20th largest city in the country and the fastest growing of that top 20."

There's also plenty of room to grow. Fort Worth has more than 320 square miles in the city limits. "The planners of Fort Worth decades ago did a good job of annexing property," Berzina said. "We do a fair bit of marketing, but a lot of our success is due to word of mouth."

With 22 percent growth in housing starts from 2002 to 2004, Fort Worth has more people who are employable. "The people move here for the quality

of life," added Berzina. "The companies follow the people."

Vought: Dreamliner Pays Dividends

Girouard isn't the only CEO to fall in love with the DFW market. In Dallas, **Vought Aircraft** CEO Tom Risley last year announced a \$598-million manufacturing expansion that will add 3,000 aviation production jobs to the local labor force.

The Vought expansion was the largest transportation equipment project announcement in the U.S. in 2004. The expansion will enable Vought to enlarge its scope of work with Alenia and Boeing on the new 787 Dreamliner airplane and other military aircraft opportunities.

Boeing selected the Vought/Alenia team to build and integrate the 787 airplane's horizontal stabilizer and the center and aft fuselage, which accounts for 26 percent of the aircraft's structure.

In February 2004, Texas Gov. Rick Perry announced a \$35-million commitment by the Texas Enterprise Fund to assist the company's expansion in Texas. Vought, the largest privately owned aerostructures manufacturing company in the world, plans to bring 3,000 jobs to the Dallas area by 2009.

The Dallas-based Vought has annual sales of \$1.2 billion and 6,000 employees in seven U.S. locations.

The second largest manufacturing project to be announced in the DFW market in 2004 was the \$160-million expansion of General Motors in Arlington. GM said it plans to upgrade its Arlington assembly plant for future production of the GMC Yukon, Chevrolet Tahoe and Suburban and Cadillac Escalade.

There has also been speculation that the Arlington plant will receive a next-generation sport-utility vehicle.

The expansion news came as no surprise, as GM recently announced that the Arlington plant had set the record as the most efficient producer of full-sized SUVs in North America

2004 Top Metros — Facilities

Rank	Metro Area	Facility Count
1	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas	277
2	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.	263
3	Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.	238
4	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif.	207
5	New York-Newark-Edison, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa.	205
6	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga.	146
7	Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, Texas	136
8	Columbus, Ohio	115
9	Cincinnati-Middletown, Ohio-Ky.-Ind.	112
10	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.	105

Count includes expanded and new facilities.
Source: Conway Data, Inc.'s New Plant Database

2004 Top Metros — Investment

Rank	Metro Area	\$US millions
1	New York-Newark-Edison, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa.	\$4,416
2	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.	3,668
3	Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.	3,491
4	Corpus Christi, Texas	3,112
5	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas	3,043
6	Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, Texas	2,977
7	Las Vegas-Paradise, Nev.	2,966
8	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga.	1,753
9	Indianapolis, Ind.	1,477
10	Toledo, Ohio	1,472

Count includes expanded and new facilities.
Source: Conway Data, Inc.'s New Plant Database

for the third consecutive year, taking only 22.71 hours to assemble a vehicle.

The capital investment will be spent on retooling and renovating the body shop and general assembly areas at the 50-year-old plant. About 27,500 sq. ft. (1,858 sq. m.) of new floor space will be added.

Before this latest announcement, the 250-acre (101-hectare) site had seen seven expansions since its launch in 1954, with a cumulative investment of \$750 million since 1996. The plant currently employs about 3,000 workers and builds more than 238,000 vehicles per year. And in addition to its payroll of \$273 million, it paid \$10.2 million in property taxes in 2003.

Mike Rosa, head of economic development for the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, says the turnaround of the DFW economy “started back in the 1990s with interstate trucking reform. Texas also enabled cities and counties to participate in tax abatements around 1990.”

Other beneficial reforms included the in-transit inventory tax exemption, made available as a local option in the early 1990s.

“That helped Texas’ business climate and its reputation with the site selection community,” Rosa says. “Reforms took away the artificial barriers.”

Rosa adds that regional cooperation coalesced in the DFW market several

years ago with the launch of a regional branding effort. Leaders of the Dallas and Fort Worth chambers began to work together on large projects — and land them.

One of the best examples of regional cooperation culminated in the huge **Countrywide Financial** expansion announcement in Richardson and Fort Worth on Dec. 14. Propelled by a \$20-million boost from the Texas Enterprise Fund, Countrywide announced plans to bring 7,500 jobs to Texas, including 5,000 in the North Dallas suburb of Richardson.

The project is believed to be the largest single job-creation announcement in the U.S. in the past four years and is a major win for Richardson, a booming Dallas suburb known as the Telecom Corridor.

Discussing the planned \$200-million expansion, Countrywide CEO Angelo Mozilo said, “We operate in all 50 states and believe that Texas is far and away the best in which to do business.”

Countrywide is buying 500,000 sq. ft. (46,450 sq. m.) of existing space from Prudential Insurance Co. and is purchasing 16.7 acres (6.8 hectares) of land from Nortel for its planned second-phase expansion of an additional 500,000 sq. ft. (46,450 sq. m.).

“By 2008, we hope to increase our market share from about 15 percent to 30 percent and grow from 40,000 to more than 80,000 employees companywide,” Mozilo said.

Bill Sproull, head of the Richardson Economic Development Partnership, credits strong state leadership with bringing these jobs to DFW.

“We have a superb regional business climate, but if you had to look at one thing, you would have to look at the Texas Enterprise Fund — our statewide quick-action closing fund — as the key to all of our biggest deals: Countrywide, Vought, Texas Instruments, AutoZone and others.”

But there’s another key too, he says:

“It doesn’t hurt to have the No. 1 labor market in the USA.” **SITE**

IT AIN'T BRAGGIN' IF IT'S TRUE.

TEXAS - NAMED "BEST BUSINESS CLIMATE" BY SITE SELECTION MAGAZINE



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BUSINESSES GROW STRONG IN TEXAS



The numbers are in. Texas leads the nation in business prosperity. Just ask Site Selection Magazine, who awarded Texas the 2004 Governor's Cup. In fact, the biggest job announcement in the nation in the last four years is coming to Texas. Countrywide Financial is bringing 7,500 new jobs to our state. The state was also named the best business climate in the nation in 2004 by Site Selection Magazine. With these kind of results, there's only one question: Is this a great state or what?



To learn more visit www.governor.state.tx.us.