



# **Business Facilities**

## THE LOCATION ADVISOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***BUSINESS FACILITIES*** ANNOUNCES FIRST ANNUAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

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*Austin, Texas and Lexington, Kentucky Cited for  
Economic Development Excellence*

TINTON FALLS, NJ – ***Business Facilities*** has announced the winners of its Economic Development Excellence Awards. The new annual series of Economic Development Awards honors the agencies and organizations that have established and consistently executed the best practices in the industry, bringing measurable success in targeted economic development to the locations they represent. More than a dozen new awards categories include overall economic development excellence awards, best practices awards that cite achievements in specialized programs like workforce training and incentives, and awards for marketing excellence in the use of new media (including social networks and video).

The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce emerged as the consensus choice in the Economic Development Excellence (Population Greater Than 500k) category.

“The cosmopolitan capital of the Lone Star State has consistently impressed us with its diversity of industry, superior system of higher education, top-flight skilled workforce and vibrant culture,” said Editor-in-Chief Jack Rogers. “The tremendous economic vitality the Greater Austin area has experienced in recent years is a testament to the best practices established by its first-class economic development organization.”

***Business Facilities*** selected two honorable mentions for the Excellence Award: Greater New Orleans Inc. and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.

The winner of ***Business Facilities***’ Economic Development Excellence Award (Population 200k – 500k) is Commerce Lexington Inc.

“Year in and year out, the folks at Commerce Lexington are setting the standard for a full-service, highly professional economic development effort, making the organization a clear choice for this award,” Rogers said.

Honorable Mention in the 200k – 500k category goes to GO Topeka/Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce.

The winner of ***Business Facilities***’ Economic Development Excellence Award (Population 50k-200k), Midland Tomorrow, serves Midland County, MI, a hub of chemical and alternative energy manufacturing in the Midwest.

Midland-based Dow Chemical has launched a group of projects in the last two years that are projected to bring over 3,000 jobs to the area and invest over \$600 million into the community.

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Among other investments, Dow has launched two projects that relate directly to Midland Tomorrow's business attraction efforts: Dow Solar Solutions (manufacturing photovoltaic roof shingles for residential applications) and Dow Kokam Advanced Battery Group (a partnership with Kokam America to manufacture advanced lithium-ion batteries for hybrid vehicles). These two projects form the nexus of Midland's burgeoning alternative energy manufacturing cluster.

An Honorable Mention in the 50k – 200k category went to the City of South Jordan, UT.

The winner of the Economic Development Excellence Award (Population Less Than 50k) is Ardmore (OK) Development Authority. An Honorable Mention went to Jackson County (IN) Industrial Development Corp.

A feature article on the new Economic Development Awards appears in the March/April issue of *Business Facilities* and on BusinessFacilities.com.

#### **ABOUT BUSINESS FACILITIES**

*Business Facilities* magazine is a leading national publication reaching top site selection professionals, providing them with the critical information they need to make location choices for expansions, relocations or new facilities. In each issue, *Business Facilities* covers the latest economic development initiatives, identifying new growth sectors and the locations that are successfully targeting these emerging industries.



