

Looking at Economic Development in Santa Rosa County

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Correctional Institute Project Makes Prominent Economic Contribution

TEAM Santa Rosa has been working with GEO Group since project inception of the new Blackwater River Correctional Institution. Construction is continuing and is ahead of schedule as September marks the 6th month of construction. The facility, located on 57 acres of property in East Milton off of Jeff Ates Road, is slated to be fully completed by summer of 2010 and some employees will start working there as early as this January. The project was originally slated to take 20 months, but with efficient project management by GEO Group the timeline was reduced to just 15 months. Workforce Escarosa is now taking employment applications for positions available at the correctional facility.

TEAM Santa Rosa is in the business of creating jobs for Santa Rosa County and improving the local economy. TEAM helped bring GEO group to Santa Rosa County for this construction project, and to date, 30 local companies have been positively effected by this construction project, with trickle-down economics taking effect as a result of this project.

From concrete companies to steel manufacturers, the local economic impact has already surpassed the \$2-million mark. Further economic impact is inevitable and significant as the project nears the final stages. As the unemployment rate is on the rise and currently hovering at 10-percent, this project represents sustainable employment opportunities for Santa Rosans. At full staff, the correctional facility will bring over 400 jobs and \$16.5 million per year in salaries to Santa Rosa's economy.

For more information on how to apply for employment at the correctional institute, visit www.WorkforceEscarosa.com.

Northwest Florida's Aerospace Corridor Makes Splash on Runway

TEAM Santa Rosa recently took advantage of a notable opportunity provided by Florida's Great North West and St. Joe Company to showcase aerospace companies in Northwest Florida. It was nothing short of a fashion show of industrial opportunity as the presentation featured each county's latest line of fashion and accessories. Better known as commerce parks and economic amenities, Santa Rosa and surrounding Counties in the region offer array of assets to industry on which to capitalize. From Santa Rosa to Escambia County all the way through to Tallahassee in Leon County, Northwest Florida became the hottest trend among site consultants scouting for prime industrial locations along our aerospace corridor.

Northwest Florida is home to over 1,900 businesses associated with the aerospace and defense

industry. Over all, the industry accounts for 32,000 to 37,000 private sector and non-government employees in the region.

This recent exhibition was open to aerospace and defense companies as well as economic development organizations, like TEAM Santa Rosa. Presenters at the event included Senator Bill Nelson and Congressman Allen Boyd. They spoke about the many positive economic attributes coming to the area as completion of the new Panama City International Airport nears and commented on the outstanding collection of aerospace companies located in Northwest Florida. A cornerstone to this is the airport system; specifically, the new airport, under construction and boasting 8,400 linear feet of runway, attracts business and increases the desirability of the area for companies to locate in this industrially zoned locale. Its placement near several key military installations is another draw for site selection consultants in terms of workforce and labor pooling.

For Santa Rosa County, the event was an advantage as TEAM Santa Rosa staff met with representatives from EADS, Boeing and Northrup Grumman to discuss potential economic development opportunities.

Economic development opportunities in Santa Rosa's business-friendly environment were another part of this summer's collection featured at the event. Santa Rosa County government is gaining attention and recognition as a great county in which to do business where the question is always, "what can Santa Rosa County do for business," not "what's in it for us."

TEAM Santa Rosa made sure that Santa Rosa County was one of the counties in the spotlight at this high profile runway-event. To read more about the three-county assets available in Santa Rosa, Escambia and Okaloosa Counties, visit www.GulfCoastAerospaceandDefense.com.

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