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BDB helps 3 local businesses expand yielding 46 new jobs

West Palm Beach, FLA - The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County announced that it has assisted three local businesses to expand their operations in Palm Beach County. As a result, 46 new jobs will be created and 53 positions will be retained.

BoatSmith, a boat building, marine carpentry, and millwork operations company recently moved in to a new 22,000 square-foot facility in West Palm Beach where they will create 24 new jobs. The new facility will increase the company's production capacity and range, and will accommodate its expanded team of carpenters and technicians for very high-end projects on and off site.

The BDB provided BoatSmith with permitting assistance, assistance with utilities, and introductions to representatives of Workforce Alliance. It also provided BoatSmith with information on Sales & Use Tax Exemptions for manufacturing, from which the company benefited, as well as other information on tax credits and training assistance.

Commercial Energy Specialists (CES), a 30-year provider of water treatment programs for institutional and commercial swimming pools, spas, water parks, and water features in the Southeast US and the Caribbean, will move to a new 20,000 square-foot training and technology center in Jupiter where they will retain 30 jobs and create 12 new positions. The new facility will feature a state-of-the-art monitoring center and will facilitate CES's expansion into new markets and services. The facility will also be the home of James S. Lavold (JSL) Inc., a leading FAA-certified contractor specializing in Air Traffic Control, Navigational Aids, and related construction. JSL will retain eight jobs and create eight new positions.

The BDB provided CES and JSL with introductions to representatives from the Town of Jupiter and Palm Beach County's Department of Economic Sustainability and provided CES with permitting and fees

information and assistance. In addition, it provided CES with information on Sales & Use Tax Exemptions, Florida Power & Light commercial rate options, and other local resources.

Bulk Candy Store, a traveling candy store and an on-line supplier of candy at bulkcandystore.com, has moved in to a new 17,000 square-foot location in West Palm Beach more than doubling its size to expand its warehouse and to provide customers with a cash-and-carry retail outlet. Bulk Candy Store will retain 15 jobs and create two new positions.

The BDB assisted Bulk Candy Store by providing real estate searches, information on tax exemptions and workforce training assistance, and assistance with permitting and utilities.

"Working with the BDB has helped to smooth out some of the wrinkles in our transition to our new location. Their knowledge and resources can help any local growing business," said Ken Shenkman, Bulk Candy Store's CEO.

BDB President and CEO, Kelly Smallridge said, "There are a number of programs and resources available to growing local companies ranging from training assistance programs to Sales & Use Tax exemptions. Since existing local companies are the source for sustainable growth in Palm Beach County, the BDB proactively cultivates relationships with local businesses to make sure they are aware of the resources and services that are available to them."

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CES Contact Information:

Alvaro Mendoza, 800-940-1557

Bulk Candy Store Contact Information:

Ken Shenkman, 561-540-1600

About the BDB: The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County is the official public/private economic development organization for Palm Beach County and Enterprise Florida. Founded in 1982 as a not-for-profit corporation, our primary purpose is to attract and retain new industry, business investment, high quality jobs and workforce development through corporate relocations, expansions and international trade. During the past five years, the BDB has assisted companies that have created more than 7,900 direct jobs with average salaries greater than \$55,400, resulting in more than \$400 million in capital investment to Palm Beach County and an economic impact that exceeds \$1.8 billion. Additional information can be found at the BDB's Web site, BDB.org.

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