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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **OHIO LEADS MIDWEST IN NEW PLANTS AND EXPANSIONS AND RANKS SECOND IN THE US IN NEW CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

COLUMBUS, OH, MARCH 2, 2006: Today, the Ohio Department of Development released the 2005 Private Investment Report. The Report shows that Ohio companies invested over \$ 3.8 billion in new facilities, facility expansions and new equipment in 2005. According to Site Selection Magazine, this ranked Ohio ahead of all other States, except Texas.

This report is a strong indication that national and international businesses are continuing to recognize Ohio as one of the best investment locations in the world. The global competition for new capital investment has never been stronger. Alternative investment locations and opportunities are considered for every project and a multitude of factors go into every investment decision. Each of these 573 projects represents a vote of confidence by leading companies that the Ohio government, Ohio Communities and Ohio workers can help their company make world-class products and a profit.

“The Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) wishes to congratulate the OEDA membership for the challenging work they do with Ohio businesses on a daily basis to keep their Ohio facilities competitive with other facilities across the world and who work to keep their communities competitive with communities across the world,” said, Melissa Frank, President of the OEDA. “Each of the announced projects reflects well on the professional skills of our members who lead Ohio’s local economic development efforts and reflects well on the ability of our local and State elected officials and the Ohio Department of Development to identify and fulfill the needs of new and expanding businesses.”

Ron DeBarr, the Chair of Team Ohio states "This report shows that Ohio is also continuing to attract new high tech companies to the State. We hope to dramatically increase our success through new collaborations between the newly formed Team Ohio, a division of the OEDA, the Ohio Business Development Coalition and the Ohio Department of Development. The Team Ohio membership represents the most progressive regional and local economic development organizations in the State who invest millions of dollars a year to promote Ohio and their communities. Team Ohio members include bankers, developers, chambers of commerce, regional economic development groups and other private and public sector partners, who work every day to make Ohio a great place to live, work, play, and invest. The economic development successes of Ohio businesses and communities in 2005 and the continued interest we are experiencing in 2006, especially with the changes to the State tax structure, indicate that Ohio businesses and communities are becoming even more competitive."

"The OBDC and OEDA are committed to helping communicate Ohio's promise and aggressively compete for capital investment on a global basis. The net result is a robust economy and an increasing number of jobs for Ohioans," says Ed Burghard, the Executive Director of the Ohio Business Development Coalition. "Significant changes in the global economy have dramatically increased the competition for capital investment. CEOs now have a wide range of choices to meet their business needs. It is critical to establish Ohio as the ideal selection in order to effectively compete. In Ohio, executives can uniquely achieve both their professional aspirations and their personal aspirations. The world needs to know."

The Ohio Economic Development Association wishes to acknowledge our gratitude to the thousands of managers of businesses across Ohio that promote their facilities as the most competitive locations for new or expanding product lines within their companies. These facility managers are competing against other plants in other states and across the world for these capital investments and without new capital investment, facilities and equipment soon become obsolete. Not only do these managers compete for these investments, they are also constantly preparing their workers and their operations to become competitive in anticipation of potential future investments. The OEDA and its members sincerely appreciate the efforts of these Ohioans in helping to create a stronger Ohio economy and want to let the Ohio business community that we are anxious to assist in any way possible.

The Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) is a non-partisan membership organization representing over 375 economic development professionals and non-professionals interested in Ohio's economic development efforts. For more information about the OEDA and TEAM OHIO, please contact Mr. J.C. Wallace.

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