



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
JOHN PEYTON
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MANUFACTURING COMPANY PLANS MOVE OF CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS TO JACKSONVILLE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. Sept. 8, 2008 — Mayor John Peyton announced today that Pilot Corporation of America is planning the relocation of its corporate headquarters to Jacksonville. The company currently operates a manufacturing plant and distribution center in Jacksonville that employs approximately 200 people. The relocation of the corporate headquarters would add an additional 66 jobs with an average wage of \$64,000, or 169 percent of the statewide average salary of \$37,804. The project will result in \$4.2 million in new payroll to the local economy.

In addition, Pilot plans to invest \$7.6 million in new construction, machinery and equipment within 36 months at the facility located at 3901 Regent Blvd.

“I am proud that Pilot, an internationally recognized company has chosen Jacksonville as the location of its corporate headquarters,” said Mayor Peyton. “The JEDC and the Chamber of Commerce work hard to attract high-wage, stable jobs for our residents and the recruitment of this well-respected company to our city is a testament to their efforts. Especially in these challenging economic times, this project, in addition to the recent Deutsche Bank and Alenia North America announcements, demonstrates that Jacksonville is gaining significant traction in the national and international markets.”

“We feel this move is a great opportunity to consolidate all of our business functions at one location. The synergy of the relocation coupled with the economic benefits will enable us to remain competitive in the office products industry for the future,” said Dennis Burleigh, president and chief executive officer of Pilot Pen Corporation of America. “We remain committed to providing the best quality writing instruments in the world.”

The Jacksonville City Council previously approved public investment in this project through the Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Tax Refund Program under the name “Grip”. That award amount of \$264,000 will help offset a portion of the company’s cost to relocate its headquarters from Connecticut to Jacksonville.

“It is encouraging to me that a company that already has a significant presence in Jacksonville has decided to relocate its headquarters here,” said City Council President Ronnie Fussell. “I believe it reinforces what many of us already know – that Jacksonville is a great place to live, work and raise a family.”

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The Jacksonville Economic Development Commission will also consider an application for a \$127,900 investment through the State of Florida Economic Development Transportation Fund (EDTF) for the city to make roadway improvements to Regent Blvd. The city has no financial obligation associated with the EDTF grant request as part of this application.

“Cornerstone and the Chamber are extremely pleased at the selection of Jacksonville for the U.S. headquarters for the Pilot Pen Corporation. This continues a recent trend of headquarters to the area and Pilot Pen is a well-known international name and a great compliment to our city,” said Jerry Mallot, executive vice president, Cornerstone Regional Development Partnership.

Pilot Pen, established in the United States in 1972, is the third largest writing instrument company in the country. The parent company, Pilot Corporation in Tokyo, was founded in 1918 and is the oldest writing instrument manufacturer in Japan.

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