



NEWS RELEASE

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City of Aurora, Chamber of Commerce and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity To Host Reverse Trade Mission October 1

AURORA, IL – The City of Aurora, Greater Aurora Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will host a Reverse Trade Mission event October 1 at Cabot Microelectronics.

The reverse foreign trade mission is designed to promote the region as a great place for direct foreign investments and to provide the strategic link needed to increase exports from the greater Aurora region, according to Sherman L. Jenkins, executive director of the Aurora Economic Development Commission (AEDC). “Our aim is to capitalize on the presence of foreign trade offices in Chicago as well as Illinois’ status as a world-class, strategic location.”

Some of the countries that will be represented at the event include Australia, Canada, Pakistan, Taiwan, Netherlands, and Indonesia. Approximately 20 trade commissioners are expected to participate.

“This event will give us with the opportunity to persuade possible trade partners to take advantage of all Aurora has to offer, including an outstanding workforce and easy access to transportation,” said Mayor Tom Weisner. “International investment is crucial to our state economy, and we are happy to provide a venue for international businesses to explore partnerships with Illinois companies.”

“The Aurora reverse trade mission will be a continuation of the Aurora Economic Development Commission’s “Corporate Campus Aurora” campaign designed to market the City of Aurora internationally,” Jenkins said. “The campaign also promotes the city’s full interchanges on The

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Ronald Reagan interstate (I-88) and allows local companies to realize the opportunities for new or existing space to accommodate plans for future growth.”

“We live in an increasingly global economy and now, more than ever, companies need to be innovative and flexible in order to succeed,” said Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) director Jack Lavin. “These reverse trade missions provide an opportunity for Illinois to showcase all that the state has to offer and opens the door for Illinois companies to new markets.”

The trade mission will begin with trade commissioners attending a reception, networking and lunch event at Cabot Microelectronics in Aurora’s Meridian Business Campus. During the lunch, the foreign delegation will be acquainted with the strengths and competitive advantages of the region. Following the lunch, the trade commissioners will be taken to Caterpillar Company for a tour of the company’s facilities. After the tour, the trade commissioners will depart for Chicago to complete their tour.

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Aurora, Illinois is located approximately 40 miles west of Chicago. It has a population of approximately 180,000 and is described as a diversified community with a balanced combination of high technology, retail, industrial, service, government and cultural sectors.

The Aurora Economic Development Commission works to promote, attract and retain commercial and industrial development in the City of Aurora. Formed in 1981, the AEDC provides assistance to existing and prospective businesses in the area of community data, land availability, buildings for sale or lease, development assistance and financing. See www.aurora-il.org/aedc for more information.

The Greater Aurora Chamber of Commerce is a membership-driven organization that serves as a catalyst for business development in the greater Aurora region.

The Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is the lead state agency responsible for improving Illinois' competitiveness in the global economy. Guided by an innovative regional approach, DCEO administers a wide range of economic and workforce development programs, services and initiatives designed to create and retain high quality jobs and build strong communities. DCEO leads the Illinois economic development process in partnership with businesses, local governments, workers and families.