Technology

New, expanding tech companies to add 300 jobs in county

By Cora E. Cepeda

Two new technology companies and one expanding firm will altogether bring in more than $4 million in new capital investment and 300 new jobs to Miami-Dade County within three years, the Beacon Council, the county’s official economic development partnership, said last week.

Techcom USA, a Spanish IT services company, is planning to open a 3,500-square-foot facility in Coral Gables in the next three years, adding 50 jobs and $2 million in capital investment. Westerntech & Partner Consulting, a German-based company that implements business and IT strategies using the SAP business operations and customer relationships system, is using Miami as a base to expand into the Latin American market. They’ve expected to add 20 jobs and invest $1.5 million within three years.

Topp Solutions, which develops, manufactures, distributes and repairs consumer electronics, is moving its facility from Doral to the West End Innovation District in the West Kendall area. The move is expected to add 230 jobs and $2 million in new capital investment within three years.

The Beacon Council helps and develops tech companies of all sizes by promoting and developing local talent, taking part in national and international tech conferences, and demonstrating to outside companies the pros of establishing a presence in the area.

“We have our focus on One Community One Goal strategy which focuses on seven target industries, technology being one of them, Mr. Kohnstamm said. The other six industries are aviation, banking & finance, creative design, hospitality & tourism, life sciences & healthcare and trade & logistics.

“For technology, what we have is a committee made up of private organizations that work on a number of issues but inform us about the trends and opportunities in the industry and help the Beacon Council staff gain deeper access into the industry,” Mr. Kohnstamm said. According to the Beacon Council, data of the 1,583 tech companies in Miami-Dade includes Amadeus North America, Avaya, Telefonica Data USA, Verizon Telemarketing (NAP of the Americas), SAP, Oracle, Apple, Cisco, Facebook and Intuit. Niches sectors being served include...”

Co-working spaces like this Pipeline Workspaces site are a key part of the technology scene in Miami. Companies like office support & IT, computational science & health IT, data centers, logistics, IT, mobile applications and tourism IT.

The area has 8,367 tech industry jobs with an average salary of $94,314, saw a 24% increase in tech jobs from 2012-2014 compared to 9% nationally, and sees more than 1,000 students graduate each year with IT-related degrees.

The organization strives to “get in front of decision-makers of tech companies” in order to attract business from outside the community, he said, adding that a great local opportunity for that is mMerge Americas, a multi-day technology conference in Miami connecting innovators, investors and thought leaders through summits and workshops.

“We’ve found it, as always, to be a great opportunity to speak to only individuals interested in working in tech in Miami but also companies looking to invest,” Mr. Kohnstamm said.

Enterprise Florida targets seven sectors to recruit tech firms

By Corine Legrie

The tech companies Enterprise Florida recruits bridge many industry categories, including aviation, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, clean tech, defense and homeland security, information technology, life sciences and logistics.

Luminus Technology Component Services, a global leader in aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul, currently has 90 employees in Miramar and plans to add 100 more jobs in South Florida as it expands its customer service, account management and product sales center over the next few years, Enterprise Florida said in March. In May, Unisys announced the expansion of its Newport facility in Doral, which is projected to create about 350 jobs and local economic impact of more than $200 million.

Univision is one of the leading networks in the US, regardless of language, and the most-watched Spanish-language broadcast television network, according to a news release. The network’s programming services 21 Hispanic service areas. Univision includes news, telenovelas, dramatic series, sports, music award shows and reality series. The Univision Network is available in about 92% of US Hispanic households, according to the Nielsen rating service.

That followed the February announcement that NBCUniversal Telemedio Enterprises plans to build its global headquarters in Miami-Dade County, creating about 150 jobs. The company, along with parent Comcast, will spend $250 million to build the global center, which is to initially house 1,100 employees, with the capacity to expand to about 1,300.

The Telemedio expansion was made possible by partnerships among Enterprise Florida, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Miami-Dade County and the Beacon Council, the Enterprise Florida website noted.

Fresh Express, the top retail packaged salad producer in the US, and parent Chiquita, the top banana retailer in the US, have opened an office in Orlando. A satellite Chiquita office in Danis Beach is expected to add 90 new Florida jobs as well.

In January, Total Quality Logistics announced the creation of a $50 million technology hub, which was projected to create 75 jobs by the end of 2018. The company has facilities in Jacksonville, Daytona Beach, Orlando, Tampa Bay and Fort Lauderdale.

Opening in a world-class city like Miami helps attract the kind of highly motivated employees who will allow us to grow our market share and maintain our Miami facility, said Kerry Ify, the company’s president, in a release.