



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TeCMEN Moving Forward With New Format

Effective January 1, 2010, the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County Technology Coast Manufacturing and Engineering Network (TeCMEN) is moving forward with a new and improved format. "We believe the changes outlined below will ensure greater relevancy and return on their investment for those EDC firms participating in TeCMEN." stated EDC President Larry Sassano. "Combined with the addition of Jim Breitenfeld as our new TeCMEN Manager, we are looking forward to improved program content and interaction among our members."

TeCMEN's new format involves the creation of two separate but related membership categories. First, a smaller, but more focused **Core TeCMEN** membership consisting of EDC member firms providing direct engineering and manufacturing services and products has been established. "By better defining this core membership, we expect to be able to immediately increase the availability of services these firms can utilize as well as expand the opportunities for successful collaborative activities." said Breitenfeld.

A new, second membership category, the **EDC Tech Support Network**, has now been established and will include those EDC members capable of providing a range of support services to the Core TeCMEN members. "This is where we can bring together a wider range of EDC members, including those offering services such as marketing, personnel support, communications services, training and government agency support." noted Sassano.

Implementation of this new TeCMEN framework will continue to focus on monthly meetings, but will see a new alignment. Core TeCMEN members will continue to meet monthly with two meetings per quarter structured specifically to their interests. However, for the third meeting of each quarter, the Tech Support Network members will be invited to join the Core group and share information regarding their capabilities and services.

Membership details and meeting schedules are being provided to each membership group.

Questions regarding the new TeCMEN initiatives may be directed to Jim Breitenfeld at jbreit@cox.net.