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SATC and TREO Announce Integration of Technology Business & Economic Development Efforts in Southern Arizona

(Nov. 29, 2005) The Board of Directors of the Southern Arizona Tech Council (SATC) has voted to integrate its technology business development program into the overall regional economic development activities led by the newly-formed Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities, Inc. (TREO). Formed in 2000 to promote high-tech industry competitiveness in Southern Arizona, SATC represents Southern Arizona's hi tech clusters, undertaking projects, partnerships and programs that provide direct economic benefit to the region.

The SATC / TREO integration will not only include regional technology business development efforts, but the Southern Arizona portion of certain statewide technology business development initiatives administered by the Arizona Department of Commerce in concert with the Governor's Council on Innovation & Technology, the Arizona Technology Council and SATC.

This integration is an important step by TREO to collaborate with outside groups under a single regional economic development umbrella. According to TREO President & CEO, Joe Snell, "We are thrilled that SATC has elected to partner and align with TREO's economic development efforts and see several benefits to the business community with this integration. First, it supports TREO's mission of reducing the duplication of services and activities in the high tech community. Second, it is a great opportunity to leverage resources to strengthen our competitive advantages in the intensely competitive world of high tech business attraction, startup and funding. Third, it allows us to measure the effectiveness of our efforts to ensure that we making meaningful contributions that help high tech companies succeed in Southern Arizona."

Bob Hagen, Chairman of the Board of SATC, stated that "when you stop and think about it, technology business development is really part of economic development. Having both administered within one organization here will enable them to be much more effectively implemented. This will also enable us to develop and grow our technology community in a way that wasn't available to us in the past utilizing volunteer resources. We look forward to working with TREO on this important task."

The integration process is expected to be substantially completed by SATC's and TREO's June 30, 2006 fiscal year ends or earlier if possible.