

# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



Oklahoma Departments of Commerce.

One of the highlights of the conference will be a session called *The Opening of Vietnam* led by Kevin Chambers, Director of the International Trade and Investment Division, Oklahoma Commerce Department. With an annual economic growth rate of over 8 percent, Chambers says Vietnam offers unique opportunities for firms in our state.

A panel discussion will follow with representatives of Wing Associates, Inc. and Parker Drilling Company, offering their experiences and answering questions.

A session called *Peace in the Middle East: Opportunities and Challenges* will be led by Joe DeSutter, Business Advisor, Builders for Peace, Washington DC. A panel discussion with representatives from Oklahoma companies including Mills International from Shawnee, Bridge Products, Inc. in Muskogee and Ramsy Winch Company of Tulsa and a question-and-answer session will follow.

Also during the morning session, presenters from the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington will speak on *Eastern Europe, Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States: Politics vs. Business Potential*.

A panel discussion with representatives from Oklahoma companies including Century Martial Arts Supply, Inc., Midwest City; Parker Drilling Company, Tulsa; T.D. Williamson, Inc. Tulsa; and the Director of Oklahoma's European Office will follow.

The afternoon session will begin with a session on *Understanding CE Mark and Other European Union Requirements* by Bob Stractz from the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, DC. The Oklahoma panel includes the Director of the Oklahoma European Office and representatives from Little Giant Pump Corporation in Oklahoma City and Ramsy Winch Company of Tulsa.

The registration fee of \$70.00 includes information packets, luncheon, and break refreshments. Checks should be made payable to the Oklahoma District Export Council and mailed to 440 South Houston, Suite 505, Tulsa Oklahoma 74127. The cancellation policy for the conference is a full refund until May 17; after that date, the refund will be \$35.00.

For further information or registration, contact either Tom Strauss, Tulsa Office,

(918) 581-7650 or Sharon Bunge, Oklahoma City, (405) 231-5302.

—OKLA. DEPT. OF COMMERCE  
05/06/96

## AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR PLANS OKLAHOMA VISIT

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) At the invitation of Lt. Governor Mary Fallin, Austrian Ambassador Dr. Helmut Tuerk will come to Oklahoma to discuss business opportunities between Austria and Oklahoma and to familiarize himself with the state. On May 15 and 16, Ambassador Tuerk will be available to meet at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce in Oklahoma City with companies interested in doing business in Austria.

The Lt. Governor's office will introduce Ambassador Tuerk to key government officials and state legislators.

Given the current economic climate, Austria could prove to be a great place to do business, according to the Regional Manager-Europe for the Department of Commerce, Darcie Goodwin. "At approximately 1.7 percent, Austria has one of the lowest rates of inflation and the lowest unemployment rate, just under 4 percent, within the European Union," Goodwin explained. "Austria's capitol, Vienna, is one of the richest in the European Union with a purchasing power in excess of 50 percent greater than the average European country."

To schedule an appointment with Ambassador Tuerk on May 15 or 16, please contact Darcie Goodwin at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, (405) 841-5218.

—OKLA. DEPT. OF COMMERCE  
05/06/96

## AT & T APPROVED TO PROVIDE LOCAL TELEPHONE SERVICE

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Oklahoma Corporation Commission Tuesday approved an application by AT&T Communications of the Southwest to provide local-exchange telecommunications services in Oklahoma.

The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 signed into law on Feb. 8 authorizes local-exchange telecommunications competition. AT&T is the first company to win approval to compete for local-exchange telephone customers in Oklahoma under terms of Corporation Commission local service competition rules adopted March 7.

The commission's rules are awaiting approval by the Oklahoma Legislature. They

are expected to become effective before June 1.

In its application, AT&T sought approval to compete in local-exchange territories served by Southwestern Bell Telephone and GTE Southwest.

Before offering local-exchange service, AT&T must negotiate agreements with Southwestern Bell and GTE Southwest regarding the purchase of services and interconnection of networks in the territories where AT&T plans to compete, and file proposed tariffs and proposed service territory designations with the Corporation Commission 90 days prior to offering local-exchange service.

Startup of local-exchange service by AT&T could be delayed further if objections are filed to AT&T's proposals.

—OKLA. CORPORATION COMMISSION  
05/07/96

## DATA FOR NEW AND EXPANDED FIRMS LOOKING UP

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Data collected by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shows investments announced by new and expanding manufacturers and processors in the first quarter of 1996 has jumped in comparison with the first quarter of 1995. Investments alone totaled nearly \$28 million.

The report uses the following four numbers to measure growth in manufacturing firms; number of companies making announcements, number of jobs created within 3 years, number of jobs created within the project lifetimes and investment made.

Within the next three years, over 1,900 jobs will be created and over 2,300 jobs will be created over the project lifetimes. Compared to the same time last year, over 300 more jobs are expected over the project lifetimes. In 1996, both the number of companies making announcements and the number of jobs created by them in first three years almost doubled. In addition, over \$6 million more in investment is planned.

In the service sector, over \$93 million in investment was announced in the first quarter of 1996. During the next three years, service providers plan to increase employment by more than 4,300. Over the lifetime of the companies' projects, over 5,200 jobs are planned.

Service sector numbers are also higher than the first quarter 1995 report. The number of companies making announcements has

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