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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bay County EDA Receives \$75,000 Grant

PANAMA CITY, Fla., Jan. 4, 2007 – The Bay County Economic Development Alliance (EDA) recently received a Florida International Business Expansion Initiative grant for \$75,000. The grant program was a statewide competition, awarded by Enterprise Florida to the EDA and other organizations to advance international business development in the state of Florida.

EDA Executive Director Ted Clem said, “*We are extremely excited to receive a Florida International Business Expansion Initiative grant. We are busy making plans for the next year to grow our international trade activities and we look forward to the future possibilities this grant will provide.*”

The grant, to be used in 2007, will allow the EDA to expand on opportunities for export development and foreign direct investment by partnering with the Panama City Port Authority and the Airport Authority. Industries the EDA will be focusing on include Aviation and Aerospace, Defense, Logistics and Distribution, and Light Manufacturing and Metal Fabrication.

EDA Chairman of the Board Sharon Watley said, “*Plans are already underway to conduct an inbound trade mission and an export development trip with our sister city, Merida, Mexico, as well as several other prospecting trips. The EDA has a big year ahead!*”

The Bay County Economic Development Alliance is a public/private partnership whose purpose is to encourage economic growth that enhances Bay County’s standard of living and quality of life. Enterprise Florida is a public/private partnership responsible for leading Florida’s state-wide economic development efforts.

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