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One Okaloosa EDC, TeCMEN to Host 5th Annual Industry Day on April 26

Okaloosa County, Fla. (April 5, 2022) – One Okaloosa EDC and its Technology Coast Manufacturing & Engineering Network (TeCMEN) are hosting the 5th annual TeCMEN Industry Day on April 26, 2022 at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Initially launched in 2017, TeCMEN Industry Day (TID) brings together a broad spectrum of companies and industry representatives from across the Gulf Coast region and beyond for a full day of networking and educational content.

The 2022 TeCMEN Industry Day will feature more than 50 exhibitor booths in the event’s Technical Showcase. While attendance at TeCMEN Industry Day is open to representatives of all industry sectors, TID Technical Showcase exhibitors are required to be in the technology, manufacturing, engineering, aviation, aerospace, defense, education or workforce development sectors.

“Not only do we have some of the most dynamic technically-oriented companies from throughout northwest Florida confirmed to be with us again this year, but we also have several companies joining us from out-of-state. What a wonderful way to introduce them to the many opportunities and partnerships found in our area” stated Nathan Sparks, One Okaloosa EDC Executive Director.

In addition to the Technical Showcase, TeCMEN Industry Day attendees will once again be treated to an impressive line-up of speakers and panelists. Col Anthony Meeks, Commander, Air Force Research Lab (AFRL) Munitions Directorate will serve as the luncheon Keynote Speaker. Additional topics to be spotlighted throughout the day include the Future of Aerospace Growth at Bob Sikes Airport, Eglin Air Force Base Contracting Opportunities and the Northwest Florida State College Aviation Center of Excellence. The event’s closing panel - titled “Industry Newcomers to the Great Northwest” - will feature the leaders of four businesses from the manufacturing, defense contracting, technology and biomedical sectors who recently made decisions to locate new facilities in northwest Florida.

“With this event marking the fifth anniversary of the TeCMEN Industry Day, our planning committee has worked incredibly hard to develop an agenda that will appeal to a wide range of business interests. Whether you are involved in the technical sector – or whether you are a banker, accountant, attorney, or other professional service provider looking to expand your awareness of opportunities within our region while networking and building relationships with technical companies – TeCMEN Industry Day will meet, and hopefully exceed, your expectations,” stated Nic Dezinski, TeCMEN’s FY 2022 Chairman.

The 2022 TeCMEN Industry Day has received unprecedented sponsorship support from leading organizations throughout the area. Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport is serving as the event's Signature Anniversary Sponsor, with additional sponsors including Vertex Aerospace AIS, CHELCO, PowerSouth Energy, Northwest Florida State College, Rocky Bayou Christian School, Doolittle Institute, Haas Center at the University of West Florida, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Worldwide, Dynamic Software Solutions, Precision Measurement Inc., Okaloosa Schools Career & Technical Education, Florida Power & Light, ARMA Global, MAG Aerospace, HSU Educational Foundation and AA Tactical.

Registration for the 2022 TeCMEN Industry Day closes on Friday, April 15. For more information or to register please visit www.tecmenindustryday.com.

About One Okaloosa EDC

Founded in 1989, One Okaloosa EDC (One Okaloosa) is a 501(c)(6) non-profit, public-private partnership serving Okaloosa County, Florida and its nine municipalities (Cinco Bayou, Crestview, Destin, Fort Walton Beach, Laurel Hill, Mary Esther, Niceville, Shalimar and Valparaiso). As the community's lead economic development organization, One Okaloosa is committed to fostering economic diversification and prosperity through comprehensive strategies and initiatives. In addition to its public partners, One Okaloosa enjoys broad support from more than 130 leading private sector businesses representing a wide range of industry sectors. More information is available at www.oneokaloosa.org.

About TeCMEN

The Technology Coast Manufacturing & Engineering Network, TeCMEN, was established by One Okaloosa EDC in 1989 to be the premier business advocate for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) industries. TeCMEN provides opportunities for innovative collaboration and advanced technical expertise locally, regionally and the competitive global marketplace. Today, TeCMEN's more than 60 members represent leading manufacturing, technology and engineering companies as well as the educational and workforce development partners who support them. More information is available at <https://florida-edc.org/our-organization/tecmen>.

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