



EDA PARTICIPATES IN 2007 PARIS AIR SHOW

(July 2007) The Bay County Economic Development Alliance (EDA) recently participated in the 2007 Paris Air Show to promote the West Bay area as an opportunity for aviation-related businesses to locate in proximity to the new Panama City-Bay County International Airport.

The Paris Air Show at Le Bourget airfield is the largest aviation and aerospace trade show in the industry and showcases businesses from all over the world. The EDA met with over a dozen European, American and worldwide corporations to update them on the progress of the airport relocation project and explore any plans the businesses may have for locating in Bay County.

“It sounds crazy,” EDA Executive Director Ted Clem said, “but this is the show we have to attend to attract companies from the United States because we just don’t have a show of this magnitude in the states. Everyone attends this show”

Although the EDA has participated in the show in previous years with regional economic development affiliates, this marked the first year the EDA had a



separate booth display for Bay County. The booth, funded by an international business expansion grant, highlighted Bay County’s business climate and the relocation of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport within the West Bay Project.

“For the past several years people have come to us to get updates on the relocation of the airport, and this year was no exception,” Clem said. “We had a significant amount of traffic at our booth asking what was going with the airport. It was an added benefit to have our own booth that people could come to get information.”

The annual air show alternates locations between Paris and London. Next year’s show will be in London at the Farnborough airfield.

“With the airport’s groundbreaking before next year’s show, I anticipate even more attention focused on Bay County,” Clem said. “I think this year was only a taste of the excitement we’ll see next year.”

For more information on the Paris Air Show and the EDA’s efforts to attract aviation and aerospace industry to Bay County, contact the EDA at (850) 785-5206.



EDA Executive Director Ted Clem and Marketing Coordinator Michaela Dollar at the EDA booth.