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PRESS CONTACT

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Requesting Contributions to fund the Regional Incubator Network

FORT MYERS, FL – (March 19, 2008) – The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) announced today that we are submitting a grant application to EDA (Economic Development Administration) to fund a feasibility study for the Regional Incubator Network. The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council is requesting \$30,000 from EDA and with their approval a cash match of \$30,000 is needed from our partners and economic development stakeholders within the region.

The SWFRPC identified and summarized the need for the regional incubator in the CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy). This was approved by the entire Economic Development Strategy Committee and it looks favorable that EDA will fund this study if the SWFRPC can find the matching funds.

The SWFRPC is looking for contributions starting at \$2,500 up to any contribution amount. To submit the Pre-Application, letters of commitment are needed to provide to EDA to illustrate that the matching funds will be available.

Taking this step as a region is of strategic importance as the feasibility study will provide the rationale and the ability for individual counties and cities to build their own incubators.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Pellechio at the SWFRPC office, (239) 338-2550, ext 218 or by email at jpellechio@swfrpc.org or visit our website at www.swfrpc.org.