



NEWS RELEASE

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fDi magazine names Zapata, Texas top micro city of the future

In its April/May issue Foreign Direct Investment magazine – fDi – has named Zapata, Texas first among the top ten micro cities of the future. The recognition was a result of the magazine's **American Cities of the Future 2007/ North 08 report**, the result of a judged competition. fDi researchers took more than six months to select the "top ten" shortlists of cities of all sizes with the best strategies and resources for economic development. As part of the selection process, nine judges reviewed nominations from 108 cities on more than 60 criteria designed to assess cities' potential to attract business investment projects

fDi's micro city of the future, Zapata, Texas, impressed the judges with its clear development strategy and success in attracting out of state investors. Zapata's many development projects include a new border crossing into Mexico, major highway improvements, and a strategy for growth and investment that includes logistics, air transport, alternative energy, eco-tourism and security.

In addition to being named the top micro city of the future, Zapata, Texas was rated in the following categories:

- 1st place among top micro cities of the future
- 5th place among micro cities with the best economic potential
- 2nd place among micro cities with best development and investment promotion
- 3rd place among micro cities with the best infrastructure
- 1st place among micro cities with the most business-friendly attitude
- 5th place among micro cities with the most cost-effective business environment

“This is major and significant recognition for the city of Zapata, Texas,” states Peggy Umphres-Moffett, President of the Zapata County Economic Development Center. “For years the business, government and civic leaders of Zapata have been working in concert to achieve an environment conducive to economic development and investment. The magazine’s rankings validate our work. Now, it’s onward and upward!”

This is the first time that cities in the United States, Canada and Mexico have competed directly against one another in fDi's Cities of the Future research. As well as naming North America's top ten major Cities of the Future, the ranking lists the top ten large, small and micro cities. The short-listed cities are those that scored most highly in the following areas:

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| * Economic potential | * Infrastructure |
| * Cost effectiveness | * Business friendliness |
| * Human resources | * Development and investment promotion |
| * Quality of life | |

Cities were categorized by size so that cities across North America could compete against each other on a level basis:

- * Major: population of over two million
- * Large: 500,000 - 2 million
- * Small: 100,000 - 500,000
- * Micro: under 100,000

Produced by the renowned Financial Times group, fDi is the premier publication for the business of globalization, and is published on a bi-monthly basis. For further information about the rankings please contact charles.piggott@ft.com or visit the magazine's website www.fdimagazine.com.

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