

Texas ranked No. 1 for corporate locales

D-FW in No. 2 spot for new, expanded facilities, magazine survey finds

By ANGELA SHAH
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, Texas ranked first in the nation for new and expanded corporate facilities, according to a survey re-

leased Thursday by *Site Selection*, a trade magazine.

The publication also named the Dallas-Fort Worth region as the No. 2 market, while top honors went to the Chicago-Naperville-Joliet area in Illinois. North Texas held the No. 1 position in 2004.

The state award gives Texas leaders a second Governor's Cup award. Gov. Rick Perry accepted the recognition at an event at Dal-

las/Fort Worth International Airport.

Employers frequently point to Texas' low tax structure and right-to-work policies as reasons they choose to do business here. Also, the region's location in the nation's center has brought companies to North Texas, including a number of high-profile moves such as American Airlines Inc. and J.C. Penney Co.

Fluor Corp., which is moving its headquarters to Irving from Southern California, is included on the 2005 list. The engineering and construction giant's building is expected to be completed in April.

"Our coordinated strategy to educate out-of-state employers about Texas' excellent business climate is working," Mr. Perry said.

See SURVEY Page 5D

Survey finds firms drawn to Texas

Continued from Page 1D

"And it is proof that our unprecedented investments in job-creation tools are paying real dividends for the people of this state."

The 2005 award marks the first time in 23 years that Texas has received the Governor's Cup two years in a row.

Before 2004, the state had last won the award in 1992, when it shared honors with North Carolina.

In all, Texas has been cited seven times, more than any other state.

Qualifying projects for consideration in the survey included those with a capital investment of at least \$1 million; the creation of 50 or more jobs; or the leasing or building of at least 20,000 square

feet in new floor space.

More than 300 companies relocated or expanded into North Texas in 2005, an 11 percent increase over the previous year. The region ranked third in 2003 but didn't make the top 10 in 2001 and 2002.

Recently, *Expansion Management* and *Sales and Marketing Management* magazines also named North Texas a top market for relocations and sales potential.

"Our area was chosen because of its diverse economy, accessibility to the global marketplace, growing population and transportation infrastructure," said Michael Rosa, the Greater Dallas Chamber's vice president of economic development.

E-mail ashah@dallasnews.com