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***Ambassadors Welcome Eleven New Companies to the Massachusetts Economy***

MARCH 23, 2010 -- Cambridge, MA – MassEcon, the Massachusetts Alliance for Economic Development, and its Ambassador network are kicking off its 2010 Corporate Welcome Series with a reception at Genzyme’s Corporate Headquarters in Cambridge on the evening of March 23rd. The event will bring together senior state officials and private sector leaders to welcome eleven companies that have recently opened their doors in Massachusetts.

Executives from Biocell Center Corp., Biocius, Edimer Pharmaceuticals, Ginkgo BioWorks, FloDesign, Icelandair, NeoStem, Nexage, Suntron, Synageva BioPharma Corp., and the MENTOR Network will be welcomed as new additions to the Commonwealth’s business landscape. The companies represent a wide variety of industries including energy, social services, life sciences, defense technology, and travel.

MassEcon Chairman Bob Brustlin, President & CEO of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, will help welcome a group of over 100 attendees, thanking the companies for bringing innovation and opportunity to the state. “The companies at this event are a wonderful addition to the Commonwealth’s business community,” commented Brustlin. “We at MassEcon hope this marks the beginning of a long-standing relationship with the Commonwealth.” MassEcon is a private, non-profit partnership of business, industry leaders, and government dedicated to fostering economic growth in the Commonwealth. The entity markets Massachusetts by providing services to companies seeking to expand within or relocate to Massachusetts, including the only state Site Finder Service, Research and Information Service, and the Ambassador Network.

“These companies speak to the great diversity and innovation that are at the very core of the Commonwealth’s economic strengths,” said Greg Bialecki, the Commonwealth’s Secretary of Housing and Economic Development. “We welcome them as new partners to the Commonwealth, and look forward to working together to secure the state’s long term prosperity.”

“MassEcon and its Ambassadors want to say ‘thank you’ to these companies for locating in Massachusetts,” said Susan Houston, Executive Director of MassEcon. “Connecting their senior executives with contacts from the state, academia, and other industries tells these companies that there is a community ready to support their growth.”

MassEcon oversees the *Massachusetts Ambassadors* program, a network of senior executives throughout Massachusetts who serve as peer contacts for companies evaluating Massachusetts as an expansion location.

***How MassEcon Helps Massachusetts Economic Development***

MassEcon is a private non-profit partnership of business, industry, and government leaders dedicated to fostering growth in the Commonwealth. Launched in 1993 by the Governor’s Council for Growth and Technology, MassEcon promotes Massachusetts by providing information services to companies seeking to expand or relocate to the state. MassEcon’s services include the *Site Finder Service*, the *Research & Information Service*, and the *Massachusetts Ambassadors* program. MassEcon is a member of the Massachusetts Business Resource Team.

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