

TOP BUSINESS DEALS OF 2014

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE wasn't the only sector of the local economy to see a lot of action in 2014. Several significant business deals in the industrial and tech sectors were inked last year, signaling continued growth and economic development in the Capital Region.

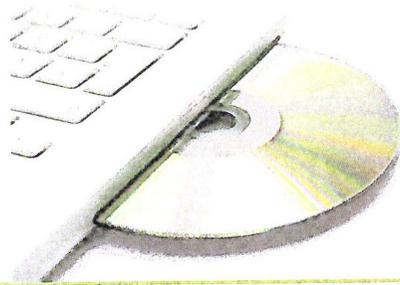
"We saw a continued high pace of

economic development in the region," Baton Rouge Area Chamber President and CEO Adam Knapp says. "That was particularly true in manufacturing and software development."

Those achievements didn't go unnoticed. Baton Rouge was named to *Southern Business & Development* magazine's "2014 Top Ten Shining Ex-

amples of Economic Development That's Working." It ranked first among selected U.S. cities compared for cost competitiveness, according to KPMG; *Southern Business & Development* also recognized Baton Rouge as the 2014 Major Market of the Year.

Below are some of the deals that made headlines.



STIXIS

Stixis, a Bangalore, India-based software firm, announced it will relocate its U.S. headquarters from Dallas to the Louisiana Technology Park on Florida Boulevard. Officials estimate the company will create 230 new direct jobs in the Capital Region with an average salary of \$59,500 per year, plus benefits. Stixis engineers software solutions coupled with application management, maintenance and support for customers across a range of sectors, including oil and gas, health care, digital media and entertainment, education, retail and government. The company says it chose Louisiana for its headquarters relocation after considering many other states around the nation.

LOUISIANA'S FIRST LNG FACILITY AT PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE

Houston-based Waller Marine Inc. and Omaha-based Tenaska NG Fuels announced plans to build a natural gas liquefaction and fueling facility on roughly 80 acres at the Port of Greater Baton Rouge. Construction of the facility, known as Tenaska Bayou LNG, is expected to take between 18 months and two years. Commercial operation is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2017. The facility initially will be capable of producing 200,000 gallons of LNG daily, which is the energy equivalent of more than 133,000 gallons of gasoline. The plant will also provide compressed natural gas. The companies say the LNG and compressed gas will be a lower-cost and cleaner-burning alternative for high-horsepower marine, transportation, natural gas and oil exploration, as well as production industries throughout the region.



COURTESY PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE



NFR BIOENERGY SUGAR REFINERY PROJECT

NFR BioEnergy officials announced plans to spend roughly \$312 million to install biorefineries at more than 10 sugar refining hubs in south Louisiana, pending completions of lease and biomass agreements with the sugar mills. If the sugar mill agreements are landed, NFR BioEnergy will construct a series of biorefineries across the region that would create an estimated 450 new direct jobs and an additional 1,903 new indirect jobs. NFR BioEnergy will convert sugarcane waste, known as bagasse, into hardened energy pellets for use as fuel at global power plants. NFR BioEnergy has begun development of the first biorefinery in White Castle, where it is co-locating the facility with the Cora Texas Sugar Mill. Currently based in Plandome, New York, NFR BioEnergy will move its headquarters to White Castle as it completes the first part of the project.