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The Faces of Metro Orlando's International Business

Metro Orlando: home to numerous successful business leaders who hail from all parts of the globe, and a U.S. headquarters base for foreign-based companies. Below are profiles of just a few of these leaders and organizations:

Dr. Bruce Chai – Crystal Photonics. This Taiwan native came to the U.S., earned a PhD from Yale University and began his career with Allied Chemical in New Jersey, supervising the materials research center. It was there that he learned to grow crystals and earned a blossoming reputation as a leader in the industry. The University of Central Florida lured Chai to join its Center for Research and Education in Optics and Lasers (one of only a few centers in the country) as a tenured professor. From here, Chai founded Crystal Photonics with \$150,000. Today, the company is a world leader in manufacturing optical crystals for use in things like PET Scanners which detect cancer and missile early warning systems found in Apache helicopters. And, Dr. Chai has been recognized as an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Beat Kahli – developer, entrepreneur. This Switzerland-born developer and entrepreneur has become a major force in Metro Orlando's community development. Kahli is the developer of one of the region's communities called Avalon Park—a \$3.1 billion, 1,800+ acre community that has attracted more than 11,000 residents and hundreds of new homes and businesses. In addition, this successful entrepreneur owns and is involved with more than 50 projects and companies across the country, including concrete plants, a landscape company, restaurants and a newspaper.

Mansoor Mollaghasemi – Productivity Apex, Inc. (PAI). Mollaghasemi is a native of Iran with an extensive background in industrial engineering. In 2001, she founded Productivity Apex, which resides in the University of Central Florida's top-ranked Technology Incubator. The company uses the sound principles of industrial engineering and operations research to help commercial enterprises and government agencies improve their productivity and maximize their efficiencies. PAI has a wide range of software development and consulting services in areas of simulation modeling and analysis, supply chain management, data mining and artificial intelligence, and process optimization. Clients include NASA, Duracell and Siemens Energy, Inc.

Lina Viveros – Inter Bio-Lab, Inc. Lina, who is originally from Mexico, took over the company when her husband died. Founded in 1992, Inter Bio-Lab, Inc. is an established international provider of high-grade reconditioned diagnostic, laboratory equipment. The company distributes these refurbished instruments, which include hematology and coagulation analyzers, at an excellent value to hospitals and specialty medical offices around the globe.

Dr. Najeeb Zuberi - neurologist. After nearly 10 years of R&D work, this Pakistani native and well known neurologist has patented a unique pillow designed to stop snoring and moderate sleep apnea. Zuberi, a board-certified doctor in neurology and psychology, created the 'Sona Pillow', an FDA approved pillow for the treatment of mild sleep apnea and to help stop snoring. The product is sold nationwide by Thane International at retailers like Brookstone, Amazon and The Sharper Image.

Indra Systems, Inc. Headquartered in Madrid, Spain with a worldwide employee base of more than 5,000, Indra Systems opened its first U.S. office in Metro Orlando. The company specializes in three main lines of business: information technologies, simulation and automatic maintenance systems, and defense electronic equipment.

Adacel. Australian-based Adacel Technologies is a leading developer of advanced simulation and software applications and services for market segments including aviation, defense, telecommunications, corporate and government. The company was established in 1987 and listed on the ASX in 1998. Since then, it has grown rapidly and now has operations in North America and Europe, as well as Australia.

Mitsubishi Power Systems Americas, Inc. This Orlando-based division of Japan's Mitsubishi corporation provides a broad range of products and services, including power systems, air-conditioners, machinery for industrial and general use, aerospace systems and more. In addition to the Orlando corporate headquarters, Mitsubishi Power Systems also operates a power systems service and manufacturing center in the region.

Siemens Energy, Inc. While Germany is the headquarters home for Siemens Worldwide, Metro Orlando is the headquarters for Siemens Energy, Inc. It is the regional business entity in the Americas for Siemens Energy's global fossil power generation business, which has an installed fleet of nearly 550,000 megawatts worldwide. With more than 26,000 employees worldwide, the company offers a full spectrum of innovative, environmentally friendly, cost-effective power generation products, and an unparalleled level of service and support.

Quadrant Systems and Lightmaker. Both U.K.-based companies maintain their U.S. operation bases in Orlando. Quadrant is an industry leader in flight simulation for both the military and civilian markets. Lightmaker specializes in the development of Internet design, management, integration and application services. Its clients include Cartoon Network Europe, Nintendo Europe, Universal Pictures and Electronic Arts.