

MRO DIRECT to Expand in Pittsburgh With 110 New Jobs, \$2.9 Million Capital Investment

(Pittsburgh, PA - November 11, 2003) The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA) and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recently announced that MRO DIRECT, Inc. will expand in Pittsburgh from 13 employees to approximately 123 within the next three years. The project represents a \$2.9 million capital investment and expansion of its 2,600-square-foot facility to 6,000 square feet.

"The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance is very pleased to help foster 110 new jobs for the region," PRA President and COO Ronnie L. Bryant said. "We look forward to continuing to work with MRO DIRECT to support this expansion."

MRO DIRECT, Inc. is a strategic sourcing and procurement services company that provides structure, programs, and content that result in the lowest Total Cost Solution for businesses purchasing supplies. MRO stands for Maintenance, Repairs and Operational supplies.

"The availability of a highly skilled workforce, particularly with their experience in the supply chain industry as well as their computer expertise, was one of the primary selling points for our company's decision to expand our business here in Southwestern Pennsylvania," said Don Belt, President and CEO, MRO DIRECT. "The strong workforce, coupled with our strategic location, gives us a great deal of room for future expansion. Our business plan calls for \$200 million in sales growth; therefore, the prospect of additional expansion in the future is very high."

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania helped make this project a reality, in part by providing a financial incentives package of more than \$450,000. "MRO DIRECT is a company that recognizes the quality of our region's workforce," said Dennis Yablonsky, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. "Because of that, they have chosen to continue to invest and grow here in Southwestern Pennsylvania. The Governor Edward Rendell Administration is committed to making Pennsylvania an economic leader by investing in growth and creating new jobs. We're pleased that MRO DIRECT will continue their investment and commitment to the Commonwealth."

The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance

The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA) is a non-profit economic development organization, working in concert with public, private and civic organizations to generate and serve business creation, expansion and relocation, and to aid employers in the growth of a skilled talent pool in the 10-county region. Visit www.pittsburghregion.org or call the Business Resource Center at (877) 392-1300.

The Allegheny Conference on Community Development and its affiliates (PRA, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce and Pennsylvania Economy League - Western Division) are advancing 3 Rivers: One Future, a regional initiative to stimulate growth in Southwestern Pennsylvania's economy and improve its quality of life.