



SPRING EDITION

# MEET THE PROJECTS

**EDC** TAMPA BAY ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL

**April 21, 2021**

**4:00 - 5:30 P.M.**

Virtual Event

Thank you to our sponsor: **AMGEN**<sup>®</sup>

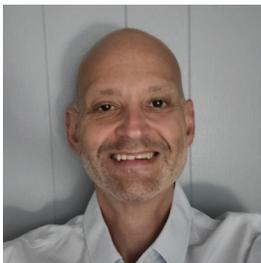


## Delasierra Filter Technology | [disfiltertech.com](https://disfiltertech.com)

Delasierra Filters Technology manufactures industrial filters for manufacturing companies and provides engineering services for filtration processes. In 2020, Delasierra's parent company, Incofilt, a Colombia-based manufacturer of industrial filters, announced it chose Tampa as the location to launch its first U.S. operations. The EDC connected Delasierra with several business resources to help with recruitment assistance and set up its operations.

### **Jose Luis Sierra, Director of Engineering and Projects**

Jose Luis Sierra is an entrepreneur and business consultant with more than 22 years of professional experience. He specializes in strategic and commercial planning projects and corporate internationalization for companies working in the Industrial Sector. Sierra has received several important recognitions from government entities for successfully implementing internationalization strategies in South and Central American countries. Sierra holds a Master in Project Management and a Master in Business Administration and is PMP® Certified.



## Garland Food | [garlandfood.net](https://garlandfood.net)

Garland Food is a supplier of fresh garlic and fresh produce to the commercial and institutional foodservice market. Established in Miami in 1992 to sell garlic to area restaurants, stores, and food establishments, Garland is rapidly growing its business across the southeast. In 2020, it chose Plant City as the site for a second production and distribution facility. Some of its largest/well-known customers include Costco, Winn-Dixie, Walmart, Publix, El Presidente supermarkets, Cheney Brothers, GFS, and Sysco.

### **Doug Spurgeon, Director of Operations**

Doug Spurgeon joined Garland in May 2020 and designed and implemented the Plant City facility. Prior to Garland, Spurgeon held various roles as materials manager, purchasing manager, director of operations, and plant manager. He has 27 years of manufacturing experience across a wide variety of industries, including automotive, pharmaceutical, medical device, cannabis, food, paper, and now garlic. Spurgeon was born and raised in Indiana, and graduated from Butler University in Indianapolis.



## Nextech | [nextech.com](https://nextech.com)

Nextech is the complete healthcare technology solution for specialty providers. Since 1997, Nextech has been focused on delivering innovative solutions and services that drive efficiency, fuel growth and enhance the patient care experience. Nextech services more than 11,000 physicians and over 60,000 office staff members in the clinical specialties of Ophthalmology, Dermatology, Orthopedics and Plastic Surgery. In 2020, the Tampa Bay EDC assisted Nextech with an expansion of its corporate headquarters in Tampa.

### **Rebecca J. Sanford, Chief People Officer**

Rebecca Sanford is a forward-thinking human resources executive with over fifteen years of professional experience championing organizational culture and employee experience, particularly through periods of transformation/ M&A. Sanford serves as Chief People Officer at Nextech Systems, a private equity backed specialty healthcare software provider headquartered in Tampa. Sanford joined Nextech's executive leadership team in 2014 and has since led the People & Culture department through three successful acquisitions, more than doubling its workforce.



## Pfizer | [pfizer.com](https://pfizer.com)

At Pfizer, they apply science and their global resources to bring therapies to people that extend and significantly improve their lives. Pfizer strives to set the standard for quality, safety and value in the discovery, development and manufacture of health care products, including innovative medicines and vaccines. Every day, Pfizer colleagues work across developed and emerging markets to advance wellness, prevention, treatments and cures that challenge the most feared diseases of our time. Consistent with our responsibility as one of the world's premier innovative biopharmaceutical companies, they collaborate with health care providers, governments and local communities to support and expand access to reliable, affordable health care around the world. In February 2021, Pfizer announced plans to open a global capability hub in Tampa.

### **Brian Martin, Vice President & US Site Lead, Global Business Services**

Brian Martin is a seasoned executive with more than 30 years of global finance and accounting, shared service and operations experience. His experience includes a unique blend of public accounting and industry experience. In his current role as Global R2R Process Owner & U.S. Site Lead with Pfizer, Martin is responsible for leading more than 600 colleagues, delivering global finance and accounting activities through 6 global enabling functions hubs. He is also responsible for leading both U.S. enabling function hubs located in Memphis, TN and Tampa, FL. Martin is a member of the GBS Financial Services Executive Leadership Team.



## Suzuki Marine | [suzukimarine.com](https://suzukimarine.com)

Suzuki Motor of America announced in February 2021 that it chose Tampa as the corporate headquarters location of its new company, Suzuki Marine USA, LLC. Suzuki Marine is powered by innovation and the drive to bring all boaters the best possible technology and features. Its complete line-up of Ultimate Outboard Motors from 2.5 to 350 horsepower is engineered to deliver lightweight performance, excellent fuel economy and durability over the long run. The fuel-efficient, all 4-stroke outboard family is in keeping with Suzuki's overarching commitment to protecting our planet's fragile environment — as seen in the company's ongoing global Clean Up The World initiative and the recent introduction of an exclusive micro-plastic filtering device designed to make Suzuki outboard motors part of the solution to this crisis affecting oceans and waterways worldwide.

### **Jacob Ewing, Department Manager, Administration**

Jacob Ewing joined Suzuki in 2002, where he heads the Administration department at Suzuki Marine USA. With a strong focus on corporate governance, the Administration team is responsible for purchasing, legal coordination, sales incentive administration, facilities and internal policy and procedure. Prior to relocating to the Tampa Bay area from his home state of California, Ewing was responsible for Suzuki's Parts and Accessories Operations in the U.S.

### **George "Gus" Blakely, Executive Vice President, Sales & Marketing**

George "Gus" Blakely joined Suzuki in the 1980s as part of the motorcycle racing and development team. He left for stints with Toyota USA and Mercury Marine before returning in 1991 to grow Suzuki's outboard business. At that time, Suzuki wasn't selling many outboards in the U.S., so the company put a plan into action to expand its dealer network and to begin doing business with boat builders. After successfully growing and managing the boat builder business, Blakely moved on to manage Suzuki's marine business in the U.S. Suzuki is now the number three outboard manufacturer in the U.S. and the world. With the move to Tampa, Suzuki plans to grow its business and to become the Ultimate Outboard manufacturer in the U.S. Blakely has recently moved to Tampa and is currently looking for a home.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT**

**Craig J. Richard, President and CEO**

**813.518.2620 or [crichard@tampabayedc.com](mailto:crichard@tampabayedc.com)**

