



Atlanta Welcomes International Woodworking Fair

ATLANTA (August 15, 2002) – The Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB) welcomes the International Woodworking Machinery & Furniture Supply Fair (IWF), the largest trade show of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, back to Atlanta Aug. 22-25, 2002, at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) and in the much anticipated Phase IV expansion.

A biennial event in Atlanta since 1984, IWF is Atlanta's largest trade show this year in terms of exhibit space used with more than 834,000 net square feet, which is an increase of more than 18 percent from the show in 2000. Some 45,000 participants are estimated to attend the show having an economic impact of approximately \$48 million. For the second time this year, the GWCC is opening the exhibit hall in the Phase IV expansion early to accommodate the large IWF show, and this will be the first show to use the new Northside Drive entrance.

IWF showcases machinery, supplies and services for both large manufacturers and small professional shops in the woodworking, furniture, cabinetry, solid surface, architectural woodwork, store fixtures and plastic fabricating industries. This year's show will be the largest ever with 1,332 exhibitors from around the world displaying the latest in machinery, supplies and services to attendees from more than 80 countries.

"Atlanta is very proud of our great history with the International Woodworking Fair and their continued commitment to Atlanta," said Spurgeon Richardson, ACVB president. "It means a great deal to the city for a hometown organization like IWF to keep their business in town and support our local economy."

"We are pleased to be one of the first trade shows to occupy the new Phase IV Expansion at the GWCC and the very first one to fill it," commented IWF President and CEO Patrick LaFramboise. "Our exhibitors have been wanting the extra space and without this recent expansion we may have had to look at other options outside Atlanta. Now that is no longer a concern and it's good to know we have the room to grow that we need."

"We are overly excited to host this year's International Woodworking Fair and the Congress Center's largest show to date. The show has grown over the years and will fully encompass the 12 exhibit halls that make up the Georgia World Congress Center," said Patsie Rand, GWCC director of marketing and sales.

IWF is owned and sponsored by American Furniture Manufacturers Association (AFMA), Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America (WMMA) and Woodworking Machinery Industry Association (WMIA).

For more information about the International Woodworking Machinery and Furniture Supply Fair-USA[®], go online to www.iwf2002.com. For more information about Atlanta and the ACVB, visit www.atlanta.net.

Interesting about IWF

- Exhibitors are shipping approximately 18 million pounds of machinery, supplies and equipment to IWF
- It takes a total of nine days to move in and set up IWF
- A total of 20 special cranes – sent from as far away as Chicago and Los Angeles – will be used to move the exhibits into place.
- It takes about 550,000 man hours to set up and dismantle IWF
- IWF is the largest Georgia Power customer for the four-day duration of IWF

Established in 1913, the ACVB is a private, nonprofit organization created exclusively to market metro Atlanta and Georgia as the premier conventions, meetings and leisure destination in the regional, national and international marketplace and to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism.

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