

## Follow South Florida Workforce



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR REGIONAL BUSINESSES PAYS OFF

**(MIAMI, June 6, 2011)** — The South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) is connecting businesses with the appropriate expertise to build, grow and improve their businesses. *Protech e<sup>2</sup>*, a Monroe County-based electrical and audio/visual company, was selected to receive technical assistance from GrowFL, and the first business in the Florida Keys to be accepted in to the state's stimulus program.

SFWIB is collaborating with state and regional agencies, industry associations to provide high quality support to area businesses. "Most businesses could benefit from specialized guidance to improve operations, increase profits, manage growth and ensure longevity", said Rick Beasley, executive director for the South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

Through offering a wide range of employment and training services, businesses can satisfy their short and long term strategies. Some of the assistance provided by SFWIB includes financial incentives aimed to offset the costs of upgrading the skills of current personnel, recruiting and hiring prospective employees. In 2009, SFWIB awarded financial assistance to *Protech e<sup>2</sup>* for training their employees in solar panel installation. Essentially, this initiative provides businesses with the tools to help increase revenue and sustain their growth in this competitive market.

Created in 2009 by the Florida Legislature, GrowFL is based at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. "When selecting businesses for the program, the institute looks for ones that have the potential to succeed," said Dr. Tom O'Neal, executive director of the Florida Economic Gardening Institute.

Founded in 2005, *Protech e<sup>2</sup>* specializes in residential and commercial electrical and electronics services including computer networking, home automation, landscape lighting, LED lighting, solar panel systems and more. "The affiliation will allow us to utilize valuable resources in enhancing the growth of our business and create more jobs in the Florida Keys," said John E. Forrer, founder of *Protech e<sup>2</sup>*. The company currently has 15 employees.

#### **About South Florida Workforce Investment Board**

South Florida Workforce is a public-private partnership and integral partner in Miami-Dade's economic plan that initiates state and federally funded workforce development and training policies for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Additionally, South Florida Workforce services and resources are available to everyone at no cost through a network of Career Centers located throughout the Region.

Learn more Business Services by visiting [www.southfloridaworkforce.com](http://www.southfloridaworkforce.com) or call 305.594.7615 ext.407.

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*South Florida Workforce is an equal opportunity employer/program.  
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*