



1 Oakwood Blvd., Suite 195, Hollywood, FL 33020 / 844-251-3219 - 954-367-7728 / gawda@gawda.org

January 4, 2017 - For Immediate Release

For more information contact: Diane Stirling, GAWDA Media (dianes@datakey.org; 315 445 2347 x 120)
John Ospina, GAWDA Executive Director (jospina@gawda.org; 954-367-7728 x 240)

GAWDA Begins Quarterly Economic Forecasts; Adds *ITR Economics* as Consultant

Hollywood, Fla. - The Gases and Welding Distributors Association (GAWDA) now is offering its members industry-specific quarterly economic forecasts and market analysis reports provided by eminent firm ITR Economics.

The association also has named ITR Economics' principal and president, Dr. Alan Beaulieu, as GAWDA's chief economist, and he joins several other industry specialists on the organization's consultant team, according to John Ospina, GAWDA executive director.

GAWDA members will receive the first of ITR's ongoing quarterly market analysis and forecast reports in the first quarter of 2017, Ospina said. The information is being distributed to members through the association's print and online publications and via GAWDA webinars and in-person conferences.

Quarterlies and More

ITR Economics is providing GAWDA-specific and industry-tailored quarterly economic trend analysis reports; recommendations for business actions based on market conditions and financial trends; economic forecasts that look ahead six to 12 months; articles focused on specific economic trends, occurrences, insights and topics; timely notices and details when economic events occur; and discounted pricing on ITR Economics-hosted webinars.

The hiring of ITR sprung from members' interest in obtaining more industry-specific financial forecasting and market data to use in business decision-making, noted Mark Raimy, GAWDA's 2016-2017 president, who initiated the undertaking. "These trend reports are crafted 100 percent from what we at GAWDA do. The content is so focused to GAWDA that it's going to be much more applicable and specific to the member base, therefore really powerful," association President Raimy noted.

High Accuracy

ITR is known for its high rate of forecasting accuracy. In formulating reports tailored to the GAWDA membership, the firm is using economic indicators that reflect fluctuations in the welding and gases distribution industry; insights from the data of GAWDA businesses whose filings are public; and information from industries that are important customers for GAWDA firms, according to Beaulieu. The company also applies business cycle theories and its own proprietary economic indicator, a factor developed by ITR's founder in the 1940s. Those theories "have resulted in a long-term accuracy rate of

94.7 percent or better rating four quarters into the future, on everything we forecast domestically and internationally, for more than 30 years of tracking,” according to Beaulieu.

The reports will be highly useful to GAWDA members, Beaulieu added, “because ITR Economics is in the risk reduction business. If we can replace ‘think’ with ‘know’ in terms of what is coming along in the marketplace, and with a 95-percent confidence rating, that can help GAWDA members prepare before making decisions, and that can help members enhance profitability.”

About ITR

ITR Economics is the oldest, privately-held, continuously operating economic research and consulting firm in the United States. Since 1948, the firm has provided business leaders with economic information, insight, analysis and strategy, and what it says is “the best economic intelligence to reduce risk and drive practical and profitable business decisions.” Its knowledge base spans six decades and the firm has “an uncommon understanding of long-term economic trends and how to react to critical changes in market conditions” as well as a reputation for “excellent, independent and objective analysis,” the company says.

GAWDA Membership

For information about joining GAWDA, obtaining the ITR reports and the complete range of membership benefits, contact the association’s Membership Services Manager Stephen Hill, at shill@gawda.org and 954-367-7728.



Dr. Alan Beaulieu, President and Principal, ITR Economics

About GAWDA

Founded in 1945, the Gases and Welding Distributors Association (GAWDA) is dedicated to promoting the safe operation and economic vitality of distributors of industrial gases and related welding equipment supplies. Through its *GAWDA Gives Back* campaign, association members have donated almost \$2 million over the last 16 years to 22 different charitable organizations in 13 communities across the U.S. Since 2013, GAWDA and its members also have provided scholarships totaling \$94,000 to 47 young people interested in studies leading to careers in the industry. For more information, visit the association’s website at www.gawda.org.