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## **ALL ABOARD FLORIDA HIRES THE VAILON GROUP TO RECRUIT MIAMI-DADE WORKERS AND SUBCONTRACTORS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MIAMICENTRAL**

**Coral Gables, FL** (March 24, 2015) - All Aboard Florida has hired The Vailon Group to implement the company's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in Miami-Dade County. The Miami-based consulting firm, well known for its advocacy on behalf of small businesses, will work with Suffolk Construction, the passenger-rail company's general contractor that is building its MiamiCentral train station, to ensure that local subcontractors and area workers are included in the project's construction.

When completed in 2017, the nation's first privately funded, express passenger-rail system will connect Miami to Orlando with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. The 235-mile rail-and-infrastructure project is expected to create 10,000 jobs along the rail corridor. MiamiCentral is estimated to generate 457 jobs during construction, and 408 positions when the station is fully operational. The county will realize \$1.3 billion in economic benefits during the station's construction-and- implementation phase.

"The Vailon Group has a proven track record of advocacy supporting local workers and businesses," said All Aboard Florida Executive Vice President of Development and Construction Scott Sanders. "Our partnership with The Vailon Group will focus on opening up more opportunities and making them more accessible for residents and small-business owners in our community."

Marsha E. Jackman, the county's head of Business Development for more than a decade, launched The Vailon Group in 2007 to help businesses in South Florida diversify and expand their reach into local communities. The firm's clients include the city of Miami; Port of Miami Tunnel Project; Wexford Science, developer of University of Miami Life Science & Technology Park; Resorts World Miami and Sun Life Stadium.

"All Aboard Florida is creating an innovative and transformational rail-infrastructure system and is committed to creating jobs in those areas surrounding the project, including Overtown, the city of Miami, and Miami-Dade County," said Jackman, president of The Vailon Group. "What is exciting and already apparent is the company's level of commitment to hiring locally, and to reaching out to and forging long-lasting relationships with small and local businesses. Our firm's role will be to assist the company achieve these goals and to synergize the community through this engagement."

MiamiCentral will be the flagship train station in the All Aboard Florida rail network. The mixed-use residential, office and commercial complex will encompass nearly 3 million square feet comprised of a nine-acre multi-modal hub in downtown Miami just east of Miami-Dade County Hall, and a two-acre site in Historic Overtown. The hub will connect residents, office workers, visitors and All Aboard Florida passengers with Miami's public transit systems and proposed Tri-Rail Downtown Miami Link. The Overtown structure will include parking to support the transportation center.

The new passenger-rail trains will arrive and depart MiamiCentral on elevated tracks 50 feet off the ground. A pedestrian-friendly concourse of specialty shops and eateries will be at street level below the train platform. This innovative design will allow through-streets to remain open to traffic.

#### **About All Aboard Florida**

All Aboard Florida is an intercity passenger rail project being developed by Florida East Coast Industries, Inc. (FECI), the owner of Florida's premier passenger-rail corridor. The service will connect Miami to Orlando with stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. It will also provide Floridians and visitors with a viable transportation alternative to congested highways and airports, and deliver a high-quality onboard experience for passengers. All Aboard Florida will be the first privately owned, operated, and maintained passenger rail system in the United States. For more information, visit [www.AllAboardFlorida.com](http://www.AllAboardFlorida.com).

#### **About Florida East Coast Industries**

Florida East Coast Industries, LLC (FECI) is one of Florida's oldest and largest full-service commercial real estate, transportation and infrastructure companies. Headquartered in Coral Gables, Fla., FECI has a rich history, dating back more than a century. Henry Flagler established a predecessor to the company in 1892 that pioneered the development of Florida's east coast. Today, FECI continues to transform Florida as parent company to four distinct businesses: Flagler, a full-service commercial real estate company; All Aboard Florida, the United States' first privately owned and operated intercity passenger rail system; Flagler Global Logistics, an integrated logistics company offering logistics services and real estate solutions; and Parallel Infrastructure, a leader in third-party Right of Way (ROW) investments and management services. FECI is owned by private equity funds managed by affiliates of Fortress Investment Group, LLC. For more information, visit [www.feci.com](http://www.feci.com).

#### **About The Valion Group**

Established in 2007, The Valion Group was initially created to advocate for small business interests in Miami-Dade County. In recent years, the firm has expanded to provide strategic direction on public/private partnerships, mentor/protégé programs, program and policy development, management reorganization, benchmarks and guidelines on multi-million and billion dollar construction and infrastructure projects. For more information, visit [www.valiongroup.com](http://www.valiongroup.com).

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