

July 29, 2022

Ms. Jerod Metz
Business Development Specialist
Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development
300 West Broadway
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Jerod,

On behalf of Commerce Lexington's economic development division, we want to thank you and the consulting team for recommending Lexington as a potential location for Project American Memory. Our central location, strong manufacturing background, and educated workforce, are among the many reasons Lexington is the best choice.

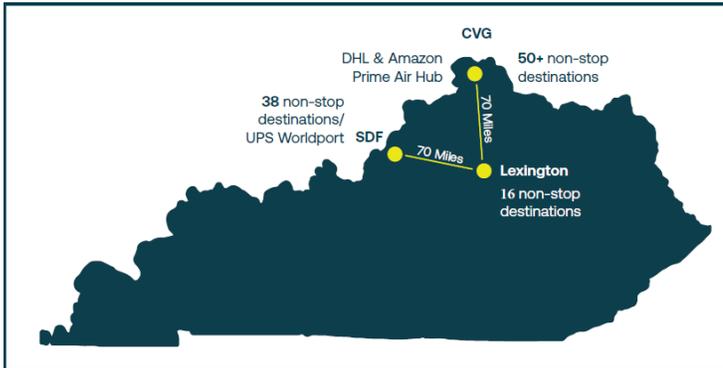
Covering nine counties in Central Kentucky, the Bluegrass Region is a thriving metro area with nearly 700,000 people living within a 30-mile radius. Lexington is home to the University of Kentucky Coldstream Research Campus, the only research and development business park in the state. Coldstream, a 735-acre office park, was specifically designed for recruiting high-tech and biotech companies, as well as university centers and startups.

The University of Kentucky is the heartbeat for innovation and technology, offering many opportunities for collaboration between researchers, businesses, and industry. Since 2011, UK has invested over \$2.3 billion in residential, community, academic, research, healthcare, and athletics facilities. This investment demonstrates the university's commitment to empowering both students and faculty to succeed in their individual and collaborative pursuits. To date, UK's patent portfolio includes 618 worldwide patent assets, many from interdisciplinary and industry collaboration. The interdisciplinary advantage UK provides is clearly indicated by their status as one of only eight universities in the country with robust programs in agriculture, medicine, engineering, and pharmacy located on one contiguous campus.

Educated Workforce

Lexington is a very smart city. According to the most recent Census data, Lexington is the 11th most highly educated city in the nation. Nearly 45% of the population over age 25 has at least a bachelor's degree. We are also 10th in the nation whose population over age 25 has an advanced degree. This is a result of the success of the area's colleges and universities. Within 40 miles of Lexington there are 10 institutions of higher education, which enroll nearly 70,000 students and graduate over 18,000 students annually. Our flagship university is the University of Kentucky, which is in the heart of Lexington. Each college will serve as a potential source for workforce and future partnerships for Project American Memory.





Airport Access

Lexington is home to the Blue Grass Airport, which offers 16 non-stop destinations on major carriers including Delta, American, United, and Allegiant Air. Within an hour’s drive of Lexington are the Louisville and Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airports. Combined our region offers over 100 non-stop destinations daily from the three airports.

Trane Closure

Trane, an Ingersoll Rand company, recently announced they are closing their air handling manufacturing operation in Lexington, which will affect 500 workers. The facility completed layoffs at the end of 2021. Most of the displaced jobs will be assembly, production, and maintenance positions.

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP)

The BGCAPP is located near Richmond, Kentucky. The plant officially started chemical agent destruction operations in 2019, a long-awaited milestone since construction on the facility began in 2006. Mustard agent munitions will be destroyed in the Explosive Destruction Technology facility using a static detonation chamber, while nerve agent munitions will be destroyed in the main plant using neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation. Approximately 1,200 people with various technical backgrounds and certifications are employed with this plant. When the destruction is completed in the near future these employees will be searching for work in the manufacturing plants and other sources in the local areas.

Quality of Life

The Bluegrass Region is fortunate to have a wonderful quality of life. In addition to lower housing costs, a vibrant downtown, and an eclectic array of restaurants and night clubs, we have many cultural amenities that add to the quality of life. The beautiful landscape of our city includes walking trails, farmers’ markets, art galleries, entertainment venues, as well as the home of Keeneland Racecourse, which is one of the premier race courses in the world. Outside of Lexington there are many attractions in Central Kentucky from shopping in downtown Richmond, touring Woodford Reserve bourbon distillery, Friday Night Festivals in Mt. Sterling, to attending a show at the Eastern Kentucky University Center for the Arts.

As you can see, we are proud of our community, and we believe the Bluegrass Region is ideal for your client. We appreciate you considering Lexington as potential location for Project American Memory. We look forward to our continued work with you!

Sincerely,

Gina Greathouse
Executive Vice President
Economic Development

Katie Vandegrift
Director of Marketing and Research
Economic Development