



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK 2001 JOINS WITH ANNUAL PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON –Small business owners will be center stage for award ceremonies, networking, training and procurement opportunities when the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) combines its National Small Business Week 2001 celebration with the 34th Annual Joint Industry/SBA Procurement Conference this May.

The National Small Business Week celebration officially kicks off on May 7 at the Renaissance Washington Hotel and will conclude on May 9. It will include a series of events in local communities across the nation to honor America's top entrepreneurs. In keeping with this year's theme for Small Business Week, "A History of Success, A Millennium of Opportunity," the SBA is reaffirming its commitment to the continued success of all small businesses by linking the joint procurement conference to this year's celebration.

The annual procurement conference will educate small business owners on how to get their fair share of the \$200 billion federal marketplace. The objective of the procurement conference is to provide the perfect contracting venue for all small businesses to share their experiences and challenges with each other and to learn about new business opportunities and resources available in the marketplace today.

"This is an exciting time for entrepreneurs because not only are some of their peers being honored for their successes and dedication, they will also receive briefings and presentations on the most recent developments in federal procurement," said William Fisher, acting associate deputy administrator for government contracting.

A list of regional prime/subcontractor award winners and registration information is available at <http://smallbusinesssuccess.sba.gov/>.

The SBA will recognize small businesses for their outstanding accomplishments in the contracting arena. These awards will include:

- Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence
- Administrator's Award for Excellence
- Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year Award
- Small Business Subcontractor of the Year Award
- Frances Perkins Vanguard Award

- Gold Star Award

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01-16 / Page Two

There will be a business expo for entrepreneurs to network and receive peer-to-peer counseling. The conference will also include workshop seminars that will touch on subjects such as:

- current trends in doing business with prime contractors;
- subcontracting issues;
- the challenges of e-business;
- financing your small business;
- mentor-protégé programs;
- international trade; and
- how to do business with the government.

For more information about all of SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640. Also, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

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