

# ReBUILDING IRAQ

SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES

MIDWEST SUMMIT

17 FEBRUARY 2004

CHICAGO, IL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Bechtel, Halliburton, Parsons and Other Top Contractors, Numerous Small Businesses to Participate in Midwest Rebuilding Iraq Summit**

**CHICAGO- February 6, 2004** New Fields Exhibitions announced that the Small Business Opportunities in Iraq: Midwest Summit will take place on Tuesday February 17 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago. Seven prime contractors, with contracts worth a total of several billion dollars, will join small business leaders from throughout the Midwest to explore partnerships for a wide range of economic opportunities in Iraq.

"I am very pleased that New Fields has seen fit to bring this major contracting opportunity to the Midwest—the largest market in the world," says Patrick E. Rea U.S. Small Business Administration's Chicago Regional Administrator.

Senior executives from Bechtel, Halliburton KBR, Parsons Corporation, Washington Group International, Perini Corp, and Ch2m Hill Companies will outline how small businesses can get involved in the new Iraq. Attendees will have a chance to meet these executives face to face during networking breaks throughout the day.

"The opportunity for Iowa companies to participate in the re-construction of the largest-growing new market in the world is tremendous," says Stacy Brenton, Public Relations Director for the Iowa Association of Business and Industry. "An opportunity like this hasn't been seen since post-WWII, and the U.S. Government and prime contractors are eager to establish and help facilitate successful Midwest sub-contracting partnerships," Brenton says.

The event will feature presentations from the Coalition Provisional Authority, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Additional panel discussions will highlight risk management in Iraq and export credit issues.

"A number of our members are very excited about the possibility of accessing new prime business opportunities through this Midwestern summit, says Michael Ayers, Ph.D., Executive Vice President & COO for the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. "The summit opens a new avenue for valuable business networking and relationship building. I hope that all who envision a role in this important initiative attend the summit."

The Chicago conference, with the support of the U.S. Small Business Administration, is the latest in a successful series of Iraq-related events produced by New Fields Exhibitions. New Fields 2nd Rebuilding Iraq Conference took place in Washington in December and featured presentations by Iraqi Labor Minister Sami al Maajoun, and Rend al Rahim, the Iraqi Governing Council's new representative to the United States, along with attendance by 80 Iraqi businessmen and 400 other individuals representing companies from over 30 countries. The event was covered on the front page of *The New York Times* and by dozens of other media outlets throughout the world, including Reuters and MSNBC.

## ***CONFERENCE AGENDA***

**8:00 - 10:00**

Registration/Continental Breakfast

**10:00 - 10:30**

**Welcome**

Congressman Don Manzullo (R-IL)

Chairman, House Small Business Committee

Gen. Pat Rea

Midwest Regional Director, U.S. Small Business Administration

**10:30 - 11:30**

**Perspectives from Prime Contractors**

Jeannie Houston

Program Manager, Supplier Development and Diversity Program

Bechtel

Kimberla Fairley

Small Business Liaison

Halliburton KBR

Robert Ferguson

Director of Contracts and Procurement

Perini Corporation

**11:30 - 12:30**

**Networking Session**

**12:30 - 1:30**

**Lunch**

**1:30 - 2:30**

**Perspectives from Prime Contractors**

Sam Artis

Subcontracts Manager

Washington Group International

Dan Fitzgerald

Small Business Liaison Officer

Parsons Infrastructure and Technology

Willie Franklin

Small Business Liaison Officer

CH2M Hill

**2:30 - 3:00**

**Networking**

**3:00 – 3:30**

**Small Businesses and International Trade**

John Nevell

International Trade Specialist

U.S. Small Business Administration

**3:30 - 4:00**

**Learn from Companies on the Ground**

Chris Exline

Founder and President

Home Essentials

Additional information can be obtained from New Fields in Washington DC at 202.496-4976 ext. 221 or <http://www.new-fields.com/chicago/index.htm> .

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