



MEDIA ADVISORY

PRESS OFFICE

Date: January 22, 2003

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Internet Address: www.sba.gov/news/indexheadline.html

MA03-01

SBA ADMINISTRATOR ANNOUNCES BILLION-DOLLAR CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

WHAT: The U.S. Small Business Administration and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will announce the Business Matchmaking Program, designed to provide a major economic stimulus to America's small businesses. The program will feature two-day events in 15 cities around the country, starting March 4-5 in Orlando, Fla..

In each city, small businesses will have pre-scheduled, individual appointments with buyers from federal, state and local government agencies, as well as private companies. Before an event, small business owners and buyers complete online profiles to create the best possible matches.

WHY: The Business Matchmaking Program is an SBA initiative that offers small businesses in 15 cities throughout the United States, creating a unique opportunity to compete for billions of dollars in government and private company contracts. By pairing small businesses with federal, state and local government agencies and private companies that have real needs for such products and services, the program could generate significant new revenue for smaller firms. Small business currently represents 99 percent of all U.S. businesses.

WHO: **Hector V. Barreto, Administrator-U.S. Small Business Administration**
Dan Demko, Senior Vice President-U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Robyn West, Vice President-HP
Dan Ferguson, President, Covers Manufacturing-participant who won a contract during last year's pilot matchmaking event in Cleveland.

Press Availability to follow.

WHEN: January 23, 2003, 8:00 to 9:30a.m. ET

WHERE: National Press Club, Washington D.C.

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