



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Looking for Innovative Ideas for Development Of a Lending Portal

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration is looking for innovative ideas from the lending and business communities on ways to leverage its Web presence to establish a new e-commerce portal to help expand credit availability for businesses and give lenders increased access to new potential small business customers. SBA's site logs approximately 1.9 million visitors per month.

With that goal in mind, the SBA has issued a Request for Information, RFI, from potential vendors on setting up a sustainable online lending portal that would connect small business loan applicants with commercial lenders.

The portal would allow business users to enter relevant information regarding their financing needs and key financial and performance information critical to an underwriter's decision. The portal would then facilitate matching interested lenders with prospective borrowers.

The planned portal is yet another step by the SBA to encourage and facilitate increased financing opportunities for small businesses. The focus of this portal will be to link prospective small business borrowers to all lending products that would meet their needs.

"SBA's mission is to support the nation's economy by helping small businesses start, grow and expand, and a substantial part of that mission is met by our providing financial assistance," said SBA Administrator Steve Preston. "This portal will expand the ability of small businesses to access credit programs and of lenders to access a broader range of potential lenders."

While the RFI is not an official solicitation and no contract will be awarded on the basis of this information, the SBA has provided instructions that describe a wide array of topics under three categories: *Specifications*, *Pricing Strategy*, and *Project Management*. Some of the topics that need to be addressed are: User Friendliness and Transparency, Market Coverage, Privacy Policy, Pricing Structure, Revenue Sharing, Timeline, and Risks.

In addition to meeting the requirements outlined above, responses must provide general information about experience in providing services similar to those requested. All responses to the RFI are to be submitted via email to Joanie.Newhart@sba.gov, and received no later than April 28, 2008.

For additional information, visit <http://www.fedbizopps.gov/>.

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