



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: **April 8, 2004**
Release Number: **04-23**

Contact: **Sue Hensley (202) 205-6444**
Internet Address: www.sba.gov/news/

SBA Administrator Commends Choice of Al Frink for Manufacturing Position

WASHINGTON - The Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, Hector V. Barreto, today strongly applauded the decision to nominate Al Frink for the position of Assistant Secretary of Manufacturing and Services for the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Frink is the co-founder and executive vice president of Fabrica International, a company which was selected earlier this year to become a 2004 inductee of the SBA's "Hall of Fame." The Hall of Fame recognizes successful companies that have received some type of counseling or assistance from the agency. Many of them are household names, including FedEx, Intel, Compaq and Staples. Induction into the Hall of Fame is one of the SBA's most selective recognitions. Only 23 companies have been inducted.

The SBA provided a small business loan to Fabrica in 1974, which provided Frink and his partners with the capital needed to start the company on its road to success.

"I congratulate Al Frink on his nomination for this important responsibility," said Barreto. "As a former small business owner myself, I understand the importance of having someone in this position who understands the small business world. Al Frink knows what it takes to build a business from scratch. He understands what it means to supervise a staff, meet a payroll and make those crucial decisions that small business owners make every single day."

"As SBA Administrator, I talk to small business owners every single day, and one thing many of them have told me is that we need to reinforce the manufacturing sector, particularly the small business manufacturing sector," Barreto added. "Al Frink is the right man to help lead that effort. His extensive background in the manufacturing industry, his first-hand knowledge of the challenges small businesses face and his subsequent experience running a larger firm make him the perfect choice to be the Administration's point person on manufacturing."

Fabrica, based in Orange County, Calif., has been in business since 1974 and employs more than 400 people. Frink, an Hispanic-American, has held numerous leadership positions and served as a member of the Commerce Department's Exporter's Textile Advisory Committee.

###