



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA SPANISH-LANGUAGE WEB SITE PROVES GREAT SUCCESS WITH CUSTOMERS; SURPASSES ONE-MILLION HIT MARK

***Site offers invaluable business information to current and potential
Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs***

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today that its Spanish-language Web site has logged more than one million hits. Launched in September 2002, the site, at www.sba.gov/espanol, was designed to provide the most comprehensive information about SBA's programs and services to the growing Spanish-speaking community.

In order to make this wealth of information and assistance more readily available and easier to reach online, the SBA also has secured the domain www.negocios.gov.

“SBA’s mission is to reach out to America’s small business owners and provide them with the best information, tools and resources to help them start and grow successful businesses,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. **“SBA’s Spanish-language Web site greatly expands our capacity to help by making that assistance available online to the fastest growing segment of the population and a business community that has created more than two million jobs.”**

Originally launched with 80 files, the site currently has close to 200 files developed based on customer needs. They cover relevant issues such as writing a business plan, starting your own business, financing your business, technical assistance, accessing government contracts, exporting, signage and information for women entrepreneurs, among others. The site also provides links to other government Spanish-language Web sites and includes its own search engine, which makes it easier for users to find information.

For more information about all of the SBA’s programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640, or visit the SBA’s extensive Web site at <http://www.sba.gov> in English, or www.sba.gov/espanol and www.negocios.gov in Spanish.

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