



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA Agreement with American and African Business Women's Alliance Will Promote Small Business Trade With Africa

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration and the American and African Business Women's Alliance (AABWA) have signed an agreement to promote programs that will help small businesses nationally, and internationally, and to jointly participate in international trade opportunities, particularly on the African continent.

The Strategic Alliance Memorandum was signed by SBA Deputy Administrator Melanie R. Sabelhaus and Dr. Gloria B. Herndon, co-chair of the AABWA, at a meeting held recently in Washington, D.C.

"This agreement further strengthens the traditionally strong ties between our organizations," said SBA Deputy Administrator Melanie R. Sabelhaus. "AABWA has always sought to empower business women by fostering opportunities and access to markets through networks, mentoring and leadership development, and the SBA is its strong advocate."

The Strategic Alliance Memorandum is a joint effort of SBA and AABWA to collaborate on joint initiatives that will benefit their respective small businesses and membership. Both organizations strive to develop small businesses and international trade, strategic business alliances and encourage mentor relationships between U.S. small businesses and the membership of the AABWA.

The two organizations have effectively agreed to share information on women's business ownership network, training, procurement and online programs – as well as international trade programs, export assistance, general resource and other outreach materials. All activities are subject to the availability of funding.

The implementation of the agreement began upon signing and the activities undertaken under its provisions will continue for two years, at which time they may be extended for a similar period.

For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at <http://www.sba.gov>.

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