



News Release

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Online Registration Officially Opens for SBA Expo '05: Celebrating National Small Business Week

WASHINGTON — Small business owners, entrepreneurs and others who would like to take part in the National Small Business Week celebration in April at the U.S. Small Business Administration's *SBA Expo '05* can now register online to attend the event, the SBA said today.

The annual celebration honoring the *National Small Business Person of the Year* will take place in Washington, D.C., April 26-28, 2005, at the Hilton Washington Hotel. It will showcase Small Business Persons of the Year winners from each state, and feature a special awards ceremony for Government Procurement winners, Women in Business and the SBA's Hall of Fame recognizing successful companies that started with SBA assistance.

Business owners, business organizations and other individuals can register for *SBA Expo '05* events online at www.sba.gov/expo. Additional information on *SBA Expo '05* events is available on the SBA's conference Web site, and will be updated regularly with new event information. Registrants who complete the process by March 24, 2005, will be given an "early bird" registration discount. March 24 is also the deadline for the conference hotel room rate at the Hilton. Exhibitor registration will be available online by the end of February.

SBA Expo '05: Celebrating National Small Business Week will feature special events that include a small business expo, a business matchmaking event, business seminars, a town hall meeting and award ceremonies honoring the nation's top entrepreneurs and state and national small business winners. Other highlights will include notable speakers and business industry leaders from trade associations, and local and federal governments.

This year's Business Matchmaking will be held a full-day at the start of the expo, as well as an additional half-day. The matchmaking will pair small businesses or "sellers" with government or corporate executives or "buyers" to make on-site contracting deals.

To register for *SBA Expo '05* and for additional information, visit online at www.sba.gov/expo.

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

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