# SBETTOLOGAN BUSINESS EXCHANGE

# Work On Your Business, Not In Your Business



If you've been eyeing September's back to school frenzy with a certain sense of nostalgia, perhaps it's time go get back into the classroom. The Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program is launching a new management education program at Babson College, open to small business owners from across the U.S. who want to step away from day to day business operations and focus on growth.

10,000 Small Businesses has been rolling out in cities across the country with the goal of increasing small business owners' access to education, business support services and financial capital. Currently, the education portion of the program is operating in nine cities through partnerships with local community colleges. and until now, has been limited to small business owners operating in these nine geographic areas.

With the launch of 10,000 Small Businesses at Babson College, business owners from across the country now have the opportunity to participate together in a national class. This unique program is delivered directly by Babson College, the curriculum designer for all 10,000 Small Businesses sites, and will connect small business owners with a nationally-sourced class of peers for 12 weeks of practical business education. Babson's program will consist of intensive online coursework and two four-day sessions at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. During both the in-person and online portions of the curriculum, business owners will work individually and in groups on topics including: identifying and executing new business opportunities; attracting and retaining top talent; maximizing marketing strategies; streamlining operations; and understanding cash flow. Program tuition will be waived for accepted applicants and the majority of lodging/travel expenses will also be covered.

Small business owners can learn more about the program and the application process by participating in an online information session on September 17th.

Interested applicants need to apply before October 18th.

Still not sure if you want to apply?

#### **5 Reasons You Should Apply Now:**

- You'll learn from the experts. Take a practical hands-on business course and acquire useful business skills such as contract negotiation, finance and people management.
- You'll invest in yourself. Learn to identify opportunities, develop your leadership and maximize your business operations.

• You'll get customized business assistance. Receive one-on-one business advising and create your own customized business growth plan.

#### **Continued on page 2**



# SBE OUTREACH SERVICES

With half a million businesses in our database, SBE is California's #1 source for diversity outreach.

# **Advertisements**

Placed in the Small Business Exchange newspaper, SBE Today newsletter, and online at www.sbeinc.com

# **Faxed Solicitations**

Targeted mailings sent to businesses per your criteria.

# Telemarketing

Telephone follow-up calls that follow a script of 5 questions you create.

**Computer Generated Reports** Will fit right into your proposal, along with a list of interested firms to contact.

Call Toll FREE for more information: 800-800-8534

# **REQUESTS FOR BIDS & SUB-BIDS**

Seeking D/DV/M/S/VS/WBE (Disadvantaged, Disabled Veteran, Minority, Small, Very Small, and Woman Business Enterprises) subcontractors and suppliers for

## San Vicente Marina Facilities, Specification 594 Project Owner: San Diego County Water Authority Project Location: North end of Moreno Ave., Lakeside, CA in San Diego County <u>Bid Date: September 20, 2013</u>

**Trades:** Site grading, shoreline stabilization, pump stations, concession buildings, office building, drainage pipe, water tank, water pipe, sanitary sewer pipe, boat ramp concrete, floating docks, ADA compliant wheelchair lift, asphalt concrete paving, PCC paving, storm drain channels, bio-retention facilities, inlet filters, drainage facilities, selective demolition, fire sprinklers, landscaping, irrigation, habitat restoration, curbs, gutters, sidewalk, retaining walls, fencing, park amenities, shade structure, signage and striping, signal intersection, electrical, communications, foundation grouting, monitoring wells.

Plans and specifications can be purchased directly from SDCWA by filling out the Contract Documents Order Form found at http://www.sdcwa.org/contracting-opportunities

Plans and specifications are available to be viewed and copied at the Pulice offices located at 591 Camino De La Reina, San Diego, CA 92018 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Please call 619-814-3700 to make an appointment to view the plans and specifications.

Plans are also available for download on the eBidBoard website at: http://www.ebidboard.com/public/projects/index.asp?mbrguid=D27F6EF1-9BA1-46D6-B1CC-429FA8EB09CC

# Pulice Construction, Inc.

591 Camino De La Reina, San Diego, CA 92108 Phone: 619-814-3700 • Fax: 619-814-3770 Contact: **Arinda Cale** • E-mail: acale@pulice.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer

RGW Construction Inc. is seeking all qualified DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprises) for the following project:

 State Highway in Santa Clara County at Various Locations from 2.0 miles East of Heather Heights Road to 0.1 Mile West of Hankone Gardens Contract No. 04-2A4304 · Federal Aid Project HSSTP-S009(019)E
Engineer Estimate: 5,600,000 - 350 Working Days · Goal: DBE 14% Bids: September 24, 2013 @ 2:00 PM

**Requesting Sub-quotes for (including but not limited to)** Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control, Clear & Grub, Hydroseeding, Erosion Control, AC Dike, CIDH Piles, Rumble Strip, Reinforcing Steel, Signs Roadside, Concrete Curb & Sidewalk-Misc., MBGR, Concrete Barrier, Thermoplastic & Painted Traffic Stripe & Marking, Pavement Marking, Signal and Lighting, SWPPP Planning, Trucker, Soil Nail, Shotcrete, Painting and Sweeper..

Scope of Work: Widen roadway for realignment, soil nail walls and soldier pile wall.

RGW is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DBE participation. Contact us for a specific item list.

Plans and Specs are available to view and copy at our office or the Caltrans website www.dot.ca.gov/ hq/esc/oe/. Contact **Chris Luffman 925-606-2400** chris.luffman@rgwconstruction.com for any questions, including bonding, lines of credit, or insurance or equipment or material suppliers. Subcontractors should be prepared to submit payment and performance bonds equal to 100% of their quotation. For bonding and other assistance, please call.

# **RGW Construction, Inc.** Contractors License A/B 591940

550 Greenville Road • Livermore, CA 94550 • Phone: 925-606-2400 • Fax: 925-961-1925



Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Design-Build Contract DB1102F Silicon Valley Berryessa Extension Project C700

> Procurement opportunities through Skanska-Shimmick-Herzog will be diverse and ongoing. Please visit: www.sshjv-c700.com

frequently to see procurement opportunities and project contacts in the Bid Packages folder. Plans, specs, drawings, etc. can be found on the procurement web site.

EEO

## REQUEST FOR LBE & DVBE SUBCON-TRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR:

## El Cerrito High School Stadium Bid #3541348-00 West Contra Costa Unified School District BID DATE: October 2, 2013 @ 2:00 PM

We are soliciting quotes for (including but not limited to): Trucking, Building Structures, Site Concrete, Landscaping/Irrigation, Fencing, Electrical, Storm/Water/Sewer/Survey and Construction Materials

O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc.

1520 Fourth Street • Berkeley, CA 94710 • Phone: 510-526-3424 • FAX: 510-526-0990 Contact: Mike Crowley An Equal Opportunity Employer

100% Performance & Payment Bonds may be required. Worker's Compensation Waiver of Subrogation required. Please call OCJ for assistance with bonding, insurance, necessary equipment, material and/or supplies. OCJ is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage LBE/DVBE Participation. Plans & Specs are available for viewing at our office.

Sub Bids Requested From Qualified **DBE**, **UDBE** Subcontractors & Suppliers for

County of Yuba - Loma Rica Road Safety Improvements

Project No. 2013-2217 Location: Marysville, CA <u>Bid Date: September 18, 2013 @ 10:00 AM</u>

McGuire and Hester is seeking qualified subcontractors in the following trades: staking/surveying; SWPPP; traffic control; sawcutting; cold plane; fencing; trucking; clearing & grubbing; paving fabric; and striping & signage.

We will pay up to and including one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) of your bonding cost. Certification assistance is available, as well as viewing plans and specs.

# **McGuire and Hester**

9009 Railroad Avenue • Oakland, CA 94603 • Phone: (510) 632-7676 • Fax: (510) 562-5209 Contact:Dave Koerber An Equal Opportunity Employer

# Work On Your Business

# Continued from page 1

- You'll make connections. Learn from and with other small business owners in a collaborative setting, with years of collaborative business experience.
- You'll be poised to grow your business. Business owners selected for the program will receive a scholarship, which covers all tuition and program materials.

- See more at: http://www.icic.org/connection/ blog-entry/blog-work-on-your-business-not-inyour-business#sthash.2IA0xyPS.dpuf

Source: © 2013 Initiative for a Competitive Inner City.

# **REQUESTS FOR BIDS & SUB-BIDS**

Requesting Sub-bids from qualified SBE/EBE/DVBE/DBE/SLB subcontractors/vendors for: Department of Water and Power of the City of Los Angeles (LADWP)

# for furnishing and delivering:

#### NET TOU Demand Watthour Meters and Wireless Communication Services for Advanced Metering Infrastructure in accordance with Specifications 446.

Elster has identified the following portions of the project to provide participation by (see above):

1. Transportation Services for NET TOU Demand Watthour Meters from Laredo, TX to a utility designated delivery address in LA.

2. Public Wide Area Network Communication Services for retrieving meter data as specified in Division F2 of the specification.

Plans and specifications can be found at (search for the document associated with the AMI RFP mentioned above): http://www.ladwp.com/ersp

Please contact us for information on the availability of plans and specifications and the bidder's policy concerning assistance to subcontractors in obtaining bonds, lines of credit and/or insurance.

Interested parties should contact our office by 9-20-2013.

# **Elster Solutions, LLC**

Attn: **Tom Heath** 208 S. Rogers Lane • Raleigh, NC 27610 Phone: 919-212-4700 • Fax: 919-212-4717

Sub-Bids Requested From Qualified DBE Subcontractors & Suppliers For Construction on State Highway In Los Angeles County In Los Angeles and Glendale From 0.2 Mile West of Big Tujunga Wash Bridge to Dunsmore Avenue Undercrossing Project ID 0700020957 Location: 07-LA-210-R9.7/R16.1 Contract No. 07-288014 Addendum 1 Bid Date: 9/19/2013 @ 2:00 PM

We have information about the plans, specifications, and requirements in our office located at 14425 Joanbridge Street, Baldwin Park CA. Please call to arrange an appointment, our office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Copying services are available.

# Chumo Construction, Inc.

14425 Joanbridge Street • Baldwin Park, CA 91706 Phone: (626) 960-9502 • Fax: (626) 960-3887 Contact: George Chumo

100% Performance and Payment Bonds with a surety company subject to approval of Chumo Construction Company, Inc. are required of subcontractors for this project. Chumo Construction will pay bond premium up to 1.5%. Subcontractors will be required to abide by terms and conditions of the AGC Master Labor Agreements and to execute an agreement utilizing the latest AGC Standard Long Form Subcontract incorporating prime contract terms and conditions, including payment provisions. Chumo Construction's listing of a Subcontractor's not to be construed as an acceptance of all of the Subcontractors' conditions or exceptions included with the Subcontractor's price quote. Chumo Construction requires that Subcontractors and Suppliers price quotes be provided at a reasonable time prior to the bid deadline to enable a complete evaluation. For assistance with bonding, insurance or lines of credit contact George Chumo at (626) 960-9502.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

TAFT ELECTRIC COMPANY, 1694 EASTMAN AVENUE, VENTURA, CA 93003 Invites sub-bids from qualified union DBE businesses for the following project:

PROJECT: Bid #73082 - Rive Ave. at Woolev Rd. Intersection Improvements

# LOCATION: Oxnard, CA OWNER: County of Ventura APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE: \$130,500.00

BID DATE/TIME: October 8, 2013 @ 2:00

CONTACT: Katie Faulise · (805) 642-0121 ext. 239 · Fax: (805) 650-9015

\*\*SEEKING: Striping & Sealing, Signal Heads, Pedestrian Heads, Bicycle Detection Loop, Traffic Control, and Water Pollution Control.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and intend to seriously negotiate with qualified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise subcontractors and suppliers for project participation.

Payment and performance bonds may be required. Please contact us at the above listed number for further information regarding bidding on this project. To the best of our abilities we will help with bonds/insurance/ credit. Plans are available for viewing at our office.

We Are An Equal Opportunity Employer

Sub-Bids Requested From Qualified DBE Subcontractors & Suppliers

For Construction on State Highway In Orange County in Costa Mesa and Santa Ana from 19th Street to 17th Street Project ID 1213000066 Location: 12-0ra-55-2.0/11.8 Contract No. 12-0L74U4 Addendum 4 Bid Date: 9/19/2013 @ 2:00 PM

We have information about the plans, specifications, and requirements in our office located at 14425 Joanbridge Street, Baldwin Park CA. Please call to arrange an appointment, our office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Copying services are available.

# Chumo Construction, Inc.

14425 Joanbridge Street • Baldwin Park, CA 91706 Phone: (626) 960-9502 • Fax: (626) 960-3887 Contact: George Chumo

100% Performance and Payment Bonds with a surety company subject to approval of Chumo Construction Company, Inc. are required of subcontractors for this project. Chumo Construction will pay bond premium up to 1.5%. Subcontractors will be required to abide by terms and conditions of the AGC Master Labor Agreements and to execute an agreement utilizing the latest AGC Standard Long Form Subcontract incorporating prime contract terms and conditions, including payment provisions. Chumo Construction's listing of a Subcontractor is not to be construed as an acceptance of all of the Subcontractor's conditions or exceptions included with the Subcontractor's price quote. Chumo Construction requires that Subcontractors and Suppliers price quotes be provided at a reasonable time prior to the bid deadline to enable a complete evaluation. For assistance with bonding, insurance or lines of credit contact George Chumo at (626) 960-9502.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Looking for Subcontractors, Vendors, and Suppliers?

Advertise your Sub-Bid Requests in the Small Business Exchange.

With a monthly readership of 75,000, SBE reaches a diverse audience, cutting across ethnic and gender lines as well as tradional industry segments.



Call 1-800-800-8534 or visit us at www.sbeinc.com

# PUBLIC LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS



#### **ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

Subject to conditions prescribed by the University of California, Los Angeles, sealed bids for a Unit Price Job Order ("UPJO") contract are invited for the following work:

## SUSPENDED ACOUSTICAL CEILING UNIT PRICE JOB ORDER - FACILITIES MANAGEMENT 2013 Project Number 3744149

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** The University is seeking to hire a contractor to perform suspended acoustical ceiling construction work on an "as needed" basis that will be delivered by Unit Price Job Order (UPJO), and occurring on the UCLA Westwood campus. As described in more detail in the Bidding Documents, work under the UPJO will be limited to the following:

Suspended acoustical ceiling work related to Minor Capital Improvement Projects as well as work which includes repairs of, or alterations to, campus buildings, structures, or facilities to continue their usability at the designed level of service. Each Job Order shall have at least 51% of the work within the advertised license classification specified herein. Work outside said license classification may be self-performed by Contractor when said work is considered incidental and supplemental. In such cases, the value of said incidental and supplemental work shall not exceed 5% of the Job Order Sum. If the work outside the Contractor's license classification exceeds 5% of the Job Order Sum, then Contractor must either hold the appropriate additional specialty license classification or subcontract the work to an appropriately licensed subcontractor.

Refer to Exhibit 20 of the bidding documents for suspended acoustical ceiling construction work excluded from this UPJO.

The total combined cost for all Job Orders issued will not exceed the Maximum Contract Value of \$1,000,000.00 during the 1-year Base Term and \$1,000,000.00 during each 1-year Option Term, if

# GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

# NOTICE INVITING BIDS

The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) seeks bids for Contract No. 2014-FT-1, *Replace Channel Marker and Fender at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal*. Interested Bidders must submit sealed bids to the Office of the Secretary of the District on **Tuesday**, **September 17**, **2013**, **by 2:00 p.m., PST**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

The District seeks bids for replacing a channel marker and fender at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal.

This is a Public Works Contract. The general prevailing rates of per diem wages and the general prevailing rates for regular (straight) time, holiday and overtime work in Marin County for each craft, classification and type of worker needed to execute the exercised by University. When the work of a job consists only of the trade of this UPJO, the cost of any individual Job Order Authorization will be from \$50,000.00 to \$500,000.00. When the work of a job consists of multiple trades, the cost of any individual Job Order Authorization for this UPJO will be from \$10,000.00 to \$200,000.00.

## **BIDDING DOCUMENTS:**

1. Bidding Documents will be available beginning on September 11, 2013, and will be issued at:

#### ARC

2435 Military Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90064 Telephone (310) 477-6501 Website: http://socal.fordgraphics.com/

2. Bidders may view the Bidding Documents online at the ARC PlanWell Public Plan Room, and purchase digital and/or hard copies of the Bidding Documents by contacting ARC as indicated above. All parties will make arrangements with and payment to ARC directly. (NOTE: Bidding Documents will not be issued at the University's office.)

**<u>BID DEADLINE:</u>** Bids will be received only at the following location:

Contracts Administration University of California, Los Angeles 1060 Veteran Avenue, Suite 125 Box 951365 Los Angeles, California 90095-1365 310-825-7015

#### and must be received at or before: 2:00 p.m., October 16, 2013

**MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE:** A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on September 18, 2013 beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m. <u>Only bidders who participate in the Conference in its entirety, will be allowed to bid on the Project as prime contractors</u>. Participants must arrive at or before 10:00 a.m. Persons arriving later than said time will not be allowed to bid on the Project as prime contractors. Participants shall meet at Capital Programs Building, 1060 Veteran Avenue (follow signs to the meeting room), UCLA campus (refer to the online UCLA Campus Map at www.ucla.edu/map). For further information, con-

Contract shall be set forth in the current General Prevailing Wage Determinations made by the Director of Industrial Relations pursuant to California Labor Code Sections 1720 et seq. The current General Prevailing Wage Determinations are incorporated into the Contract, and are available at the California Department of Industrial Relations' web site (www.dir. ca.gov/dlsr/DPreWageDetermination.htm). Should the general prevailing wage rates not specify a wage determination for a particular craft classification or type of worker, attention is directed to 8 CCR 16202(b) regarding petitioning the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations for a special wage determination. The District has made no request for such determination as the District does not know the specific craft classifications or type of workers intended by Contractor for this project. The District has not established a labor compliance program. Responsibility for labor law enforcement remains with the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement

tact Steven Chang at 310-983-3151.

(NOTE: Bidders are advised that parking may be difficult. Bidders should allow ample time to drive to the above location in heavy traffic, find a parking space, walk to the building, and arrive in the designated Meeting Room prior to the required time. It is currently anticipated that the Conference will last at least 2 hours.)

**LICENSE REQUIREMENTS:** The successful Bidder will be required to have one of the following California current and active contractor's licenses at the time of submission of the Bid:

# C-02 License (Insulation & Acoustical) OR

# **D-50 License (Suspended Ceilings)**

**PREQUALIFICATION:** To be allowed to submit a bid, Bidders must have the minimum experience set forth in the Prequalification Questionnaire contained in the Bidding Documents and posted on the website listed below. Bidder's completed Prequalification Questionnaire must be received at the above-listed University Contracts Administration office in a sealed envelope no later than:

#### 3:00 p.m., September 25, 2013

Bid Security in the amount of \$25,000 shall accompany each Bid. The surety issuing the Bid Bond shall be, on the Bid Deadline, an admitted surety insurer (as defined in California Code of Civil Procedure Section 995.120).

Every effort will be made to ensure that all persons have equal access to contracts and other business opportunities with the University within the limits imposed by law or University policy. Each Bidder may be required to show evidence of its equal employment opportunity policy. The successful Bidder and its subcontractors will be required to follow the nondiscrimination requirements set forth in the Bidding Documents and to pay prevailing wage at the location of the work.

The work described in the contract is a public work subject to section 1771 of the California Labor Code.

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (Visit our website at: http://www.capitalprograms.ucla.edu)

The successful Bidder shall furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond.

The Bid Documents are available for download on the District's web site. To download the Bid Documents, go to the District's web site home page at http://www.goldengate.org, click on Contract Opportunities, scroll down to Ferry Division and look for Contract No. 2014-FT-1.

To inspect and obtain Bid Documents or for additional information, please contact the Office of the Secretary of the District, by telephone at (415) 923-2223, by e-mail at districtsecretary@goldengate.org, or by facsimile at (415) 923-2013.

/s/ Janet S. Tarantino, Secretary of the District Dated: September 5, 2013 9/5, 9/12/13 CNS-2526928# SMALL BUSINESS EXCHANGE

# **USTR, SBA Launch New Effort to Help U.S. Small Businesses Export to the European Union**

# Small Businesses to Offer Suggestions for Increasing Exports under the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP)

U.S. small businesses currently exporting to the European Union (EU) will have the opportunity to voice their concerns on existing barriers to trade with the EU through a series of roundtables across the country. The roundtables will be held as part of broader outreach efforts under the recently launched U.S.-EU Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations. The objective of the roundtables is to listen to and better understand small business' suggestions on how to reduce and eliminate those barriers, and help expand U.S. small business exports to the EU.

In July, the United States and the European Union held the first round of TTIP negotiations aimed at increasing jobs, economic growth and international competitiveness on both sides of the Atlantic. The transatlantic economic relationship is already the world's largest, accounting for one third of total goods and services trade and nearly half of global economic output, while supporting 13 million U.S. and EU jobs. In both the United States and the EU, small and medium businesses are critical motors of growth, job creation and innovation. Negotiators intend to conclude an agreement that recognizes the important role small businesses play in the transatlantic relationship and enhances their ability to participate in and benefit from new trade and investment opportunities.

The roundtables were commissioned by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), which asked the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) to conduct a study on the existing trade barriers that disproportionately affect U.S. small business exporters. Since the President's National Export Initiative (NEI) goal to double exports by the end of 2014 has focused on increasing the current base of 295,000 small business exporters, an increase in small business participation could result in expanded trade between two regions whose two-way trade already exceeds \$630 billion.

USITC responded by organizing the TTIP roundtables, which will be held from September 9th through September 27th in key cities. The schedule for the roundtables is:

| Month/Day | City        | Month/Day | City           |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| 9/9       | Detroit     | 9/19      | Houston        |
| 9/10      | Cleveland   | 9/20      | Salt Lake City |
| 9/11      | Minneapolis | 9/23      | Philadelphia   |
| 9/12      | Milwaukee   | 9/23      | Los Angeles    |
| 9/13      | Chicago     | 9/24      | New York       |
| 9/16      | Raleigh     | 9/24      | Irvine         |
| 9/17      | Raleigh     | 9/25      | Long Island    |
| 9/18      | Atlanta     | 9/26      | Sacramento     |
| 9/17      | Denver      | 9/27      | Boston         |
| 9/19      | Miami       | 9/27      | Providence     |
| 9/18      | Albuquerque | 9/27      | Fresno         |

If you'd like to take part in a roundtable, please contact sme@usitc.gov for more information.

# About SBA

## What We Do

Mission

In addition to participating in the roundtables, exporters will have other means to convey their concerns and suggestions through public hearings in San Jose, Calif. (Sept. 26th) and Washington, D.C. (Oct. 8th). Business owners who are interested in having their voices heard but cannot attend the roundtables or public hearings can submit written statements by sending an email to sme@usitc.gov (by Oct. 15, 2013) or by mail to EU-SME Project, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20436 (no later than Sept. 30, 2013).

For more detailed information, visit http://www.usitc.gov/332\_541\_ Trade\_Barriers.htm and http://www.usitc.gov/secretary/fed\_reg\_notices/332/332\_541\_notice07252013sgl.pdf Download Adobe Reader to read this link content. For more information on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and U.S trade with the European Union, visit www. USTR.gov/TTIP.

Source: U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. We recognize that small business is critical to our economic recovery and strength, to building America's future, and to helping the United States compete in today's global marketplace. Although SBA has grown and evolved in the years since it was established in 1953, the bottom line mission remains the same. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U. S. Virgin Islands and Guam.