FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, May 19, 2005 Contact: Madeline Gorman 202-482-3809 Mike Lally 215-597-7141

BUSH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TALK TRADE AT EXPORTING CONFERENCE AND HONOR LOCAL COMPANY FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT

PHILADELPHIA, PA—Bruce Blakeman special counsel to U.S. Secretary of Commerce in China, and Daniel J. Bloom, director of the trade advocacy center of the U.S. Commercial Service today discussed China's vast, growing market and how U.S. exporters can utilize the Commercial Service programs to enter into the market. The two officials spoke at the World Trade Week Event, Exporting to China: Seizing Opportunity and Managing Risk.

"China presents both opportunities and challenges, and the U.S. Commercial Service offers services which will help area exporters navigate the process to make their first sale," said Blakeman.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Export Achievement Certificate was presented to Hetran, Inc. The award recognizes small and medium-sized U.S. businesses that have benefited from the Commerce Department's U.S. Commercial Service export services to make their first export sale or to open new markets.

President Bush has proclaimed May 15 through May 21 as World Trade Week. Since the first declaration of World Trade Week more than 50 years ago, trade has made a vital contribution to our nation's economic well-being, and today supports millions of high-wage American jobs.

Now in its 25th year, the U.S. Commercial Service is a Commerce Department agency that helps small and medium-sized U.S. businesses sell their products and services globally, and has worked to help exporters keep pace with the many changes in the world economy for the last quarter-century. These include innovations in transportation and communications, globalization of consumer tastes, rising incomes, and a profusion of trade agreements that have reduced tariffs and other obstacles to trade.

The U.S. Commercial Service's network has expanded to include 108 U.S. Export Assistance Centers throughout the United States and more than 150 posts in more than 80 countries. In 2004, the U.S. Commercial Service helped U.S. businesses generate export sales worth \$26 billion.

For more information on the U.S. Commercial Service, please visit ww.buyusa.gov/philadelphia ###