

## LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE 1.5

**Simplify the interaction between small business and the Federal government through the use of the Internet and information technology.**

The SBA is committed to enabling simpler and better access to Federal government services. A main component of this strategy is the Business Gateway Initiative. This is one of the 25 Presidential E-Government Initiatives aimed at reducing the burden on the Nation's businesses by simplifying and improving electronic access to Federal government information, programs and services, and forms.

As the managing partner, working with 22 core partner agencies, the SBA is responsible for ensuring that the Business Gateway initiative delivers a means to: (1) provide the Nation's business owners with a single access point to government services and information designed to assist them in compliance with Federal requirements; (2) centrally provide Federal forms to businesses; and (3) reduce regulatory burdens by harmonizing and streamlining data along vertical lines of business, as well as providing Web-based compliance assistance tools.

In FY 2005, the SBA:

- **Merged** and consolidated Federal cross-agency legal and regulatory information into the new [www.business.gov](http://www.business.gov) site. The new site simplifies the process of finding key compliance and other useful information available throughout the Federal government, which should help businesses ensure that they are complying with Federal regulations.
- **Built** a forms catalog of 6,000+ Federal forms to provide businesses and citizens easy access. Small businesses no longer have to go to multiple agencies in order to locate their required forms. By creating the Forms Catalog, Business Gateway has taken a major step in simplifying businesses interaction with the Federal government. Additionally, improvements in the forms catalog have allowed agencies to input and manage their forms more effectively, resulting in a simplified interaction for businesses searching for forms online.
- **Launched** a pilot to implement the concept of reducing the regulatory burden by industry, through the harmonization of redundant reporting requirements. This pilot consists of a streamlined data collection interface in the Surface Coal Mining Industry, which can be used as a model to streamline data collection throughout Federal, State, and local governments. Not only did this initiative simplify the process of interacting with government by reducing the number of forms, it also has reduced the hours needed to comply with multiple filing requirements. The Coal Vertical will represent a 66% reduction in reporting burden, or a reduction of 144,000 hours of compliance time, for the coal industry each year.
- **Significantly increased** the number of unique visitors to the [www.business.gov](http://www.business.gov) site, from 89,000 per month in October 2005 to over 200,000 in May 2005. Simplifying the interaction between the Federal government and business has resulted in a steady increase of unique visitors to the site over the last year. This has been accomplished with very little active outreach to the business community.