

Dear Robert,

Below are upcoming Commercial Service initiatives designed to connect you to business opportunities around the world.

- 1) [Webinar: Understanding and Protecting Your Intellectual Property Rights in India](#)
- 2) [Event: National District Export Council Conference](#)
- 3) [Seminar Series: Complying with the International Traffic in Arms Regulations \(ITAR\)](#)
- 4) [Event: The Americas Competitiveness Forum \(ACF\) – Promoting Prosperity and Economic Opportunity](#)
[ACF](#)

Please click on the above links or scroll down to learn more about each opportunity. If you have any questions about these initiatives, please contact your local U.S. Commercial Service trade specialist. To find the trade specialist nearest you please visit

<http://www.buyusa.gov/home/us.html><http://www.buyusa.gov/home/us.html>.

Webinar: Understanding and Protecting Your Intellectual Property Rights in India

Venue: Your computer

Date: July 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. EDT

Cost: \$35

Register: <https://emenuapps.ita.doc.gov/ePublic/newWebinarRegistration.jsp?SmartCode=8Q4W>

Understand how to protect your intellectual property rights (IPR) in India. Find out how to conduct an IP audit, understand the potential risk for your company, and locate resources to help protect and enforce your IPR. International Trade Specialist Cassie Peters of Market Access and Compliance's Office of Intellectual Property Rights will be on hand to answer your questions. For more information, contact: Linda.Abruzzese@mail.doc.gov.

Event: National District Export Council Conference

Venue: Palm Springs, CA

Date: October 15-18, 2008

Price: \$350

Learn more/register: <http://www.deconference.com>

The 2008 National District Export Council Conference, "Travel & Trade: Redefining Exports," will be held in Palm Springs, CA on October 15-18, 2008. This year's conference promises to be an enlightening and worthwhile event, bringing back last year's expert moderator, Gene Randall, and many speakers and panelists who are well-versed in the tools of trade and the markets most important to U.S. exporters.

Seminar Series: Complying with the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR)

2 Venues: Hawthorne/Manhattan Beach, CA & Rolling Meadows, IL

CA Date/Time: July 30, 2008; 10:30 am PT

IL Date/Time: August 13, 2008; 7:30 am – 5:00 pm CT

Register for CA Event: <http://www.buyusa.gov/westlosangeles/itar.html>

Register for IL Event: <http://www.buyusa.gov/midwest/227.html>

Get an overview of U.S. export controls – the players, policies, and processes. Specifically, learn about the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) and how it affects your company. Speakers will detail key issues related to ITAR regulations and the increased enforcement of trade policies. Topics of discussion will include changes and trends at the State Department and best practices on how to successfully navigate the ITAR. For more information on the CA venue, contact:

Amy.Magat@mail.doc.gov. For more information on the IL venue, contact: Robin.Mugford@mail.doc.gov.

Event: The Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) – Promoting Prosperity and Economic Opportunity

Venue: Atlanta, Georgia

Date: August 17-19, 2008

For more information/Register: <http://www.competitivenessforum.org>

The second annual ACF will provide an opportunity for governments, businesses, and representatives from academia and non-governmental organizations to discuss actions that can be taken to improve competitiveness and economic prosperity in the Americas. The ACF is a unique combination of a business conference coupled with a policy brainstorming sessions. The forum will also provide a venue for companies and foreign government officials to meet and explore investment opportunities.

The U.S. Commercial Service - Your Global Business Partner. With offices across the United States and in more than 75 countries, the U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration uses its global Network and international resources to connect U.S. companies with international buyers worldwide. If you have any questions about these initiatives, please contact your local U.S. Commercial Service trade specialist. To find the trade specialist nearest you please visit <http://www.buyusa.gov/home/us.html>.

Your privacy is important to us. Please note that we do not share our lists with parties outside of the U.S. Department of Commerce. You may review our privacy policy at <http://www.commerce.gov/Privacy/index.htm>.

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For Release: June 23, 2008
SBA Number: 08-16 ADVO

205-6941

Contact: John McDowell
(202)

john.mcdowell@sba.gov

“High-Impact” Firms Create Most Jobs And Growth

Study Highlights Impact Of Established Firms

WASHINGTON, D.C. – “High-impact” firms create America’s new jobs and growth, according to a study released today by the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Distributed across all industries, high-impact firms account for almost all employment and revenue growth in the economy, the study concludes.

“While high-impact firms make up about five percent of firms with employees, their effects are huge,” said Brian Headd, an economist with the Office of Advocacy. “Surprisingly, the study also

shows that these firms are on average around 25 years old, they are not predominantly high-tech, and they exist in every region of the country.”

Released at the International Council for Small Business 2008 World Conference by Zoltan Acs, the study *High-Impact Firms: Gazelles Revisited*, defines high-impact firms as those whose sales have at least doubled over a four-year period and which have an employment “growth quantifier” (the firm’s absolute change in employment multiplied by the percent change) of two or more.

The study notes that such firms are found across all industries and in all geographic regions. It ranks regions, states, metropolitan statistical areas, and counties by their percentage of high-impact firms. The study finds, with some data limitations, that high-impact firms are not start-ups but are on average around 25 years old, and that they come in all size classes. The report also documents that over the periods studied, nearly all job losses came from large, low-impact firms.

Given the available data, the authors were unable to determine what factors drove firms to become high-impact or how to identify which firms would become high-impact.

The Office of Advocacy, the “small business watchdog” of the federal government, examines the role and status of small business in the economy and independently represents the views of small business to federal agencies, Congress, and the President. It is the source for small business statistics presented in user-friendly formats, and it funds research into small business issues.

For more information, a complete copy of the report and rankings of high-impact firms by region, state, MSA, and county, visit the Office of Advocacy website at www.sba.gov/advo.

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The Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is an independent voice for small business within the federal government. The presidentially appointed Chief Counsel for Advocacy advances the views, concerns, and interests of small business before Congress, the White House, federal agencies, federal courts, and state policy makers. For more information, visit www.sba.gov/advo, or call (202) 205-6533.

Thursday, June 19, 2008 202-482-4883

Secretary Gutierrez Welcomes First Chinese Leisure Tour Group to the United States

WASHINGTON—U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez today will welcome the inaugural Chinese leisure tour group of more than 200 Chinese visitors to the United States as result of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by both countries at the Joint Commission on Commerce and

Trade (JCCT) in December of 2007. The MOU will boost the U.S. travel and tourism industry, an engine of economic growth in the United States. The MOU allows U.S. and Chinese travel and tourism businesses to create and sell group leisure tours to Chinese travelers, opening China's growing market to U.S. travel and tourism industries for the first time. Shao Qiwei, Chairman of the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA), led the 240-person tour group to Washington, D.C.

"It is a pleasure to welcome the first Chinese Group Leisure Travelers to the United States," Gutierrez said. "Through a cooperative agreement with the China National Tourism Administration, new groups of Chinese tourists will come discover America's wonders and take advantage of our world class American products and services. Increased visitation from Chinese tourists will strengthen cultural and economic ties between our nations and greatly benefit U.S. travel and tourism industries, which last year employed 8.5 million Americans and achieved a travel trade surplus of more than \$17 billion."

U.S. Department of Commerce statistics show a steady increase in visitors from China to the United States, doubling over the past ten years to 397,000. That number is forecast to double again to 755,000 by 2017, according to Tourism Economics, a private-sector economic and market research firm. On average, Chinese citizens spend more during their stay than visitors from other countries. Last year, total Chinese spending in the United States exceeded \$2.5 billion.

In 2007, international visitors that traveled to the United States set a record at 56 million, an increase of 10 percent over 2006, and also spent a record \$122.2 billion while in the United States.

Secretary Gutierrez and CNTA Chairman Shao signed *The Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the United States of America to Facilitate Outbound Tourist Group Travel from China to the United States* on December 11, 2007, in Beijing, China, during the Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT).

John Xu

Business Development Specialist

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SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL VENTURES
BEGIN WITH THE RIGHT CONNECTIONS



Dear Friends,

I am proud to bring to you the latest edition of ATID, E.D.I.'s "FORTNIGHTLY", a review of Israeli & regional business, developments and news, for the period ending 25 June 2008.

For your convenience, The FORTNIGHTLY is also available in html format at Atid's Web site:

[Fortnightly - June 25, 2008](http://www.atid-edi.com/index.php/Fortnightly.htm)<http://www.atid-edi.com/index.php/Fortnightly.htm>

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Some highlights of this issue include the following:

- [Gov. Fischer Defends Economic Record of Current Government](#)
- [Luz II Technology Offer Cheap Solar Power](#)
- [Greece's e-zynet Opens New Manufacturing and Distribution Center in Utah](#)
- [Jordan & Iraq Agree to Extend Work with Oil Agreement For 3 Years](#)
- [US Investments in Bulgaria Reach Well Over \\$1 Billion](#)
- [Israeli High-Tech Salaries Approach US Levels](#)

Please note that this newsletter is a service of Atid, EDI. We are a team of economic and trade development consultants, headquartered in Jerusalem, with satellite operations in Istanbul and Amman. EDI works with an international clientele interested in identifying and researching business opportunities in the region. These include investors and entrepreneurs and others who need information, analysis and intelligence from our region. We also serve as the regional representative offices for the investment and trade offices of a number of U.S. states and work with a number of US Foundations. EDI's other services include development of feasibility studies and customized research reports, as well as identification of potential joint ventures for commercial clients. For more information on how we may better assist you, please visit our Web site at: www.atid-edi.com or send us an email to info@atid-edi.com.

In addition, if you know of any relevant Israeli or regional development of interest, please notify me at: seth.vogelman@atid-edi.com.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Seth J. Vogelmann
Editor
Atid, E.D.I.'s FORTNIGHTLY

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PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: June 25, 2008
Release Number: 08-64

Contact: Dennis E. Byrne 202-205-6567
Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov>

***SBA Selects InnerCity Entrepreneurs
To Train Inner City Businesses
In Its Emerging 200 Jobs and Growth Initiative***

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration has selected InnerCity Entrepreneurs to conduct the executive training aspect of SBA’s Emerging 200 initiative, a jobs and growth stimulation effort targeting 200 promising inner-city small businesses. The designated cities where the program training will begin are Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Memphis, Atlanta, Chicago, Milwaukee, Albuquerque, New Orleans, Des Moines and Oakland.

“The SBA Emerging 200 uses InnerCity’s unique StreetWise Steps to Small Business Growth curriculum. It is an intensive training initiative designed to accelerate high-potential small businesses’ growth in America’s inner cities,” said Anoop Prakash, associate administrator for SBA’s Office of Entrepreneurial Development.

The CEOs and small business owners who graduate from the program will have produced a three-year strategic growth plan with benchmarks and performance targets. They will be trained further to target their business strategies to accelerate growth, explore financing, diversify markets and expand their networking. More information about InnerCity Entrepreneurs can be found at www.innercityentrepreneurs.org.

The SBA initiative focuses on small, poised-for-growth inner-city companies with potential for job creation. Research shows that small firms with fewer than 20 employees created 80 percent of the net new jobs in the economy from 1990 to 2003, and also that small businesses in inner cities added nearly three times the number of new jobs than larger companies between 1995 and 2002.

The training will run through the remainder of 2008 and the instructional approach combines classroom learning sessions, CEO mentoring groups and self-paced learning.

The growth of small businesses in underserved markets is a prime focus of the SBA. More information on the e200 initiative can be found at www.sba.gov/e200.

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World Trade Center Delaware e-News

June 26, 2008



In what country is Mt. Ararat located?

- A. Turkey
- B. Iraq
- C. Egypt
- D. Armenia

Incoming Business Opportunities

June 2008

Are you interested in what types of trade leads we are receiving from other World Trade Centers and International agencies and [Global Trade Leads Bulletin](#).

Categories include: Agribusiness, Automotive, Computer Software and Services, Construction and Construction Services/Materials, Consulting, Environmental, Finance and Banking Services, and Power Generation.

In This Issue

- [Global Trade Leads](#)
- [Regional International Events](#)
- [Commercial News USA](#)
- [International Trade Shows](#)
- [Trade Missions](#)
- [New & Renewed Memberes](#)
- [June Member Profile](#)

Quick Links

- [WTC Delaware](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Upcoming Regional Events](#)
- [Meet the WTC Delaware Interns](#)
- [World Trade Centers Association](#)

Regional International Events

June - September 2008

How to Develop an Export Management and Compliance Program

Hosted by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security; the U.S. Commercial Service; and co-sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic District Export Council

June 26-27, 2008

Trump Taj Mahal

Atlantic City, New Jersey

Contacts: Kathleen Pippen - (609)989-2100

Debra Sykes - (856)722-1032

Positively Dover: The African American Festival

Please join the Inner City Cultural League for a day in the sun on the Legislative Mall in Dover. The Sankofa African Drummers and Dancers of Dover are the main event, but the program also features gospel singing, jazz performances, steppers, comedians, and historians. Food vendors from around the region will be serving tantalizing dishes, and showcases will feature artifacts, artwork, and fashion.

June 28, 2008

Starting at 10:00 am

FREE Admission

The Legislative Mall

Federal Street and Legislative Avenue

Dover, DE

[Event Website](#)

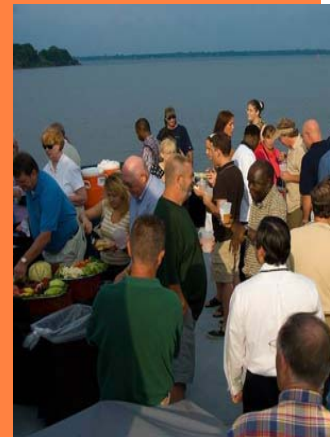
Doing Business in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates

Join the World Trade Center of Greater Philadelphia for this

Standard & Poor's Vista Research

[June Member Profile](#)

9th Annual Tug Cruise & Mixer



Networking Mixer

Port of Wilmington

August 7, 2008

5:45 - 7:30 pm

[Registration](#)



installment of their Breakfast Briefing event series. Speakers include Edward Burton, president of U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council, Peter O'Neill, executive director of the Center for Trade Development, and Joanna Savvides, president of the World Trade Center of Greater Philadelphia.

July 10, 2008

8:30 am - 11:00 am

\$30 for WTC members; \$45 for non-members

[More Information](#)

A Taste of Indonesia

The Indonesian Cultural Club invites you to attend this cultural journey, featuring traditional dances, a fashion show, and more.

August 9, 2008

2:00 pm

Downs Cultural Center
Ingleside Homes
1010 North Broom Street
Wilmington, DE 19806

20th Annual Embassy Day

The World Trade Center Institute of Baltimore invites you to attend Maryland's premier international business gathering. Over 600 business leaders will be in attendance, including over 150 embassy officials from 75 countries. Please take this opportunity to network and explore new opportunities abroad for your company!

September 25, 2008

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
5701 Marinelli Road
Bethesda, MD 20852

[More Information](#)

New Issue of *Commercial News USA* Available Online

Please take a few minutes to view the showcase for American-made products and services

Click [here](#) to view the PDF version of the Official Export Promotion Magazine of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

International Trade Shows

June - November 2008

BAHAMAS:

CANTO - Caribbean Unity Through Connectivity

July 13-16th

24th Annual Telecommunications Conference & Trade Exhibition

CANTO invites you to be part of our 24th Annual Telecommunications Conference and Trade Exhibition 2008. The theme of the event is CANTO "Caribbean Unity Through Connectivity". This, the Caribbean's premier Telecommunication Event is a must for any organization or individual with an interest in the Caribbean telecommunication market. The Venue for the event is Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas.

SAN FRANCISCO:

Intersolar North America Conference

July 15-17th

Combining a Trade Fair with Conferences to Explore the Solar Technology Supply Chain The Bay Area Trade Center invites you to explore technologies related to photovoltaics, solar thermal technology, and solar architecture. Backing up the exhibition will be a comprehensive four-day conference in modular format designed to provide insights into the North American and international solar markets, including technology, manufacturing, finance, and market analysis.

HONG KONG:

ECO Expo Asia

October 28-31st

International Trade Fair on Environmental Protection

This event is a great opportunity to explore new opportunities for the environmental protection industry in Asia. The fair will showcase exhibits by commercial, governmental, and non-governmental organizations, with over 5,000 trade visitors and 130 exhibitors.

Major focuses of ECO Expo Asia 2008:

- Air Quality
 - Pollution/Emission Control
 - Purification/Filtration/Deodorization
 - Gas/Smoke/Chemical Monitoring and Treatment
- Eco-friendly Products
 - Biodegradable Raw Materials
 - Recycled Products/Packaging
- Energy Efficiency
 - Architectural Applications
 - Vehicles
 - Energy Saving Devices/Products
- Waste & Recycling

[Pre-Register Now](#)

BRAZIL:

Expo Brazil 2008

November 20-22nd

Brazil's Biggest Multi-Sector Trade Exhibition

ExpoGroup Worldwide invites you to attend Brazil's most prominent international trade exhibition. Exhibitors from over 28 countries will be present, and the exhibition is divided into the following sectors: Automotive, Building Materials, Consumer & Household, Food & Hotel Supplies, Industrial Machinery, IT/Telecom/Electronics, Medical & Healthcare, Printing & Packaging, and Plastic & Rubber.

INDIA:

Innovative Technologies for Manufacturing Expo

March 3-5th, 2009

This event will be hosted at the Expo Center of the World Trade Center Mumbai.

If you may be interested in attending any of these shows and would like further information, please contact Rebecca Faber at rfaber@wtcde.com or (302) 656-7000.

Trade Missions

CHINA

September 15-24, 2008

Your firm is invited to participate in the State of Delaware's International Trade and Development Mission to China. China is the fastest growing large economy in the world and it is our largest supplier of consumer goods. Additionally, China continues to increase purchases from U.S. businesses and is expanding its role as an international investor.

Who should attend?

- Delaware businesses looking to start or increase export sales
- Delaware firms who are buying from third parties but wish to buy directly from manufacturers
- Delaware businesses looking for strategic partners or to invest in China

For more information about the State of Delaware's trade mission to China, please contact John Pastor ([email](#)) or Anna White([email](#))

DUBAI

November 7-10, 2008

The World Trade Center Association cordially invites all WTCA members to attend the General Assembly Trade Mission to Dubai.

Firms involved in the following industries are encouraged to consider attending:

- Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals, and Medical Technology
- Building and Real Estate, including HVAC , Safety/Security, and Materials
- Hotel, Restaurants, and Tourism
- Financial Services
- Aviation and Aircraft

More information to follow in upcoming newsletters, but please contact Rebecca Faber of WTCDE if you are interested (rfaber@wtcde.com).

SOUTH AFRICA

November 7-15, 2008

The Eastern Trade Council (ETC), a consortium of the trade development offices from the ten northeastern states dedicated to promoting trade on a regional basis, is pleased to announce an opportunity for Northeast companies to participate in a trade mission to the fast growing market of South Africa. The mission, sponsored by the ETC and the South African Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), is designed to assist small and medium-sized companies acquire valuable market information and to meet prospective business partners.

If you are not already active in this important market, now is the time to get started. With the assistance of the ETC Trade Representative and DTI, ETC will help you make the contacts you need to win business in South Africa. Take this opportunity to experience this unique business environment and culture firsthand, and gain insights through networking with your counterparts from other exporting companies.

Key Industry Sectors in South Africa:

- Automotive Parts and Accessories
- Chemicals for Industrial Inputs

- Environmental Technologies / Alternative Energy
- Information Technology and Communications Equipment
- Industrial Machinery and Equipment / Instrumentation
- Medical Instrumentation and Devices
- Transportation Equipment

[South Africa Trade Mission \(pdf\)](#)

[South Africa Registration Form \(pdf\)](#)

INDIA

November 9-15, 2008

FedEx and the U.S. Commercial Service are collaborating to organize a trade mission to India for U.S. companies. This mission represents an opportunity to experience India with visits to leading business centers, including New Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. This unique experience will provide participants with valuable networking opportunities, market intelligence, tips for finding qualified agents, distributors, and partners, and aggressive follow-up plans.

With a population exceeding one billion, India is rapidly developing the institutions and capabilities for lucrative trade opportunities.

Best Prospects for U.S. Goods & Services in India:

- Airport & Ground Handling
- Computer & Peripherals
- Education Services
- Electric Power & Transmission Equipment
- Food Processing
- Machine Tools
- Medical Equipment
- Mining & Mineral Processing Equipment
- Oil & Gas Field Machinery
- Pollution Control Equipment
- Safety, Security, and Telecommunications Equipment
- Textile Machinery Water Filtration Equipment

[More Information](#)

[Online Application for Trade Mission](#)

If you may be interested in taking part in any trade missions and/or would like further information, please contact Rebecca Faber at (302) 656-7905 or rfaber@wtcde.com.

Welcome New & Renewed Members

June 2008

Priority Corporate:

[Wachovia Bank](#)

Standard Corporate:

[Kintetsu World Express](#)

Overseas Corporate:

Albina LLC

Care Champions Agency International, LLC

Eleusinia Naturals LLC

GS Medical Enterprises, LLC

Notincom LLC

SOMAF Holding Corporation

Variance Strategy LLC

Last Week's Trivia Question

Where is milk sold on a stick?

A: Greenland

B: Iceland

C: Finland

D: Siberia

Answer: (D) Siberia



Although its climate varies by season and latitude, Siberia is generally a frigid, subarctic climate. Freezing milk on sticks dates at least to the nineteenth century in this region, as it was noted in the author Henry Norman's 1895 work *The Peoples and Politics of the Far East: Travels and Studies in the British, French, Spanish and Portuguese Colonies, Siberia, China, Japan, Korea, Siam and Malaya*. Norman noted the early-morning delivery of frozen milk sticks at Siberians' front doors.

WTC Delaware Sustaining Members

http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001mYcKvzla_zVs5XIsbzbGyaviLST74o1076ChW85IKOTjJ_tpevVST2t-Z6SU_ZbcNWEMoV4EOLO2C0J5x24b-pbo8lQsUdtWTW11H1lInZhz8uk7eYMoDRR_AqKX-s-W4Cmsp3Z6vuPwbNkPqkCoO61RC6FwW26-nHM9kn-

[EgATWW0UnA00kg==](#)



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Wilmington Tug



The World Trade Center Delaware is a non-profit organization that assists small and medium-sized companies to expand their markets overseas, as well as raising awareness of international issues and their importance in regards to international growth.

WORLD TRADE CENTER DELAWARE

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The Chinese economy is booming. Have you considered exploring the business opportunities in the People's Republic of China? Do you need legal advice for your business in China? If so, register on Facebook and join the group " Lawyer in China", the online legal advisor for your business in China.

If you are a lawyer interested in the Chinese legal service market, you are welcomed to join the group too. The group is looking for lawyers to serve the group members, they will appoint one to two lawyers for each major city worldwide: i.e. Shanghai, Beijing , Shenzhen, New York, Tokyo, London, and Berlin. Lawyers can submit their vitas and

profiles to the members to illustrate their legal expertise by answering questions submitted by members.

Please note that only one to two lawyers will be appointed for each city. Their policy is on a first come first serve basis for lawyers to be listed for respective cities.

Description of the group:

A platform for legal professionals to demonstrate their legal expertise;

A platform for non-legal professionals to seek legal advice ;

If you have any legal questions, please feel free to post it on the homepage of the group so that the moderator, officers or even other members may responds with valuable assistance.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
CONTACT:

June 23, 2008
Kate Philips

717-783-1116

Governor Rendell Says Delaware River Channel Deepening Project is a
Milestone For Maritime Commerce

PRPA and US Army Corps sign Project Partnership Agreement

PHILADELPHIA - Governor Edward G. Rendell today hailed the signing of a historic agreement that will officially begin a five-year, \$379 million project to deepen the Delaware River's shipping channel, calling it a major milestone in ongoing efforts to expand commerce and enhance economic development in the region.

The partnership agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (PRPA) represents a significant step forward in a 15-year effort to deepen the river's shipping channel. The agreement was signed by Assistant Secretary of the Army John Paul Woodley

Jr. and PRPA Chairman John H. Estey.

"I consider this to be the most important project in the history of the Port of Philadelphia," said Governor Rendell. "Today is a major milestone for a project that will shape the future of maritime commerce on the Delaware River.

"With this agreement, we can say to every hard working man and woman in this region that the jobs on these piers are secure, and that more jobs are on the way. This project will make all of the Delaware River ports more viable in the long term, allowing our ports to retain current customers and to attract new cargo."

The agreement allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the PRPA, to increase by five feet the current 40-foot depth of the river's shipping channel from Camden's Beckett Street Terminal to the mouth of the Delaware Bay - a distance of 102 miles. The new, 45-foot channel depth will allow Delaware River ports to compete more effectively for cargo, to provide safe passage for vessels, and to increase jobs and cargo to the region.

"I am proud to represent the Army as we sign the Project Partnership Agreement. It has been a long time coming," said John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). "Some 25 years have passed since Congress first authorized a study of the channel, and 16 years since Congress authorized construction. We look forward to moving this project to the next phase."

Governor Rendell was joined at today's event by U. S. Senator Arlen Specter and U.S. Rep. Robert A. Brady.

"This agreement marks a very significant step for the Port of Philadelphia and the region," Senator Specter said. "I've worked on the matter since 1991 and it has been a brass-knuckle affair with thousands of jobs and billions of dollars at stake. Deepening the Delaware is indispensable to remaining competitive with other deep-water ports, and this is a great day for our region."

"This project will have a profound long-term effect on the Port of Philadelphia and on the entire region," said Congressman Robert A. Brady. "The Port of Philadelphia has always been a place where hard work and dedication can help Philadelphians secure a decent job with good wages. This agreement cements the future viability of the Port, and ensures those quality port related jobs will be here for future generations."

"This agreement today is great news for Pennsylvania's economy," said U.S. Senator Bob Casey, who was unable to attend the event. "The deepening project will allow more cargo to be transported in and out of the Port of Philadelphia. I look forward to working with Governor Rendell, Senator Specter, and the men and women of organized labor to continue strengthening the Port of Philadelphia."

The project will follow the current channel alignment 102 miles from Beckett Street Terminal to the mouth of the Delaware Bay. The existing channel widths (400 - 1,000 feet) will not change, though 12 of the existing 16 bends will be widened for safer navigation. Marcus Hook Anchorage will also be deepened to 45 feet.

"At 40 feet, the current depth of the channel is too shallow for many of the world's larger container vessels, putting Delaware River ports at a competitive disadvantage among the U.S. East Coast ports," said PRPA Chairman John H. Estey, Esq. "A 45 foot shipping channel allows the region to compete on the same stage as other East Coast ports, attracting more cargo and securing the future viability of the Port of Philadelphia."

"This partnership agreement signing is the culmination of decades of hard work, patience and dedication to a project of major significance for both the Delaware Valley and the United States of America," said Lieutenant Colonel Gwen E. Baker, Philadelphia District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "The Corps of Engineers stands ready to deliver an economically, environmentally and technically sound project to the region and the nation."

The project will require the removal of 26 million cubic yards of dredged material, which includes 18.6 million cubic yards of sand, clay and silt from the upriver portion. The remaining 7.4 million cubic yards of sand from the Delaware Bay will be used for wetland creation and beach nourishment. Also, 77,000 cubic yards of rock will be removed.

The Corps will construct, operate and maintain the project in an environmentally sustainable manner. Extensive testing has been done to confirm that the dredged material is safe, and the Corps will continue to monitor water quality throughout the project.

The deepening project will bring substantial secondary benefits to the Delaware Bay ecosystem. Dredged sand on Delaware's Kelly Island and New Jersey's Egg Island Point will help to promote horseshoe crab habitat through wetland restoration, and protect back-bay wetlands behind Delaware's Broadkill Beach via a beach renourishment project. The Corps has pursued beneficial use of dredged material projects like this across the nation and will continue to look for more opportunities.

For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' work on the Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project visit <http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/cenap-pl/drmcdp/drmc.htm>.

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Philadelphia Regional Port Authority Contact: Joseph Menta;
jpmenta@philaport.com (Joseph Menta, Donald Brennan, or William McLaughlin can answer PRPA-related questions regarding the dredging project)

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The Rendell administration is committed to creating a first-rate public education system, protecting our most vulnerable citizens and continuing economic investment to support our communities and businesses. To find out more about Governor Rendell's initiatives and to sign up for his weekly newsletter, visit his Web site at: www.governor.state.pa.us.

Urgent News for Your Clients: New, Stringent AES Requirements

Effective July 2, 2008, the Census Bureau is requiring mandatory filing of export information through the Automated Export System (AES) or through AESDirect for all shipments where a Shipper's Export Declaration (SED) is required. Census is also providing exporters an additional 90 days to implement these new requirements. After the 90-day implementation period, which ends September 30, 2008, companies must file their export information electronically through the AES or AESDirect.

These new regulations have tougher penalty provisions that affect everyone in the export process. Both civil and criminal penalties may be imposed per violation for delayed filing, failure to file, false filing of export information and using the AES to further any illegal activity, and fines range from \$1,100 to \$10,000. Also, all AES filers are faced with new filing deadlines for reporting export information, according to their mode of transportation. It is important that your clients understand these new requirements so that they avoid the increased penalties and seizure of their commodities.

The Census Bureau and Commercial Service (CS) are collaborating on how to assist exporters in understanding the new Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR) and filing export information electronically through the AES. During the next month, CS Marketing and Communications will host a series of internal webinars to bring all CS personnel up to speed on the new requirements. Additionally, CS Marketing is forming a Memorandum of Understanding with Census to offer FTR/AES webinars to companies over the summer and into the fall.



In the meantime, you and your clients may call 800-549-0595 with any questions you may have regarding the FTR or AES. Additionally, Census is offering AES compliance seminars and AESPcLink certification workshops in various cities in the United States. To find out more about these seminars and workshops, visit www.census.gov/trade. Companies can also register online through the free Internet-based application that Census offers at www.aesdirect.gov.

For more information on the Census/CS webinar collaboration on FTR/AES, please contact Linda Abbruzzese at Linda.Abbuzzese@mail.doc.gov or Gary Rand at Gary.Rand@mail.doc.gov.