

# USTR NEWS

## UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

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### **Ambassador Schwab Welcomes Taiwan's Membership in the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab today warmly welcomed Taiwan's accession to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA).

Ambassador Schwab said, "We are very pleased that we have been able to work closely with Taiwan to achieve this major market-opening result. This is a culmination of many years of hard work."

Under the GPA, Taiwan will open its government procurement market to suppliers from the United States and other GPA Parties. As a party to the GPA, Taiwan must conduct its procurements in a fair, transparent and predictable manner, in accordance the principles and procedures of the GPA.

U.S. suppliers will be assured access to procurement opportunities in Taiwan worth approximately \$20 billion annually. Firms from Taiwan will be eligible to compete for U.S. and State government procurement that is covered by the GPA.

By joining the GPA, Taiwan is fulfilling a commitment it made when it became a WTO Member in 2002. Taiwan is the first new Party acceding to the GPA since 1997.

The GPA is a plurilateral WTO Agreement, meaning that WTO members may choose to join it but are not automatically party to it by virtue of WTO membership. The GPA now covers 41 WTO Members.

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