



JUN 3 2011

## **Airport Sponsors**

### **Re: FAA dbE-Connect System**

The FAA, in partnership with B2Gnow, has created and is expanding an electronic web based DBE/ACDBE information system. The system is an electronic national repository of certified DBEs and ACDBEs (including suppliers of goods and services for rental car and non-rental car concessions) that can be matched with business opportunities at airports nationwide. DBEs can search for contracting opportunities and airports/prime contractors/prime concessionaires/car rental companies can search for DBEs.

Available on the FAA civil rights web site at <https://faa.dbesystem.com>, this system was developed through direct coordination with airports and state and local government grant recipients - providing a centralized resource of current information. The FAA's dedicated web site, named "FAA dbE-Connect System", also provides connections to FAA specific DBE and ACDBE program information and additional program websites.

The three main parts of the system are 1) a directory with current information from State UCPs, 2) a listing of contracting and concessions opportunities, and 3) a job board.

1. The Directory currently contains 42,000 certified DBE/ACDBE/MBE/WBE/SBE firms from dozens of certifying agencies and has been searched 1.1 million times since its original launch. Multiple recipients have used the information in their goal-setting process and prime contractors are increasingly leveraging the networking capabilities. The content comes from a variety of sources; about half of the records are provided by certifying agencies and the other half are imported from data files provided by other agencies. A key benefit is the system's ability to match a firm to an existing record, even if some of the information is different. The result is a database with almost no duplication.
2. The Opportunities Directory is a nationwide listing of active and upcoming bid opportunities at State and local government facilities across the country. About 1,000 opportunities are listed per year and the directory has been searched 25,000 times. From large construction projects to small supply bids, the listings represent opportunities for DBEs and ACDBEs to find subcontracting and small prime contract opportunities.
3. The Job Board contains links to Federal job and contracting opportunities.

Overall, the FAA dbE-Connect System has proven to be a quick and readily accessible resource for airport sponsors and contractors to find certified small businesses, and for small businesses to find opportunities they can bid on throughout the United States.

We hope you will find this site useful and will help us to further populate and develop it. Your agency's DBE and ACDBE opportunities and job openings can be posted on the system at no cost to you. We also hope to work with additional State UCPs to include data from their directories as well.

Please take a moment to view the site and send any comments you may have to Nancy Cibic, FAA DBE Program Compliance Specialist, at [nancy.cibic@faa.gov](mailto:nancy.cibic@faa.gov) or 847-294-7182.

Sincerely,

*Wilbur S. Barham*

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Assistant Administrator for Civil Rights  
and FAA Diversity Advocate