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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Federal Government's Premier Small Business Conference**

**Washington, DC** - The U.S. Department of the Interior (Host Agency) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Co-Host Agency) Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization on behalf of the Federal Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Directors' Interagency Council (OSDBU) will host the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual OSDBU Procurement Conference at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, DC, on April 19, 2012, from 8:00 a.m., to 5:00 p.m. The OSDBU Procurement Conference is a national conference fostering business partnerships between the Federal Government, its prime contractors, and small, minority, service-disabled veteran-owned, veteran-owned, HUBZone, and women-owned businesses. The Conference's theme is: *"Supporting Small Business, Our Economy, and Our Environment."*

The Conference will feature senior officials from multiple agencies. James Cole, **Deputy Attorney General, DoJ**; Nancy Gunderson, **Deputy Assistant Secretary, HHS**; David Hayes, **Deputy Secretary, DOI**; Kathleen Merrigan, **Deputy Secretary, USDA**; Bob Perciasepe, **Deputy Administrator, EPA**; Donald Steinberg, **Deputy Administrator, USAID**; and, many others will participate in the opening session. The following topics will be covered during workshops at the conference: Understanding Request for Proposals (RFP); how to utilize free small business resources; ethics related policy and procedure for small businesses working with the Federal government; and workshops for veteran owned small businesses. A portion of the day will be dedicated to more than 200 matchmaking sessions. The matchmaking sessions will allow small business representatives to engage in one-on-one discussions with Federal, state and local small business advocates.

Small businesses, prime contractors and government agencies agree that this Conference is the premier event for building relationships and seeking contracting opportunities with the Federal, state and local governments in one centralized location. The Conference Planning committee has taken great strides to make it a convenient and worthwhile event for all participants by making it metro accessible, offering more exhibitors; greater matchmaking opportunities and promoting this event as a "Green" Conference. In making this event the first Green OSDBU Conference, a large percentage of workshop presentations will be made available via the OSDBU's website on or by April 9, 2012. Registrants are encouraged to download presentations prior to the day of the Conference. To obtain more information about the Conference or to register, please visit: [www.osdbu.gov](http://www.osdbu.gov).

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