

TradeAlert

February 23, 2009

Unsure about Visa Processing? The US Dept of State Can Help!

List "Upcoming Conferences" to be held in the United States on the Department of State's intranet site. The Business Visa Center offers information to U.S. conference and meeting organizers that expect a large number of foreign visitors to the U.S. **WANT TO READ MORE?** A complete transcript of assistance provided by the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs' Business Visa Center is copied at the end of this email.

Antitrust Concerns Facing Your Multi-company Export Initiative?

Don't let concerns over violating antitrust statutes limit your ability to work with other U.S. companies to negotiate favorable export terms. Combine with others to develop the muscle to fill large orders and to gain leverage with large foreign buyers. Contact Vanessa.Bachman@ita.doc.gov to learn how to get federal antitrust preclearance for your joint export activities, or browse for more information at:

http://www.export.gov/salesandmarketing/Export_Trading_Company_Intro.asp

New Webinar Site Offers Quick Answers to Common Trade Questions

The U. S. Export Assistance Center in Atlanta has teamed up with the University of Georgia's Small Business Development Center to create a new international business webinar site: www.Export-U.com. The site is designed specifically for busy professionals who need quick answers to trade-related questions. The free webinar topics include: How to know if you are ready to export, Global market research, Costing and pricing, Commerce Department services, Payment terms, SBA export financing, and more.

Customs Guidelines to Maximize Protection of Intellectual Property

U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the European Union have developed a set of guiding principles for companies to better protect their Intellectual Property. These guidelines will help enhance U.S. and EU Customs Officers' abilities to differentiate legitimate and illicit goods and to prevent illegal goods from entering the supply chain. Click here for your Adobe Acrobat file. ([Guidelines](#))

Need Help with Standards? Look No Further Help's Here!

StandardsPortal (www.StandardsPortal.org) aims to facilitate trade by helping companies better understand the market access and market acceptance requirements they face around the world. The American National Standards Institute offers this service to provide, "... answers to the critical standards, conformance, market access, and trade-related questions that companies require to succeed in the U.S. and internationally.

Need International Business?

Sector Specific ... Commercial Service Global Design & Construction Team

For up-to-date market research, trade leads, and trade events in the design and construction related industries, visit the Design & Construction Products & Services E-Market Express at

<http://www.buyusa.gov/eme/globaldesignbuild.html>

EURO-2012 Soccer Cup in Ukraine Offers Major Trade and Investment Opportunities

The Government of Ukraine estimates the cost of works, technology and equipment needed to be employed before 2012 is in the range of USD 25-30 billion. Major opportunities exist in motor road and rail road infrastructure,

airports and air traffic control, municipal transport, hotel development, civil engineering, and safety and security equipment and services. Get most recent information about contracting opportunities on:
<http://buyusainfo.net/info.cfm?id='14265512'&keyx='9FC1084494236C6CAD645D466F6B33D3'&navcol=>

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and The World Bank to Increase Investments in Ukraine's Water Supply and Wastewater Sector

As a part of efforts to upgrade Ukrainian infrastructure, EBRD and the World Bank are expanding financial support to Ukraine's water sector. Download the Adobe Acrobat *TradeAlert* attached at the bottom of the website page.
<http://buyusainfo.net/info.cfm?id='14265490'&keyx='5FD3D1871C8133BB96547FAC5A2E9CBE'&navcol=>

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to Increase Investment in Georgian Infrastructure Projects

The EBRD is increasing investments in rehabilitation and replacement of deteriorated water supply and wastewater systems in Georgia. Download the Adobe Acrobat *TradeAlert* attached at the bottom of the website page.
<http://buyusainfo.net/info.cfm?id='14265491'&keyx='6340542FD9905D258BB04724E94DE4AF'&navcol=>

Commercial Service Trade Events

ASIA Pacific Business Outlook Conference 2009

From April 6-7, 2009, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA Meet 14 Senior Commercial Officers Throughout Asia (Including India)

The Asia Pacific Business Outlook (APBO) is the longest running, most successful regional conference of its kind focusing specifically on Asian markets. This is a rare opportunity for U.S. exporters to meet with fourteen Senior Commercial Officers in small-group workshops and via private one-on-one consultations to discuss Asia and India.
Details: <http://www.buyusa.gov/utah/apbo2009.html>

News on Trade Missions

Building for the Future Trade Mission to Southeast Asia

Please go to <http://www.buyusa.gov/globaldesignbuild/futurebuildmission.html> to learn about promising opportunities in growing Asian markets. The U.S. Commercial Service is leading a trade mission to Hong Kong, Singapore, and Bangkok April 20th thru 28th. This mission is an excellent opportunity for your members who offer environmentally friendly design and engineering services, energy efficient building systems, efficient lighting and heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) systems, and eco-friendly building products. Participants will receive 1-on-1 pre-screened and pre-arranged private business meetings with targeted prospects and access to key decision makers in group sessions and networking receptions. **Deadline to apply for the mission is March 4, 2009.**

Solar Energy Trade Mission to India

This groundbreaking mission taking place between March 22-27th, 2009, offers U.S. firms a cost effective way to meet potential business partners and government decision makers who are on the forward edge of shaping India's solar energy sector. The mission is organized by the Commercial Service in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Export/Import Bank. You will have access to a wide range of services including Commercial Diplomacy, customized 1-2-1 matchmaking services with Indian trading partners, solar project development tools, and renewable energy financing mechanisms.

Click here for more details: <http://www.buyusa.gov/pacificsouth/indiatrademission.html>

In Case You Missed Them

China Stimulates Its Economy Take Advantage of This Opportunity

A major cash spigot of approximately \$586 billion is about to flow into massive government spending. Much of the spending will go into projects requiring participation from non-Chinese producers. Read the complete article at:
<http://www.shippingdigest.com/news/article.asp?sid=5879<ype=trade>

Get Involved with Foreign Buyers' Delegations Attending U.S. Trade Exhibitions

Export sales are a primary source of sales growth even in the toughest of times. The U.S. Commerce Department's International Buyer Program (IBP) assists U.S. companies to increase their export sales by promoting select trade events worldwide through its global network of more than 75 U.S. Embassies and Consulates. Take advantage of these opportunities. Attend IBP supported U.S. industry events. Check the website below and contact the Commerce Department personnel who will be at these events coordinating meetings among U.S. companies and foreign buyers. <http://www.export.gov/ibp/ibp.asp?ReportID=IBP>

THE BUSINESS VISA CENTER (BVC)

The Business Visa Center's Role

The Business Visa Center (BVC), part of the State Department's Visa Services Office in Washington, D.C., assists businesses in the United States and their partners, customers and colleagues around the world by providing visa information. Whether at our more than 200 embassies or consulates abroad, or here in the United States, the Bureau of Consular Affairs supports business-related travel to the U.S. The BVC is one more way the Department of State actively promotes international business travel, U.S. commerce and the U.S. economy.

The BVC provides information about the application process for business (B-1) visa travel to the U.S. We can explain the visa process to U.S. companies that invite employees or current and prospective business clients and partners to the U.S. As part of the BVC's effort, we also offer information to U.S. conference and meeting organizers that expect a large number of foreign visitors to the U.S. Additionally, the BVC maintains a list of "Upcoming Conferences" to be held in the United States on our internal Department of State intranet site and invites U.S. organizers to provide this information to us.

What the Business Visa Center Cannot Do

The Business Visa Center cannot expedite interview appointments or the processing of visa applications. Additionally, we cannot guarantee the issuance of a visa or decide the merits of an application for a visa. The Consular Officer at the Embassy or Consulate overseas will make those decisions during the application process. Having an event listed on the Upcoming Conferences web page also does not guarantee visa approval.

About the Visa Application Process

It is important to understand some basic steps in the visa process. U.S. Embassies and Consulates have the responsibility under U.S. immigration law for the acceptance and processing of visa applications, and for decisions about issuance of visas to foreign citizens for travel to the U.S. The BVC cannot interfere in the visa process.

Improved information for businesses and the public, in the form of up-to-date details about wait times for interviews and visa processing times, is available on most embassy and consulate websites and at www.travel.state.gov. This information allows business travelers to better prepare for their interviews and plan their trips.

How to Contact BVC

For inquiries falling within the scope of the Business Visa Center, please send an email to BusinessVisa@state.gov (preferred means of contact) or call 202-663-3198, Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 5:00 pm.

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