



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SMALL BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM TO LINK LOCAL
COMPANIES WITH HANFORD CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES**

RICHLAND, Wash. — The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) at the Hanford Site is inviting local and regional businesses to participate in the 2010 Bridging Partnerships Small Business Symposium April 28-29 at the TRAC in Pasco, Washington. DOE, its Hanford prime contractors, and the Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC) are sponsoring this annual event which aims to increase awareness of small business contracting opportunities at Hanford.

“Communities are connected one person at a time,” said Susan Johnson, DOE Office of River Protection Small Business Program Manager. “This is the perfect opportunity for the local small businesses in our region to get plugged in and discover new avenues of work.”

Bridging Partnerships links local business leaders with leading industry experts and provides an opportunity to network with key decision makers in the Mid-Columbia. The Business Expo will feature representatives from DOE, each of the Hanford prime contractors, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and various local, state, and federal agencies. More than 60 booths from various area businesses will also be on display to further enhance networking opportunities.

“We want people to walk away from this conference armed with a wealth of knowledge and potential opportunities,” said Sally Sieracki, Small Business Program Manager, DOE Richland Operations Office. “Bridging Partnerships is a place for people to come and learn about government contracting and how to take advantage of Recovery Act funding that has been made available for environmental cleanup projects at the Hanford Site. It also helps businesses identify where their company can best fit in at the Site or in the local area.”

On April 28, attendees will participate in the popular Hanford bus tour, which provides an overview of the environmental cleanup being done at the site. On April 29, participants will hear from leading industry experts on topics that include contracting basics, nuclear safety requirements and small business opportunities at Hanford. Award-winning entrepreneur and author Sunny Kobe-Cook, founder of Sleep Country USA, will also speak at the event.

Interested companies can still register for the 2010 DOE Bridging Partnerships Symposium by contacting TRIDEC at (509) 735-1000.

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