



# *News Release*

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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**Release Date:** Oct. 9, 2009  
**For Immediate Release**

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## **SBA Staffs New Position To Support Export Assistance Center in New Orleans**

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Small Business Administration recently hired international trade specialist Carlos Sosa to help support the U.S. Export Assistance Center (USEAC) in New Orleans. Sosa will help small businesses throughout the region to sell their products in overseas markets.

SBA Administrator Karen Mills recently announced the new position, which was supported by United States Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Chair Mary Landrieu (D-La). The new senior trade specialist supports one of 18 strategically located export offices around the U.S. and will be temporarily operating out of SBA's District Office in New Orleans.

“Overseas trade helps American small businesses remain competitive,” said Administrator Mills. “By adding Carlos Sosa to support this USEAC in New Orleans the SBA can better serve small businesses throughout the region. New Orleans has one of the busiest port centers in the world and is a gateway to the entire Midwest and Gulf Coast regions. Sosa will help provide greater focus and accessibility to small businesses that want to compete in the global marketplace.”

Sosa has a rich background in small business, international trade, and export financing, as well as first-hand experience from working in the New Orleans trade finance banking industry. He will begin work Oct. 14, 2009, and reports directly to the SBA Director of the Office of International Trade in Washington.

As one of 18 SBA/USEAC export trade specialists around the nation, he will provide training and technical assistance to lenders and business clients in the Gulf Coast region.

U.S. Export Assistance Centers located in major metropolitan areas throughout the United States, are one-stop shops ready to provide small or medium-sized businesses with local export assistance. Businesses can receive personalized assistance by professionals from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Export-Import Bank and other public and private organizations. It's a partnership that makes it easier to get the help companies need to compete and succeed in the global marketplace. For more information go to <http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/internationaltrade/useac/index.html>.

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