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MBDA Opens Registration for the 29th Annual National Minority Enterprise Development Week Conference

WASHINGTON, DC (August 29, 2011) – The Minority Business Development Agency, in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, today announced the opening of registration for the 2011 Minority Enterprise Development Week (MED Week) Conference, which will be held Sept. 27-30 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. The theme of this year’s conference is *Emerging Industries and Markets: A Blueprint for Success*, and the 3-day event will spotlight trends and opportunities for participating businesses.

“Minority-owned firms are a significant source of job creation in this country, and MED Week offers them an unparalleled opportunity to learn how to grow their business, network with other firms, and expose themselves to decision makers,” said MBDA National Director David A. Hinson. “MED Week is more important than ever before as minority-owned firms are seen as a valuable asset and significant source of economic growth for the country.”

Keynote speakers will include Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius and Secretary for Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan.

New this year, the Alliance of Merger & Acquisition Advisors (AM&AA) – the premiere international organization serving the middle market mergers and acquisitions profession – will conduct an executive education-style session. Corporate executives from Honda, General Motors, Chrysler, Northrop-Grumman, Raytheon and Lockheed will also host industry specific workshops aimed at increasing supplier diversity, focused on the aerospace, defense and automotive industries. Sessions on high-speed rail construction projects, public utilities and green business will be offered as well.

Other conference highlights include Embassy-sponsored market access receptions and the Business-to-Business Expo featuring matchmaking sessions and power learning roundtables. The annual National MED Week Awards Gala will close out the conference, with the nation’s top firms receiving recognition for their business success and economic impact on their communities.

Recognized as the nation's premier event for minority entrepreneurs and business owners, the MED Week Conference attracts minority businesses of all sizes from all industry sectors across the country. Participants will have opportunities to network and learn about new contracting, financing and global growth opportunities from both federal government agencies and private corporations. This year's program will also offer minority entrepreneurs access to the policy makers, program managers, financial lenders and procurement officers who often impact business success.

Helping to make the 2011 MED Week Conference possible is a host of corporate sponsors, including top tier sponsors: AT&T, IBM, Raytheon Company, United Technologies Corporation, Wal-Mart, Deltek/INPUT, Northrop-Grumman and Tremco Incorporated. Media partners playing a significant role in promoting the conference include: Asian Fortune, Minority Business News-USA, Minority Business Entrepreneur, LatinaStyle, Minority Enterprise Advocate, The Black EOE Journal, Hispanic Network, Professional Woman's Magazine, MBEConnect and Blackonomics on Sirius/XM.

For more information about the MED Week conference and to register, visit www.medweek.gov.

About the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

MBDA, www.mbda.gov, an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, promotes the growth and global competitiveness of the minority business community, making them better equipped to create jobs, impact local economies and compete successfully in domestic and global marketplaces. With a nationwide network of business centers and strategic partners, MBDA assists minority entrepreneurs and business owners with consulting services, contract and financing opportunities, bonding and certification services, building business-to-business alliances and executive training.

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