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Subject: BusinessUSA: Are You On a Mission?

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Hit the Road

Summer is a great time for traveling and taking vacation. But the road beckons for other reasons, too. If you're a current or potential exporter, summer is a great time to join a trade mission to find prospective overseas buyers.

Trade missions are coordinated overseas tours created and organized by government agencies or trade groups in order to introduce business executives with prospective buyers and partners in a specific country or geographical region.

[Trade missions](#) provide an opportunity to further evaluate your product's chance of success in a given market and meet a variety of potential clients. Trade missions generally include business matchmaking, customized market research, in-country business briefings, networking opportunities, in-country support and follow-up assistance.

What is a Certified Trade Mission?

While trade missions are available from a variety of organizations, U.S. Certified Trade Missions (CTM) are backed by the U.S. government. CTMs are planned by state and local governments, industry and trade associations, and chambers of commerce. They are then approved by the U.S.

Commercial Service, the trade promotion arm of the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration.

Having the endorsement of the U.S. federal government can be a big help in opening doors overseas, which is something to consider if you're trying to select a trade mission.

Learn more about [Certified Trade Missions](#).

Current Trade Missions

Interested in exporting to Africa? How about Central America? Here's a list of [upcoming U.S. Commercial Service trade missions](#).

Be sure to also check out [BusinessUSA's extensive research tools for exporters](#).

State Trade Missions

State and regional trade development agencies also organize their own trade missions. [Here's a list of upcoming trade missions](#) for companies from the Great Lakes Region. Check with local chambers of commerce, organizations and agencies in your area to see what they have planned.

Getting Ready to Go

If you've signed up for a trade mission but find you need to apply for, or renew, your passport, be sure to check out the [U.S. State Department's passport tool](#) to learn about costs and required documents. You can also find information on processing times and application centers.

This [traveler's checklist](#) can also help you prepare for your trip. It provides information about everything from vaccinations to driving abroad, and can even help you determine whether you need additional health insurance coverage while traveling.

The U.S. State Department is ready to help you should you run into trouble overseas. [This handy page also lets you search for the closest embassy or consulate](#) by country and region.

Travel Tips From the Pros

Even normal business travel can be a challenge, from dealing with flight delays and cancellations, to managing hotel and rental car reservations. Want to make things a little easier? [Check out this list of business travel tips](#) compiled from seasoned business travelers. Tips range from signing up for Global Entry status to knowing the difference between non-stop and direct flights.

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