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To know them is to love them
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2/13/2015

We love great government business programs!

Everyone loves closing a deal, finding a great new business partner, or developing a great new product. At [BusinessUSA](#), we wanted to take this Valentine's Day to talk about things we love: innovative government programs that help U.S. businesses solve unique challenges.

Here are a few of our favorites we know you'll love, too:

Matchmaking

What would Valentine's Day be without a bit of matchmaking?

The creative [American Supplier Initiative \(ASI\)](#) is a nationwide series of ten [Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#)-sponsored events that facilitate on-site meetings between buyers that have specific contracting needs -- including large companies, corporations and government agencies -- and small to mid-size businesses that are interested in supplying those larger

entities.

For more information, check out this [map of cities where ASI events are being held](#), and [click on the location you'd like to attend](#).

You may also want to check out [SBA's resource partner network](#) for a directory of local business advisory affiliates that help counsel, mentor, and train small businesses.

Your Personal Overseas Network

Expanding overseas can seem like a daunting challenge. Luckily, the U.S. State Department, with its reach into virtually every corner of the world can help. And best of all, you don't have to travel anywhere.

The [U.S. State Department's Direct Line for American Business](#) lets business owners video chat or teleconference with U.S. ambassadors and experts all over the world, to gain market intelligence about business opportunities and challenges in those countries, including detailed information on specific sectors and projects.

Experienced U.S. exporters will be also interested in the U.S. Commerce Department's [U.S Export Assistance Centers](#) and [international business matchmaking services](#). Beginning exporters should first consult the Small Business Administration's [help for new exporters](#).

Helping American Businesses in Emerging Markets

The government's provides additional help for businesses wanting to expand into emerging markets. The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) hosts a popular workshop series, Expanding Horizons, to help educate small U.S. businesses about the benefits of expanding overseas and the finance and insurance tools it offers to support them. Here's more information about the [2015 OPIC Expanding Horizons workshop schedule](#), including upcoming events in Detroit and Long Beach, California.

Supporting and Growing Tomorrow's Business Leaders

The [Small Business Administration \(SBA\) Emerging Leaders Program](#) helps executives of businesses in challenged communities grow their operations by providing them with the organizational framework, resource network, and other tools needed to build sustainable businesses.

Since it began in 2008, graduates of the program have secured more than \$1 billion in government contracts and obtained \$73 million in new financing.

Get an education

Looking for online tools to help you grow as a small business owner? Be sure and check out the [SBA Learning Center's](#) virtual campus of free online courses, videos, and a variety of

learning tools.

Cutting through red tape

Knowing and verifying the legality of every single person you hire is no easy task. And, of course, nobody likes bureaucratic red tape.

[E-Verify](#) is a simple, Internet-based tool available to employers of all sizes to quickly compare information from an employee's employment documents with data from government agencies – like the Social Security Administration -- to confirm employment eligibility.

What programs do you love? Tweet with the hashtag #bizUSALove and let us know!

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