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**For Immediate Release:**  
January 14, 2013

## **Don't Miss Out on Early Bird Registration for the Eighth Annual Ohio Business Matchmaker Conference**

**COLUMBUS** – Early Bird Registration is ending January 31<sup>st</sup> for the eighth annual Ohio Business Matchmaker Conference, which will take place March 27 and 28, 2013 in Dayton, Ohio. The conference links small businesses with government agencies and prime contractors for potential contracting opportunities.

The conference will be held at the Dayton Convention Center and doors will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days. Last year more than 1,140 participants, including more than 1,000 individual small businesses, took part in one-on-one meetings with more than 176 buyers.

The Ohio Business Matchmaker Conference provides small businesses with a unique opportunity to meet buyers from city, state, county and federal agencies, as well as prime contractors and other organizations with combined purchasing budgets representing hundreds of millions of dollars in opportunities. This conference also will assist the agencies in achieving their mandated contracting and subcontracting goals by identifying potential sources of supply.

In addition to one-on-one matchmaking meetings, the event offers training for small businesses on topics such as start-up businesses for veterans, reading solicitations, service master agreements with the oil and gas industry, women-owned small business program challenges, working with joint ventures and various other business opportunities.

Sponsors of the event include the Ohio Development Services Agency's Office of Business Assistance, the Small Business Development Centers Network of Ohio, Check Ohio First and the U.S. Small Business Administration Columbus District.

For more information about the Ohio Business Matchmaker Conference, registration fees or to register, visit [www.ohiobusinessmatchmaker.com](http://www.ohiobusinessmatchmaker.com) or contact the Ohio Small Business Development Center at (614) 466-2711.

Early bird registration ends January 31, 2013. Online registration will end February 28, 2013. Registration will also be available at the door, however, pre-registration has benefits such as reduced registration fees and greater pairing opportunities.

*The **Office of Business Assistance** leads the state's efforts to create, grow and develop small- and minority-owned businesses resulting in job creation and a strengthened Ohio economy. The Office also provides customized services to increase the exports from Ohio companies. The Office oversees a variety of service programs including the state Small Business Development Center network, Ohio Business Lending Clearinghouse, the Minority Business Assistance Centers and more.*

*The **Ohio Development Services Agency** works with partners across business, government, academia, and the nonprofit sector to build strong communities that support job creation. Development provides financial, informational and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio, ensuring a vibrant economic future for all Ohioans. Visit [www.development.ohio.gov](http://www.development.ohio.gov). Also, follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/OhioDevelopment](http://www.facebook.com/OhioDevelopment) and Twitter [www.twitter.com/OhioDevelopment](http://www.twitter.com/OhioDevelopment).*

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