

**For Immediate Release**

November 19, 2014

Contact: Stephanie Gostomski at (614) 466-6619Stephanie.Gostomski@development.ohio.gov

Exporting Program Helps Businesses Grow

Ohio Development Services Agency now accepting Applications

Businesses in Ohio are exporting at a record pace, and to keep this momentum going the Ohio Development Services Agency is accepting applications for the 2015 Ohio International Market Access Grant for Exporters (IMAGE) program.

“The high cost associated with entering new markets makes it difficult for small companies to consider exporting,” said David Goodman, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency. “Connecting Ohio businesses with international markets is vital to achieving our goal of long-term economic growth and job creation.”

The IMAGE program is designed to help small businesses increase exports and create Ohio jobs. IMAGE is a 50 percent reimbursement program designed to offset the costs associated with international marketing initiatives, including trade shows and missions, marketing materials, website translation and export education programs.

In 2013, 96 small businesses participated in the program generating \$14.3 million in new export sales.

The 2015 IMAGE program will run through September 30, 2015. Companies can apply online at: www.IMAGE.development.ohio.gov.

##