



John R. Kasich
Governor

Christiane Schmenk
Director

For Immediate Release:
July 13, 2012

Check Ohio First Website Helps Ohio Suppliers Secure Contracts *Webinars and Tips on How to do Business now available*

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Development and Ohio Small Business Development Centers of Ohio announce webinars to promote contracting with and between Ohio businesses.

Buyers including the State of Ohio, Lockheed Martin, and the City of Dayton will provide webinars on how to do business with their organizations beginning July 25, 2012.

Schedule of Webinars:

Doing Business with the City of Dayton	July 25
Doing Business with Lockheed Martin	August 1
Doing Business with the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA)	August 15
Government Contracting 101	September 5
Doing Business with the State of Ohio	September 12

“Check Ohio First celebrates the strength of Ohio businesses,” said Christiane Schmenk, Director of the Ohio Department of Development. “Ohio buyers like to do business with local companies, and this partnership is perfect for job creation.”

The Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA, also known as Metro) will be presenting a contracting webinar in conjunction with Ohio Department of Transportation. “You need good information to optimize your opportunities with government organizations like Metro and other Ohio transit systems,” said Wright Parkes, Metro Director of Procurement. “The Check Ohio First webinars will provide what you need to know to do business with us and what we’re looking for in our suppliers.”

The Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC), which provide free counseling to small businesses, will offer a webinar on Government Contracting 101, to be followed later in the year by webinars designed to help small businesses prepare for face-to-face meetings at the Ohio Business Matchmaker at Wright State University in March of 2013.

Ohio businesses can complete a profile description for the free Check Ohio First online directory. They also will receive notices about procurement needs, webinars, and other upcoming events. The website includes a resource library and links that direct small business owners to free one-on-one counseling and other services to assist in networking.

For more information about Check Ohio First, or to register, visit www.CheckOhioFirst.com or

contact the Ohio Department of Development's Small Business Development Centers at (614) 466-2711.

*The **Office of Business Assistance**, located within the Ohio Department of Development's Business Services Division, provides resources to create, grow, and develop Ohio's small- and minority-owned business community, as well as provide export assistance to Ohio companies.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to support business attraction and retention efforts by providing targeted investments that assist in job creation, as well as provides assistance and services to Ohio's communities and individuals. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

###

Media contacts: Stephanie Mennecke at (614) 466-6619
or the Communications and Marketing Office at (614) 466-2609

Office of Communications & Marketing • 77 South High Street • P.O. Box 1001 • Columbus, Ohio 43215 • U.S.A. • 614 | 466 2609

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of ADA Services.