

Small Businesses Meet Their Match

(NAPSA)—A landmark joint initiative of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and HP is providing small business owners and representatives with unique opportunities by facilitating one-on-one meetings with procurement officials from federal, state and local government organizations, and large corporations.

Four regional Business Matchmaking events have already been conducted this year, resulting in more than 5,500 face-to-face meetings between small business owners and procurement officials with numerous contracts awarded. Another will take place at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas on December 8-10, 2003.

"Business Matchmaking is one of the most significant economic recovery programs this country has ever seen and strongly supports the SBA's mission to promote the growth and prosperity of America's small businesses," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto.

Primary and secondary small business participants will pay no event registration fees, as individual scholarships worth \$195 apiece will be provided by the SBA, HP and dozens of other public and private sector partner organizations around the country.

For more information or to register for the Houston Business Matchmaking event, visit www.

businessmatchmaking.com.