



October 2010

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Economic Development Q&A with Commerce Connect Executive Director Dennis Alvord



Q. What is CommerceConnect?

A. [CommerceConnect](#) is an economic development initiative launched by Secretary Locke last year. The initiative provides streamlined and coordinated "one-stop" assistance to facilitate American businesses' access to the Department of Commerce's 70+ programs, products, services, and partner resources, including other federal, state, local and nonprofit programs. CommerceConnect's mission is to support U.S. business innovation and entrepreneurship; enhance economic resiliency; assist job creation; and help American firms transform themselves into globally competitive



EDA To Announce Innovation Award Winners on October 25, 2010 During EDA's Atlanta Regional Conference

[Click here to Register](#)

EDA's Innovation in Economic Development Awards recognize innovative economic development projects or strategies of national significance.

Award Categories:

- Innovation in Regional Innovation Clusters (RICs)
- Innovation in Commercialization
- Innovation in Global Export Promotion
- Innovation in Green Technology

SAVE THE DATE

October 24-26, 2010.

enterprises. This is accomplished by efficiently and effectively connecting U.S. businesses with Department of Commerce and partner resources that meet their needs at every point in their life cycle through a "no wrong door" approach to accessing enterprise assistance.

Q. In what ways has CommerceConnect expanded?

A. CommerceConnect's first field office recently moved from a pilot space in Plymouth, MI co-located with the Michigan Manufacturing and Technology Center (a National Institutes of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Program partner) to a new office co-located with the International Trade Administration's Pontiac Export Assistance Center on the Oakland County, Michigan office campus. In this new office, four dedicated Commerce Specialists analyze business needs and provide solutions.

CommerceConnect will be increasing its physical office footprint in the coming year and intends to grow into additional regions across the country. In FY 2011 CommerceConnect will initiate a collaborative customer service business model that strengthens alliances across Commerce-wide organizational lines. Program staff in select EDA, ITA, MBDA, and Census field offices will be trained as CommerceConnect Specialists in the Commerce-wide portfolio of business assistance programs. Partnering with Commerce field offices will provide a multiplier effect nationwide enhancing the Department's delivery of enterprise assistance and expanding the opportunity for more business success stories.

CommerceConnect is also working to expand its virtual and information technology tools and has added new program content to the initiative website (www.CommerceConnect.gov) as well as a contact center (**888-728-4190**) to respond to business inquiries.

Q. What are the benefits to economic development professionals?

A. CommerceConnect provides a one-stop-shop for information on Department of Commerce and other federal, state, local and non-profit partner programs, products, and services that assist businesses.

Q. How can individuals learn more about CommerceConnect?

A. Businesses and entrepreneurs can access CommerceConnect services by: (1) calling the initiative's contact center at **888-728-4190**, (2) submitting a need on the Contact page of the website at www.CommerceConnect.gov, or (3) sending an e-mail to contact@commerceconnect.gov.

SPOTLIGHT

EDA Makes Improvements to its Grant Making Process

For more detailed information on the new grant improvement process, [click here](#).

EDA's Atlanta Regional Office
Conference, Atlanta, Georgia

UPDATE

U.S. EDA's Jobs & Innovation Partnership

[Click here](#) to read more

The Jobs and Innovation Partnership is EDA's long-term prosperity plan to help build ecosystems where the private sector can flourish and create the connective tissue that will bind together vibrant regional economies. The goal is to elevate regional innovation cluster development to its proper place in the economic universe – a key driver of future jobs and economic growth. The components of this platform include:

- Regional Innovation Acceleration Network (RIAN)
- Inter-agency Taskforce on Advancing Regional Innovation Clusters (TARIC)
- Mapping Regional Innovation Clusters Project
- Investments in Regional Innovation & Collaboration in Inner Cities

POLICY CORNER

On October 5th, the [Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force](#) released a report with recommendations that will help strengthen the Nation's capacity to understand, prepare for, and respond to the risks associated with climate change. The Task Force, co-chaired by the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), includes representatives from more than 20 Federal

Join Assistant Secretary John Fernandez for a Webinar on Nov 4th

Title: **Improving EDA's Investment Approval Process**

Date: **Thursday, November 4, 2010**

Time: **2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT**

[Register Now](#)

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is making several changes to its grant-making process to ensure that applicants get more timely responses and the process is more efficient and transparent.

The new process will have the following features:

- **Continuous technical assistance and customer service** - Applicants may submit an application at any time during the quarter and receive formal feedback on its technical and competitive merits and/or deficiencies within 15 business days.
- **Quarterly rounds of funding** - EDA will set deadlines for submission of applications in order to be considered for a Public Works, Economic Adjustment Assistance, or Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund awards in a given quarter.
- **Expedited processing** - Applicants who submit a complete application package prior to that quarter's deadline will be notified of EDA's selection decisions within 20 business days of the deadline.
- **Competitive selection framework** - All projects will be assessed against EDA's strategic priorities and evaluated by an investment review committee where EDA professionals will analyze and recommend proposals to the EDA Regional Director for that quarter's available funding.

FEATURE

EDA Commemorates National Energy Awareness Month

EDA believes that investments in the new energy economy are key to job creation and economic growth and has operationalized its commitment to environmentally-sustainable economic development (and its associated emerging industrial clusters related to energy, cutting-edge environmental technologies, sustainable manufacturing systems, and green building practices) by:

As part of the Obama administration's vision for a robust green economy, EDA is working with other federal agencies, strategic partners and local leaders to build a more innovation-driven, environmentally responsible economy.

- Encouraging green economic development projects within its program portfolio through its environmentally-sustainable development funding priority, and

recommendations at the request of the President

[Click here](#) to view the full report.

EDA in the Field



From left to right: EDA PRO Director Willie Taylor; SSTI CEO Dan Bergland; EDA Dep Asst Sec Brian McGowan; Innovation Works CEO Rich Lunak; PA Dept of Community & Econ Dev Dep Sec John Sider at the [SSTI Accelerating Innovation Annual Conference](#)



Asst Sec Fernandez joins Energy Secretary Chu, Pennsylvania Governor Rendell, and Philadelphia Mayor Nutter to recognize the \$129 million E-RIC winner, the Greater Philadelphia Innovation Cluster for Energy Efficiency Buildings (GPIC), housed at the Philadelphia Navy Yard

Upcoming Events



October 24-26, 2010

[EDA Atlanta Regional Office](#)

- Continuing to fund specific green projects through the Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund with a flexible, targeted focus on projects that advance the green economy in key areas (i.e., renewable energy, energy efficiency, reuse/recycling/restoration, and green building).



U.S. Clean Technology Trade & Investment Mission

EDA & ITA Hosts U.S. Clean Technology Trade & Investment Mission

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and International Trade Administration's (ITA) Commercial Service have announced a U.S. Clean Technology Trade & Investment Mission from November 29 – December 4, 2010, to begin in Lyon, France at Pollutec, a tradeshow that features the world's leading international exhibit for the environment and sustainable development markets. The trip will conclude in Brussels, Belgium where U.S. companies and communities will participate in a U.S. Embassy reception, NATO cleantech roundtable, and other networking opportunities. The mission will bring together a mix of U.S. community delegates and businesses within their regions to catalyze the process of connecting U.S. communities with opportunities to increase exports and attract foreign direct investment (FDI), with a particular emphasis on advancing the green economy and creating jobs in the United States. Community delegates and business leaders are encouraged to apply at <http://export.gov/cleantechmission/>.



EDA Supports Brownfields Redevelopment Efforts

EDA is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide assistance to communities in predominantly under-served and economically disadvantaged areas to develop area-wide plans for the reuse of brownfields properties. These plans will integrate site cleanup and reuse into coordinated strategies for addressing community needs for housing, recreation, education and health facilities, and economic development. Brownfields have also received heightened attention as prime locations for green projects because of the associated benefits. Sustainable energy efforts (such as net-zero buildings or renewable energy generation) on brownfields put cleaned-up properties back on the tax rolls, reduces an area's carbon footprint, and limits greenfield development and urban sprawl. Brownfields are properties where the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants may complicate the properties' expansion, redevelopment, or reuse. To read more, [click here](#).

[Conference](#)
Atlanta, GA

October 25, 2010

U.S. Assistant Secretary John Fernandez Addresses Inner City Economic Forum Hosted by the [Initiative for a Competitive Inner City](#)
San Francisco, CA

November 4, 2010

Improving EDA's Investment Approval Process Webinar
[Register Online](#)

November 7-9, 2010

[UEDA 2010 Summit](#)
Reno, NV

November 16-17, 2010

[EDA Chicago and Denver Regional Offices Conference](#)
St. Louis, MO

November 25, 2010

EDA Announces Innovation in Economic development Award Winners

November 29 – December 4, 2010

[EDA and ITA U.S. Cleantech Trade & Investment Mission](#)
Lyon, France & Brussels, Belgium

December 8-9, 2010

[EDA Seattle Regional Office Conference](#)
Los Angeles, CA

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EXTRA EXTRA...

NEWSOK

Network helps spread innovation nationwide

October 12, 2010, By: Tom Walker

[Click here](#) to read full article.

The Economic Development Association, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, has announced a \$480,000 grant to the State Science & Technology Institute to launch the Regional Innovation Acceleration Network.

The idea behind this grant is to provide the resources and leadership to bond these organizations into a network to share best practices and to foster cooperation with one objective — moving technology companies further along toward job creation.

"This has been a project that EDA has been excited about for a long time," says Mark Skinner, SSTI vice president and director of the Regional Innovation Acceleration Network.

"We have seen good models in many states and recognize that by sharing ideas, everyone can accomplish more. We also recognize that supporting innovation isn't cookie cutter. It depends on tailoring the assets available in a given location to support innovation."

SITE Selection

Technological evolution is behind a new generation of giant, renewable energy plants that leave yesterday's projects in the dust

September, 2010, By John McCurry

[Click here](#) to read full article.

The world's largest stand-alone Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) power project went live July 18 in Shanghai, China (see the Global Infrastructure Report). Nine days later, a groundbreaking was held in Kern County, Calif., for what developers are calling the world's largest wind farm.

These are just two recent examples of renewable energy superlatives that today are more commonplace as global energy demand increases and fossil-fuel solutions lose currency. The regions where these superlatives are built and installed already are huge jobs generators.

When finished, the ambitious Alta Wind Energy Center being built by Terra-Gen Power

LLC in Kern County will have the capacity to generate 1,550 MW of power, nearly double the capacity of Roscoe Wind Complex in Texas, which currently has the distinction of being the world's largest wind farm.

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Obama administration official says new economy needed

October 8, 2010, By: Kimberly Pierceall

[Click here](#) to read full article.

An Obama administration official with deep Inland ties told a crowd of academics and city officials Friday that government and business will need to build a brand new economy, one that's export oriented, a leader in clean energy and innovative.

Brian McGowan, a deputy assistant secretary of commerce for the U.S. Economic Development Administration, made the keynote address to end the two-day annual Town and Gown conference at UC Riverside that focuses on fostering relationships between cities and the universities.

"I think the Inland Empire region needs to start focusing in on its industry and innovation clusters," he said.

The Economic Development Administration, he said, has been focused on short-term recovery, shoring up the economy's foundation and changing how government works.

McGowan said the agency has worked to trim the time it takes for EDA grants to be awarded, from 188 days to now 40 days and the administration is increasing funding for research and development to 3 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

"We want and need your help to develop long-term strategies," he told the audience.

"Not changing is not an option."

denverpost.com

Clean energy growth pushed Industry group says funding needed to keep Colorado at forefront of new technologies

October 19,2010, By: Steve Raabe

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

A recent [EDA-funded] study from the Colorado Cleantech Industry Association says Colorado has capitalized on its natural energy and intellectual resources but needs to push the growth of startup and relocating renewable-energy companies in the face of competition from other states. Colorado must invest hundreds of millions of dollars in coming years to maintain its status as a national leader in clean energy, a new report suggests. Colorado ranks fourth in the nation in the concentration of clean-tech jobs, with about 1 percent of all jobs in the state related to clean-energy research,

manufacturing and generation. The report identifies 17 actions and strategies needed to advance Colorado's clean-energy sector over the next three to five years. While no specific investment total has been identified, the study estimates that spending should range from a minimum of \$165 million up to \$400 million.