

## **Most Frequently Asked Questions of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)**

### **Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)**

**1. What is the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) website address?**

<http://osdbuweb.dot.gov>

**2. How do I market my services to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)?**

We suggest that you look in the section of the Marketing Package or Contracting with DOT that describes what each operating administration does. You can then contact the small business specialist and the simplified acquisition specialist for any of the operating administrations that pertain to your line of business.

**3. Where can I find information on contracting opportunities with the DOT?**

There are many sources that provide such contracting information. The following three are good examples of sources we believe will provide valuable information on contracting opportunities with the DOT.

- FedBizOpps is located at [www.eps.gov](http://www.eps.gov). FedBizOpps allows you to search federal procurement opportunities, including those that come out of the US DOT, and receive automatic email announcements on those same procurements as soon as they are announced. This is the primary location to hear about DOT contract opportunities.
- DOT publishes annually, a Procurement Forecast of contract opportunities that are anticipated to come out in the next fiscal year. The DOT FY 2003 Procurement Forecast is posted on the OSDBU web site in a searchable format at <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov/business/procurement/forecast.html> (You can find this easily on the OSDBU web site by selecting "Contracting Opportunities" in the left menu bar and then selecting "Procurement Forecast."). Also, as background, Public Law 100-656, Section 501 requires that DOT, along with other Federal agencies make available its Procurement Forecast to the Small Business Administration and to interested business owners. The forecast is for informational and marketing purposes only and does not constitute a specific offer or commitment by DOT to fund in whole or in part any of the procurements referenced herein. The forecast listing is not intended to be all-inclusive. The "Related Links" section of the OSDBU web site at : <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov/about/related.html> has hyperlinks to other Federal government OSDBUs.
- The "Contracting Opportunities" section of the OSDBU also contain a listing of hyperlinks to state DOT web sites, and more specifically the sections of those sites that pertain to contracting information. The state listing is on the OSDBU website at <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov/business/procurement/states.html#states>. (You can find this easily by selecting "Contracting Opportunities" in the left menu bar and then selecting "State DOT Procurement Sites.")



#### **4. Where can I find information concerning the DBE program?**

There is a large section on the OSBDU web site that is dedicated to information on the DBE program. You can get there by opening the OSBDU web site at <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov> and selecting “DBE Info” in the left menu bar.

#### **5. How do I become certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)?**

You can become certified as a DBE through your state's Department of Transportation. Contact information on state DBE officials are posted on the OSBDU web site at <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov/business/mp/miphtml26.html#TOC64>. (You can find this easily by going to the “DBE Info” section in the menu bar, then selecting “Contacts” and then selecting “Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Liaison and Certification Officers.”)

#### **6. How can I apply for the DOT/OSDBU loan and bonding programs?**

The Short Term Lending Program (STLP) is designed to provide short-term working capital, in the form of revolving lines of credit at prime interest rates. The Bonding Assistance Program (BAP) is designed to enhance and further the opportunity to obtain bid, performance and payment bonds. To apply to either program an applicant must have a transportation-related contract and have current certification as a DBE by any agency applying DOT certification guidelines (49 CFR, Part 23 and 26) or by the U.S. Small Business Administration Section 8(a) Program; Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB); HUBZone Empowerment Contracting Program; and Service-disabled Veterans for transportation-related contracts emanating from DOT, its grantees, recipients, and their contractors and subcontractors

Additional information and the application for the STLP and BAP is available on the OSDBU website at <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov/business/mp/miphtml28.html#TOC71>.

#### **7. Is this the Small Business Administration (or SBA)?**

No. This is the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization at the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Small Business Administration phone number is 1-800-827-5722 and their web site is [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

#### **8. How do I become certified as an 8(a)?**

You can become certified as an 8(a) through the Small Business Administration (SBA). Information is available on the SBA website at <http://www.sba.gov/8abd>. The SBA also has a toll-free line at 1-800-827-5722.

#### **9. Does the SBA have grants?**

We are not the SBA and we aren't experts on all their programs. You can view the SBA web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) or call their 800 number at 1-800-827-5722. The SBA does have a large loan program for small, minority and women-owned businesses.

