

LOUISIANA INTERNATIONAL TRADE BULLETIN

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September 2006

VENEZUELAN MISSION TO VISIT NEW ORLEANS AND LAFAYETTE

The New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center, the World Trade Center, and other organizations will sponsor a luncheon program on September 25 at the WTC's Plimsoll Club on "Opportunities in the Hydrocarbon Sector in Venezuela" featuring a 14-member delegation of Venezuelan business leaders. The members of the delegation are seeking to meet with providers of oil and gas industry equipment and services in Louisiana for developing projects in Venezuela and other Latin American countries. Participants in the trade mission will include the President of the Venezuelan Petroleum Chamber, high-level executives from several multi-disciplined engineering construction firms such as Inelectra and Tecnoconsult, and other equipment and service providers to the petroleum and petrochemical industry in Venezuela. On September 26, Le Centre International de Lafayette will sponsor a similar luncheon program at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette.

Venezuela ranks among the top three worldwide markets for U.S.-made oil and gas field machinery, averaging in recent years close to half a billion dollars in imports from the U.S. Natural gas exploration equipment, heavy crude produc-

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LUNCHEON SEMINAR WITH SWEDISH INVENTORS

The Swedish Inventors' Association, in conjunction with the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce-South Central U.S. Region, is bringing a delegation of Swedish inventors to New Orleans on September 14-15. The delegation will be featured at a luncheon program at 12:00 Noon on Thursday, September 14 in the Plimsoll Club of the World Trade Center. The purpose of the visit is to introduce their products and technologies to Louisiana and the U.S. market, to create joint ventures or other forms of partnerships, and to create successful long-term business relationships.

The inventors represent a variety of products and services, including: a wireless alarm system; a scaffold guard rail for fall prevention; an environmentally friendly system of liquid purification; a circulation-improving footstool; a concept for minimizing a company's healthcare costs and improving staff health; a model of an atom used as a teaching aide; a technique for casting children's handprints in bronze; and a space-saving tray that can be attached to any vertical post. For details on the delegation or to register for the September 14 luncheon, visit www.wtco.org/programs or call the WTC at (504) 529-1601, ext. 222.

NATIONAL DEC CONFERENCE TO HIGHLIGHT EXPORT INCENTIVES

The Louisiana District Export Council (DEC) and the U.S. Commercial Service will host "Adversity and the Benefits of International Trade," the National District Export Council Conference (NDEC) in New Orleans at the InterContinental Hotel on October 30-November 1.

During the event, panel presentations and breakout sessions will be highly interactive and informative and will be an ideal forum for international business networking and trade education addressing relevant and timely topics such as: **overcoming trade challenges; government services; due diligence; tax issues; trade marketing; and finance and logistics.** Several trade education breakouts and panel presentations will be held, including a panel on tax strategies, trade compliance, and the GoZone legislation.

The seminar on "Tax Strategies for U.S. Exporters: A Fresh Look at the IC-DISC after 2004 Repeal of the ETI Exclusion" will review an area largely ignored regarding income tax incentive provisions for U.S. exporters. Edward K. Dwyer, CPA will make a presentation on how non-public companies can obtain a 10 percent federal tax rate reduction on their export profits--even after the repeal of the Extraterritorial Income Exclusion--and larger companies will learn how to improve after-tax cash-flow from profits on up to \$10 million of export sales.

The "U.S. Trade Compliance Laws and the Impact to Your Business" seminar will inform exporters that even if their products are classified EAR99, they are subject to U.S.

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SOURCING FAIR IN SHANGHAI SEPTEMBER 25-28

Shanghai's International Sourcing Fair (www.rebuildneworleans.cn) invites Louisiana companies to attend this year's event, on September 25-28. The Fair will also include a "New Orleans Rebuild Conference." A New Orleans area delegation of civic and business leaders led by Jefferson Parish Sheriff Harry Lee plans to participate. Since 2002, some 300 international buyers have had booths at the Fair each year, with over 20,000 qualified Chinese suppliers participating. The Fair is an outstanding event to meet Chinese suppliers from all parts of the country and also a convenient way to initially enter the Chinese procurement market and source the products you need. For additional information, contact Ms. Cindy Tang at cindytang2020@yahoo.com.cn.

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS AT THE WTC AND LITC

The World Trade Center has initiated "First Stop for International Business Services" to assist international companies considering trade and investment opportunities in Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. First Stop is being undertaken in cooperation with Louisiana Economic Development and the Louisiana International Trade Center/SBDC (LITC). LITC provides international trade education and consulting to Louisianans interested in export/import.

First Stop and the LITC are located on the 29th floor of the WTC building in downtown New Orleans and are seeking university student interns from all majors (especially business) to start work immediately on projects related to international market research and business development.

While the internships are unpaid, interns will have the opportunity to assist in a number of WTC trade programs. Also, interns will be eligible to attend at no charge a four-session 18-hour Export/Import Seminar conducted by the LITC. Interns are required to commit to working at least 12 hours a week per semester. Interested students should send a résumé via e-mail to Nick Bousquet, First Stop Manager, at nbousquet@wtcno.org or Ruperto Chavarri, Program Director, LITC at rchavarr@uno.edu. For First Stop call (504) 529-1601 ext. 262, and on the LITC call (504) 568-8222.

THOMAS WESTFELDT APPOINTED TO PORT OF NEW ORLEANS BOARD

Thomas D. Westfeldt, a long-time coffee industry executive and civic leader, has been appointed as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans. Mr. Westfeldt replaces outgoing commissioner Angus Cooper on the seven-person Board, which sets policies and regulates traffic and commerce at the Port.

A graduate of Louisiana State University with a degree in business administration, Mr. Westfeldt is president of Westfeldt Brothers Inc., a green coffee importing firm; Westfeldt Brothers Forwarders Inc., an export freight-forwarding firm; Worldwide Service Inc., a full-service air freight-forwarding firm; and chairman of the board and secretary of New Orleans Cold Storage, a locally-based cold storage warehousing firm with facilities in New Orleans, Charleston, and Houston.

Mr. Westfeldt is active in the business and non-profit community, including the boards of the Green Coffee Association of New Orleans, the World Trade Center, the New Orleans Board of Trade, the Louisiana Civil Service League, and Whitney National Bank. He also serves as the Honorary Consul of Sweden for Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

VIETNAM ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITY

A U.S. engineering firm with specialized expertise in onshore gas pipeline projects is being sought to conduct a feasibility study on a High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) gas pipeline network in the Hiep Phuoc Industrial Park in Ho Chi Minh City. Contact the U.S. Commercial Service at 504-589-6546 for more information.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY EXPORT/IMPORT WORKSHOP

Ruperto Chavarri, Programs Director of the Louisiana International Trade Center/SBDC, and Eugene Schreiber, Managing Director of the World Trade Center, will conduct a luncheon workshop on "Going Global: Getting Started in Exporting and Importing" from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12, in Suite 2900 of the WTC. The workshop will focus on the fundamentals of an international transaction and present an overview of the basic import-export process. Participants will then be in a good position to decide if they want to learn more about the export-import process by attending the in-depth four-session, 18-hour course starting on September 19 at the WTC conducted by the Louisiana International Trade Center/SBDC (see following article). To register for the September 12 luncheon workshop, call the WTC at (504) 529-1601, ext. 222, or register on-line at www.wtcno.org/programs.

FOUR-SESSION EXPORT/IMPORT SEMINAR IN NEW ORLEANS

The Louisiana International Trade Center/Small Business Development Center, located in the World Trade Center in New Orleans, will offer an 18-hour, four-part Export/Import Seminar September 19, 21, 26, and 28 from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This intensive program targets companies and individuals interested in international trade. Seminar topics include: Export/Import Strategies and Market Research, Pricing, Terms, Quotations and Customs Entry Procedures, International Banking, Financing, Marketing, Transportation, and Documentation. Upon completion of the program, participants are presented with a certificate from the University of New Orleans. The cost for the seminar is \$160 per registrant (\$120 for World Trade Center members and full-time students with proof of enrollment). For more information, visit www.uno.edu/litc or call (504) 568-8222.

TRAVELGURU.NET

TravelGuru (www.travelguru.net) is a useful travel guide for worldwide travel-related resources. Dollarsaver Travel maintains this website and is working to add all important and necessary information to assist travelers access the links and resources at one source. Worldwide airports, consulates and embassies, popular destination cities, and worldwide airlines are currently posted on the site.

The *Louisiana International Trade Bulletin* is a monthly partnership publication of Louisiana Economic Development, the New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center, and the World Trade Center of New Orleans. The *Bulletin* is posted on the WTC's website at www.wtcno.org and is mailed or sent by e-mail at no charge to subscribers in Louisiana who have an interest in international trade. Information in the *Bulletin* is gathered from sources considered to be reliable, but the completeness and accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed. Requests for subscriptions by mail or e-mail should be directed to:

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OCTOBER 18 TRADE FINANCE SEMINAR AT WTC

The World Trade Center will hold an interactive one-day seminar on Wednesday, October 18 at the WTC in New Orleans on "The Secrets of Successful Trade Financing." The seminar will provide valuable tools, techniques, and practical knowledge for export financing. During this unique workshop, attendees will gain a clearer understanding of **how to use financing tools such as letters of credit** and government resources; **how to offer competitive terms** and yet receive payment upon shipment; **how to protect balance sheets from the risks of international trade**; and **how to identify credit-worthy prospects**.

Richard "Chip" Thomas, a global trade and banking expert, will lead the seminar. Mr. Thomas is **President of the American Export Training Institute (AETI)**, which he helped found in 1995 and which provides practical training in export finance to corporations and financial institutions. Mr. Thomas previously spent 20 years in international banking, specializing in trade and finance. **He is the co-author of the recently published "Trade Finance Handbook," targeted to small and mid-size companies.**

The October 18 seminar is for anyone responsible for international trade financing, **including CEO's, CFO's, International Sales and Marketing Executives, Export Managers, Controllers, Accountants, Finance Officers and Credit Managers.** Attendees are encouraged to bring copies of transactions to the workshop for a one-on-one review with Mr. Thomas and/or to share with the group. **Anyone using Letters of Credit and interested in learning about pending changes to the UCP 500 will find this program informative.** For details and registration, visit www.wtcno.org or call the WTC at (504) 529-1601, ext. 222.

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export controls. As the exporter of record, exporters are responsible for export compliance and subject to the enforcement actions associated with non-compliance. Larry Christensen, Vice President of Export Compliance with JPMorgan Chase Vastera (and former Director of Regulatory Policy with the Bureau of Industry and Security) and his panelists will discuss the government's role in enforcement of these controls and how it may impact a company's export operations.

A luncheon panel will be held on the "Highlights of the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005" passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush in December of 2005. This legislation provides for Federal tax incentives to areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma that were designated as warranting individual or public and individual assistance. **The incentives include:** expanding low-income housing tax credits within the Zone; increasing rehabilitation tax credit to help restore commercial buildings; providing additional bonding authority; allowing for 50 percent bonus depreciation within the Zone; providing enhanced section 179 expensing for small businesses; authorizing Gulf tax credit debt service bonds; providing for 50 percent expensing of demolition costs; extending net operating loss carryback; remediation expensing; and Gulf Coast recovery bonds.

For additional information on the conference or to register, visit the website at www.deconference.com or contact the Louisiana District Export Council at (504) 589-6703.

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF NEW ORLEANS EVENTS

September 7 - PubNite 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The Bridge Lounge, 1201 Magazine Street, (504) 299-1888

September 13 - Great Decisions: Pandemics & National Security, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Urban Cup Cafe, 4861 Magazine Street. Facilitator: Dr. Maureen Lichtveld, Professor and Freeport McMoRan Chair, Environmental Policy, Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine.

September 19 - "Lebanon and the Middle East: The Clash of Civilizations; Myth or Self-Fulfilling Prophecy?" Reem Meshal, Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, LSU, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Audubon Park Golf Club House.

October 5 - PubNite 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The Bulldog, 5135 Canal Boulevard, (504) 488-4191

For additional information, visit the World Affairs Council website at www.wtcno.org or call (504) 523-2001.

WTCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The World Trade Centers Association will hold its **2006 General Assembly in Istanbul from October 29 through November 1.** Those interested in attending will travel to Istanbul on their own itinerary. Once participants arrive in Istanbul, **nearly everything is included in the low registration fee of \$400 for the entire General Assembly**, including three matchmaking business appointments with Turkish companies arranged by (hotel rooms are an additional cost, as are additional matchmaking appointments beyond three). The General Assembly will be held in the Swissotel, and there are other excellent nearby hotels to choose from as well.

To register for the WTCA General Assembly, visit www.wtca2006istanbul.org/reg_1.aspx. If you have any questions, **contact Susannah Coolidge at scoolidge@wtcno.org** or at (504) 529-1601, ext. 222.

Venezuelan Delegate continued from page 1

ing and upgrading technologies, oil/gas deepwater equipment and services, sub-sea technologies, oil industry boat designers, rigs, and deep conversion technologies for refineries are the types of equipment and services currently in great demand.

A briefing at the luncheons by the U.S. Commercial Counselor in Venezuela and the President of the Venezuelan Petroleum Chamber will provide critical information on the oil and gas industry in Venezuela and details of key opportunities for Louisiana companies.

Private meetings are being pre-scheduled by the U.S. Commercial Service between Louisiana companies and the Venezuelan businesses in both locations. Contact International Trade Specialists with the U.S. Commercial Service at (504) 589-6548 or (504) 915-3301 for a detailed company listing or to schedule a meeting.

Registration for the events in New Orleans or Lafayette is available online at www.wtcno.org. For more information on the New Orleans event, call (504) 529-1601, x222, or for information on Lafayette call (337) 291-5474.

LOUISIANA EXPORTS UP 7.2 % IN FIRST HALF OF 2006, HEADED TOWARD RECORD YEAR

Louisiana's worldwide merchandise exports, which were temporarily slowed in late-2005 by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, resumed their strong growth in the first half of 2006 and are headed toward a record-breaking year, according to a report issued today by the World Trade Center of New Orleans.

The state's total export value reached \$11.1 billion in the January-June 2006 period, compared to \$10.3 billion one year earlier. Agricultural products, chemicals, petroleum and coal, and processed food products were Louisiana's top four export sectors. The state's leading export markets were Japan, Mexico, and China.

The WTC report was generated by the World Institute of Strategic Economic Research (WISER) from U.S. Census Bureau data. It covers the exports of both Louisiana originating products and some major commingled bulk commodities (especially grain and coal) produced in other states that are shipped abroad from Louisiana's ports and recorded as Louisiana exports because of the difficulty of identifying the actual states of origin.

Export shipments of agricultural products through Louisiana's lower Mississippi River ports, which account for over 50 percent of U.S. grain exports, were especially affected by the storms and the temporary closure of the ship channel last fall. However, agricultural exports increased 8.7 percent in value to \$4.1 billion in the first half of 2006 over the same period a year ago.

After agricultural products, Louisiana's largest exports were chemicals (\$4.1 billion, a 4.2 percent decrease), petroleum and coal products (\$1.8 billion, a 20.2 percent increase), processed foods (\$1.0 billion, a 13.5 percent increase), and transportation equipment (\$362 million, a 21.0 percent increase). Overall, seven of the state's top ten export categories showed increases in the first six months of 2006.

"Louisiana is back on course for a record year in its exports," said Lawrence Collins, Director of International Services with Louisiana Economic Development. "We were headed for a record-breaker in 2005 until the hurricanes impacted some of our deep-water ports and exporters in the southern part of the state. However, they have mostly recovered and are functioning well, and the second half of 2006 promises to be strong," he added.

Japan was the number one market for Louisiana exports in the first half of 2006 with \$1.14 billion (a 6.7 percent increase over 2005), slightly ahead of Mexico (\$1.13 billion), which was in first place last year. China ranked third with \$1.05 billion, while Canada finished fourth with \$958 million.

"The prospects for Louisiana companies to sell globally have never been better," said Eugene Schreiber, Managing Director of the World Trade Center, "while the opportunities for importing manufactured housing, building materials, construction equipment, environmental technologies, and other needed goods and services for the post-Katrina rebuilding taking place in the Gulf South are unprecedented."

Among all states, Louisiana ranked 14th, just behind Massachusetts, Indiana, and Tennessee. Texas, California, and New York continued to be the top three exporting states. Total U.S. exports in January-June of this year were \$506.2 billion, a 13.8 percent increase over the same period in 2005.

Louisiana Exports by Industry (US \$, NAICS Database)

Rank	Description	Q2 2005 YTD	Q2 2006 YTD	% Change
	TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	10,330,776,104	11,069,581,286	7.2
1.	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	3,778,543,138	4,105,823,428	8.7
2.	CHEMICALS	2,646,775,605	2,535,752,635	-4.2
3.	PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS	1,531,540,499	1,841,052,556	20.2
4.	FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS	896,598,615	1,017,846,487	13.5
5.	TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	299,038,482	361,835,350	21.0
6.	MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL	324,286,667	313,812,945	-3.2
7.	PRIMARY METAL MANUFACTURING	153,814,580	173,033,564	12.5
8.	PAPER	168,651,929	129,371,365	-23.3
9.	WASTE AND SCRAP	74,182,004	77,827,578	4.9
10.	COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC PROD.	43,468,651	74,512,061	71.4

Louisiana Exports by Country (US \$, HS Database)

Rank	Description	June 2005 YTD	June 2006 YTD	% Change
	TOTAL ALL COUNTRIES	10,330,776,104	11,069,581,286	7.2
1.	JAPAN	1,071,625,117	1,143,453,054	6.7
2.	MEXICO	1,102,843,513	1,135,843,602	3.0
3.	CHINA	1,003,595,242	1,052,733,208	4.9
4.	CANADA	781,775,208	958,391,190	22.6
5.	SOUTH KOREA	259,964,892	437,492,302	68.3
6.	NETHERLANDS	376,774,584	383,741,013	1.9
7.	BELGIUM	258,897,162	323,044,964	24.8
8.	EGYPT	252,254,708	295,872,263	17.3
9.	COLOMBIA	300,597,876	281,413,720	-6.4
10.	SINGAPORE	242,224,274	209,470,228	-13.5

U.S. Exports by State (US \$, HS Database)

Rank	Description	June 2005 YTD	June 2006 YTD	% Change
	TOTAL ALL STATES	444,674,264,488	506,177,169,476	13.8
1.	TEXAS	63,223,459,769	71,969,68,037	13.8
2.	CALIFORNIA	57,390,904,319	62,987,422,566	9.8
3.	NEW YORK	25,300,046,605	27,667,171,996	9.4
4.	WASHINGTON	18,138,809,575	25,155,167,221	38.7
5.	MICHIGAN	18,930,206,003	20,868,484,062	10.2
6.	ILLINOIS	17,652,518,987	20,557,319,118	16.5
7.	FLORIDA	16,473,501,138	18,545,841,514	12.6
8.	OHIO	17,611,387,7512	18,239,006,945	3.6
9.	NEW JERSEY	10,546,633,243	13,061,754,780	23.9
10.	PENNSYLVANIA	10,696,082,04	12,647,569,458	18.2
11.	MASSACHUSETTS	11,105,543,854	11,735,219,612	5.7
12.	INDIANA	10,813,269,940	11,647,244,543	7.7
13.	TENNESSEE	9,233,437,446	11,120,068,082	20.4
14.	LOUISIANA	10,330,776,104	11,069,581,286	7.2

Data from U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division provided by world Institute for Strategic Economic Research (WISER)
All data Origin of Movement Series

Trade reports that provide information on 32 industry categories of Louisiana exports (NAICS) and 97 commodities (HS) to more than 200 countries worldwide, as well as export totals of other U.S. states, are available on the WTC's website by clicking the links below.

- Louisiana Exports by Country (HS)
- Louisiana Exports by Industry (NAICS)
- Louisiana Exports by Commodity (HS)
- U.S. Exports by State (HS)

SUSTA SEEKS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Southern U.S. Trade Association (SUSTA) is seeking a coordinator for its New Orleans headquarters located in the World Trade Center to assist with international marketing and export promotion. The ideal candidate will have strong administrative, organization and customer service skills and pay close attention to details. Responsibilities include: processing expense reports; tracking activities; recruiting for promotional events; assisting with meetings/seminars; and preparing reports for program activities. A Bachelors degree and/or work experience in international marketing or related field is required. **Submit resumes to sharon@susta.org.**

KOREAN TRADE AGENCY ASSISTS U.S. BUSINESSES

The Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) is featuring a number of meetings this fall for those companies seeking to do business with or invest in Korea. The meetings include:

- **A Semiconductor Outsourcing Showcase** on September 19 in Richardson, Texas
- **The TECHTEN Showcase** introducing innovative Korean products to the U.S. market on October 31-November 1 in Richardson, Texas
- **A Matchmaking event for Korean businesses** seeking U.S. partners on October 18 in Dallas, Texas
- **Foreign Investment Festival** celebrating Korea's first business incubation center for foreign investors on November 1-3 in Seoul, Korea

KOTRA operates a network of over 100 offices in 70 countries under the name Korea Trade Center. The Korea Trade Center of Dallas has been serving the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and surrounding states since 1969.

For more information on these events, visit www.kotradallas.com.

PORT OF SOUTH LOUISIANA HOSTS INDUSTRY RECEPTION

The Port of South Louisiana recently hosted its 13th Annual Industry Appreciation Reception on the grounds of the Globalplex Intermodal Terminal Guest House in Reserve. More than 80 industry leaders, port commissioners, and elected officials from the tri-parish area were in attendance, including St. Charles Parish President **Albert Laque**, St. John Parish President **Nickie Monica**, and St. James Parish President **Daly Hymel, Jr.** Guests enjoyed Cajun cuisine and gifts of appreciation at the event **designed to acknowledge the importance of manufacturing to the port.** Port of South Louisiana Executive Director **Joel T. Chaisson** commented, "The manufacturing facilities within the port's tri-parish district provide significant employment opportunities which would not be possible without the plant managers who provide the essential leadership required to expand the port's economic base."

ENGINEER WILLING TO ASSIST COMPANIES IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. Jules (Mike) Jordy, a New Orleans electrical engineer who has also lived and worked abroad on many projects, is **about to depart on a one-year assignment to Afghanistan as Senior Advisor in the U.S. Embassy for Natural Resource Development** as part of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Group. He will advise the embassy on priorities for the development of Afghanistan's natural resources, and especially those sectors that contribute to economic growth, and he will advise the Government of Afghanistan on the design and implementation of laws and regulations for the development of the country's natural resources. Afghanistan has large untapped reserves of oil and gas, coal, copper, iron ore, gold, precious stones (emeralds, rubies, sapphires), and is the world's oldest source of lapis lazuli. During his assignment, **Mike is looking forward to being of assistance to U.S. mining and other companies that have an interest in Afghanistan.** He can be reached via e-mail at jjjordy@cox.net.

E-MAIL SERVICE HELPS CHECK FOREIGN REGULATIONS

Notify U.S. is a free, web-based e-mail subscription service that offers U.S. citizens and industries an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect their businesses and their access to international markets. This service and its associated web site is managed and operated by the National Center for Standards and Certification Information, an organization within the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Technology Administration.

By subscribing to the Notify U.S. Service, **U.S. entities receive via e-mail notifications of drafts or changes to domestic and foreign technical regulations for manufactured products.** Included in the subscribers' e-mail is a link to the Notify U.S. web site where they can read more information and order complete texts of the regulations for review and comment. At this time, the **Notify U.S. Service** is only available to subscribers who are U.S. citizens and individuals who are part of U.S.-based organizations and industries.

For more information or to register for this free e-mail service, visit www.nist.gov/notifyus.

TENDER FOR GAS TURBINE POWER PLANT IN MOROCCO

The Moroccan National Utilities Agency (Office National D'Electricité, ONE) is **launching an international public tender for the design, supply of equipment, transportation, assembly, testing and commissioning of a 300-360 MW Mohamedia gas turbine power plant.** All bids must be submitted before November 1, 2006. **The U.S. Commercial Service can help U.S. companies to obtain bidding documents and requirements** by contacting Senior Commercial Specialist **Thanae Bennani** at the U.S. Consulate in Casablanca by e-mail at Thanae.Bennani@maildoc.gov or by phone at (212-22) 26 45 50.

HOUSING SOLUTIONS SUMMIT SET FOR SEPTEMBER 29-30

A “Housing Solutions Summit” will be presented by Entergy and the Home Building Association of Greater New Orleans and co-sponsored by the American Institute of Architects, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy. **It will take place September 29-30 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Free and open to the public,** the event will feature national and local experts who **will provide detailed guidance and information on the rebuilding process.** The Summit is designed to provide information on financing, planning construction, and energy savings. Attendees will be able to **get answers about the “Road Home” program,** as well as local, state and federal regulations and assistance programs. Featuring a broad range of workshops, panels and exhibitors, the Summit will be an invaluable resource for homeowners, landlords, renters, contractors, businesses, and other interested parties. **For more information, call (866) 409-4266 or visit the Housing Solutions Summit website at www.hssno.com.**

OCTOBER 20-22 GULF COAST BUILDING & REMODELING EXPO

The Gulf Coast Building & Remodeling Expo, organized by Helen Brett Enterprises Inc., and produced in cooperation with the City of New Orleans, Louisiana Recovery Authority, WWL, and Gambit Weekly’s Home Smart, **is a three-day consumer show on October 20-22** in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Expo will serve the building and remodeling industry for the home, offices, warehouse, boat house, and fishing camp. **The event will showcase new construction, building and remodeling products,** and present licensed professionals who offer high-quality services to their customers. The expo will also provide informative seminars and hands-on demonstrations from exhibitors and government agencies. For more information about the GCB&R Expo, **visit the website at www.gcbre.com.** For specific information on how to exhibit, call (630) 241-9865.

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