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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: David W. Swenson
EMTEC
3155 Research Blvd.
Dayton, OH 45420
Tel: 937-259-1302**

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**HEADLINE: EMTEC TO HOST NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Ohio programs elected due to outstanding practices

Washington, D.C. - The National Small Business Development Center Advisory Board has selected Ohio for its annual site review. The board will conduct an extensive three day review from July 9 through 11, 2007 of the Ohio Small Business Development Center network. On Tuesday July 10, 2007 the Advisory Board will meet at the Edison Materials Technology Center (EMTEC) which hosts to the Ohio Region IV SBDC/MTSBDC. The Ohio Small Business Development Center was selected from 63 hosts across the country and U.S. Territories by the all – volunteer Board.

These meetings, mandated by Congressional statute, provide insight and advice to SBA senior management on the current status of the program from an 8 – member panel which consists of business leaders, educators, and most importantly, independent small business persons appointed by the U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator.

“The Ohio SBDC, based within the state government, was chosen for this visit because it stands out as a premier program among the 63 SBDC networks nationwide”, said Antonio Doss, the Associate Administrator of the Office of Small Business Development Centers. “The Board will have the opportunity to closely observe the fundamental ways an SBDC can be innovative with limited resources and support the economy through small business growth.”

Among the Ohio SBDC's accomplishments are their Certified Business Advisor program, technology and manufacturing programs and their online assistance tools for small businesses. The Certified Business Advisor program, originally developed for the Ohio SBDC counselors, has served as a model plan for SBDC counselor certification outside of Ohio. As the first SBDC program in the nation to be accredited for technology, the Ohio SBDC provides comprehensive levels of professional assistance to small businesses engaged in manufacturing, science, and other high growth and technology industries. In addition, the Ohio SBDC has been a nationwide leader in online activity, presenting their practices at the National Technology Leaders Summit in Washington, D.C. last month.

As a result of Ohio's SBDC client success, the program continues to generate a solid return on their \$3.1 million in federal funding, the fifth highest among the 63 lead centers. Overall, the small business clients of the Ohio SBDC created 2,300 jobs, producing over \$210 million in sales in FY2006. The real value of the program, however, is evidenced at the local level by the products and services provided to these small businesses from SBDC assistance, and the injection of cash into those same local economies stemming from SBDC clients.

Board Chair Dennis Bradford of West Coast Partners Inc, presides over a diverse board which brings to bear regional and demographic small business interests to the SBDC Program.

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"SBA management relies on our frank input when conducting site visits to strong programs like the Ohio SBDC which gives the Board the insight we need to provide quality advice to the SBA," Bradford said.

According to SBA, the Ohio SBDC remains one of 7 state – sponsored programs out of a network of 63 Lead Centers which branch out to over 950 locations nationwide. Congress amended SBDC legislation in 1990 to preclude state governments or other entities besides institutions of higher education and SBA – funded Women's Business Centers from eligibility for federal funding as an SBDC.

Among the other current members of the board are:

- Maria Meyers, Managing Director, Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, University of Missouri, Kansas City, MO
- Michael K. Pearson, President and Founder, Union Packaging, LLC, Yeadon, PA.
- Linda H. Strine, President & CEO, Infinite Links, Inc., Denver, CO
- F. Leroy Pacheco, Executive Director, New Mexico Development Loan Fund, Albuquerque, NM
- Mary J. Griffin, Mary J Griffin & Associates, Sacramento, CA
- Deloris Thomas, CEO, Sterling Thomas, LLC, Tulsa, OK
- Fred S. Teng, Vice President Multicultural Radio Broadcasting, Inc New York, NY

The SBDC program, SBA's largest management and technical assistance program, offers free in – depth one – on – one counseling and nominal low – cost group trainings to business owners seeking help to grow their firms and entrepreneurs wishing to start their own small business. Such help is provided by professionals geared towards expertise in every facet of small business ownership, including business plan development; international trade; manufacturing assistance; federal regulations compliance; and disaster recovery assistance, among others. To learn more about the SBDC Program or to find your local SBDC, visit www.sba.gov.

The Ohio Small Business Technology Development Center is one of eight SBDC programs to earn a technology designation through a Malcolm Baldrige – based accreditation review conducted by the Association of Small Business Development Centers.

The Edison Materials Technology Center (EMTEC) located in Dayton, OH, hosts the Region IV and V Small Business Development Centers and Manufacturing Technology Small Business Development Centers. EMTEC is a non-profit organization dedicated to its mission of “accelerating materials related technology to the market” and is engaged in the development of new technology and taking it to the marketplace via collaborative teams of industry, academia, and government. As a collaborative, member-based organization, EMTEC identifies state and federal funding opportunities along with providing technical coordination and commercialization assistance to Ohio’s industries, universities, and government labs. EMTEC is focused on the commercialization of potentially high growth advanced materials and materials related technologies especially in the alternative energy market.