

# *News Release*

**PRESS OFFICE**

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## *SBA Forms Strategic Alliance with the San Diego French American Chamber of Commerce*

*Agreement to help Americans seeking business opportunities in France,  
and French who want to start a business in San Diego*

**San Diego** -- The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) district office in San Diego today signed a strategic alliance with the San Diego French American Chamber of Commerce (SDFACC), pledging to work together to improve business access to technological information through educational opportunities and SBA resources while also providing maximum financial opportunities and training to entrepreneurs. The agreement was signed by SBA District Director Ruben Garcia and SDFACC President Jean-Luc Lembert.

“Having the SBA as a strategic alliance partner extends the existing partnership between the SDFACC and the SBA,” said Lembert. “The agreement allows the SDFACC to promote the French and American local business communities and offer one-on-one counseling, roundtables, networking events, and other resources to entrepreneurs throughout the region.”

The SDFACC was established in 1996 to promote French and American business communities, support French and American companies with their trade needs, assist French entrepreneurs in starting a business in San Diego, and doing the same for Americans who may want to open a business in France.

SBA is involved in international trade through its export loan programs. In the past six years, American small business exports have grown by 80 percent and now account

for nearly \$500 billion in annual sales worldwide. On January 28, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (PST), SBA is hosting a web chat highlighting exporting basics and general SBA capital and credit programs for small business owners. Participants can join the web chat by going online to [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) and clicking “Online Business Chat.”

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*To learn more about the SBA, call 619-727-4883 or visit [www.sba.gov/ca/sandiego](http://www.sba.gov/ca/sandiego).  
To find out more about the San Diego French American Chamber of Commerce (SDFACC) call 619-544-1445 or visit [www.france-sandiego.org](http://www.france-sandiego.org).*