



Organization of
American States

THE AMERICAS COMPETITIVENESS EXCHANGE ON INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

March 31 – April 4, 2014, United States

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1. Profile of applicants

“Gatekeepers” who can make economic development happen: Vice Ministers, Private Sector Leaders, Mayors or Senior Leaders from major cities, Chancellors/Presidents/Vice Presidents of universities, Directors of Technology and Innovation Centers in Universities, senior leaders of regional economic development partnership groups.

Applicants should:

- a) Be citizens of any of the OAS Member States
- b) Have academic and professional background on economic development with at least 5 years of experience
- c) Be fluent in English
- d) Have a valid visa (if necessary) to enter the United States
- e) Provide visa, passport, and other necessary information to complete travel procedures

2. Nominations and application form

Candidates need to fill out the application form (ANNEX I), sign it, and send it scanned no later than February 21, 2014 to secretaria@riacnet.org cc leann.clark@trade.gov; abonilla@oas.org

3. Proposed Itinerary (March 31 – April 4, 2014)

Note: Please plan to arrive on March 30 or early morning on March 31.

March 31- Arrival Atlanta – Welcome Dinner with the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the City’s Mayor, Mr. Kasim Reed.

April 1 – Atlanta Early morning – The day will consist of presentations and tours to the Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), the Global Center for Medical Innovation (GCMI), and Invest Atlanta, among others.

Drive to Greenville, South Carolina (SC)

April 2 – Greenville, SC - The day will consist of presentations and tours in the City of Greenville, including Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR), BMW Information Technology Research Center (ITRC), the Greenville Economic Development District (EDD), and other economic development regional partners.

April 3- Drive to Conover, North Carolina (NC) – Tour of the Manufacturing Solutions Center and incubator followed by a tour of the North Carolina Research Center in Kannapolis, NC.

Drive to Charlotte, NC - Dinner with Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and the International Trade Administration (ITA) Charlotte Commercial Service.

April 4 – Charlotte, NC – Morning meetings with economic development officials from Charlotte followed by an afternoon departure from Charlotte International Airport.

* Itinerary may be subject to change

4. Hotel rates and budget in US dollars

Transportation - The program organizers will arrange local transportation within and between cities and sites. Applicants will cover airport transportation and any other personal expenses.

Meals - Some meals are provided but participants will cover other meals and miscellaneous items.

Flights and hotel accommodation - Each applicant will cover his or her own flights and hotel accommodations.

Hotel rates:

Atlanta, Georgia - hotel \$150

Greenville, South Carolina - hotel \$130

Charlotte, North Carolina - hotel \$125

The total cost of hotel accommodations during the tour is approx. \$535. This amount takes into account 1 night in Atlanta, 2 nights in Greenville, and 1 night in Charlotte.

Financial support - Partial economic assistance may be available for qualified nominated participants from countries requesting support, in particular from smaller economies.

5. Additional information on visits/projects

Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC) – Atlanta, GA

The Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC) at Georgia Tech is a startup incubator that helps technology entrepreneurs in Georgia launch and grow successful companies. ATDC was recently named by Forbes as one of the "Top 12 Business Incubators Changing the World." ATDC is one of the oldest and most successful research university affiliated incubators in the United States. Founded in 1980, ATDC has fostered innovation and economic development by graduating more than 150 companies, which together have raised over \$2 billion in outside financing. Headquartered in Atlanta's Technology Square adjacent to Georgia Tech's campus, ATDC serves as a hub for technology entrepreneurship in Georgia - providing incubation and acceleration services to startups through co-working, coaching, connecting and community. ATDC is open to all technology entrepreneurs in Georgia, from the earliest conception stage to revenue generating, venture-fundable companies. The ATDC team, including Entrepreneurs-in-Residence and Catalysts, work with entrepreneurs and offer a wealth of knowledge, experience, and networking opportunities. The Education Series combines class- room- style learning with workshops that provide a foundation for entrepreneurial best practices. Startup Circles allow technology entrepreneurs to informally meet and learn from one another and ATDC staff members. ATDC also hosts regular events with access to leading entrepreneur mentors, investors, and corporations. With facilities on Georgia Tech's campus, ATDC members benefit from close proximity with the university and connections to other Georgia research universities. ATDC is part of Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute (EI2).

Global Center for Medical Innovation (GCMi) – Atlanta, GA

The Global Center for Medical Innovation (GCMi) is an Affiliate Organization of Georgia Tech that has launched the Southeast's first comprehensive medical device innovation center. GCMi is bringing together core members of the medical device community, including universities, research centers, clinicians, established device and drug companies, investors, and early-stage companies, with the goal of accelerating the commercialization of innovative medical technology. Entrepreneurs go through an interview process to determine if they have the concept and funding that will support access to the GCMi facility. If they are not quite ready for the services of GCMi they are directed to other resources that are a better match for their current needs. In October 2012, GCMi was profiled in the Signs of Competitiveness in the Americas Report by the Organization of American States (OAS) through the Inter American Competitiveness Network (RIAC). Since this report was published at the Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) by Colombia in 2012, GCMi has been working with the University of Costa Rica to scope additional options to commercialize proprietary technologies in the Medical innovation field generated in Costa Rica. They are also exploring exchanges of students, faculty and researchers with fellowships up to three months between Universities in the bio-med cluster in Atlanta and peer institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean to be carried out both in Atlanta and in Latin America and the Caribbean; this could include the opportunity to work on prototype development in their facilities. GCMi is also working with the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology or

COMCYT, the OAS University Consortium, and the recently announced program of scholarships OAS-CONACYT Mexico for master degrees, doctorate and specialization programs in Mexico to support science and technology commercialization in the Americas.

Invest Atlanta- Atlanta, GA:

Invest Atlanta is the official economic development agency for the City of Atlanta. Invest Atlanta represents in-town Atlanta, a population of 500,000, and growing. A research-based economic development organization, they focus on residential, business and investment growth in the city. As an arm of city government, Invest Atlanta is governed by a 9 member board of directors, chaired by the mayor of Atlanta.

Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR) – Greenville, SC

The Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR) is an advanced-technology research campus where academia, industry and government organizations engage in synergistic collaboration. With more than \$200 million in commitments, CU-ICAR represents the ultimate public/private partnership, directly fueling a knowledge base critical to the automotive industry. Ranked within the Top 10 Automotive Colleges and Universities in the U.S., CU-ICAR sets the standard for exemplary automotive students. In September 2009, EDA invested \$3M for the construction of the Center for Emerging Technologies, 60,000 square feet of office and lab space for companies developing new technologies in the automotive, mobility and energy fields. The building is located on the CU-ICAR Campus in Greenville, SC. The project leverages significant investments already made by CU-ICAR and the City of Greenville along with new private investment. Emerging or established companies are able to expand and develop technologies that complement research by Clemson faculty and students. The center is designed to complete the technology chain from laboratory to the consumer end-user. In October 2013, CU-ICAR was profiled as a best practice on innovation and entrepreneurship in the Signs of Competitiveness in the Americas Report at the Americas Competitiveness Forum through the Inter American Competitiveness Network (RIAC), which works year-round to facilitate collaboration on competitiveness in the Americas.

BMW Information Technology Research Center (ITRC) – Greenville, SC

The BMW Information Technology Research Center (ITRC) sits beside the Campbell Graduate Engineering Center and is an onsite CU – ICAR partner. The ITRC is an integral part of BMW's research and development network. Here, BMW, along with the IT industry and universities, is working on customer-relevant innovations that interface the vehicle with its IT backend requirements. The world's second largest BMW manufacturing site is nearby in Spartanburg, SC.

Clemson Regional Small Business Development Center (SBDC) - Greenville, SC

The Clemson Regional Small Business Development Center (SBDC) offers personal guidance and assistance to small business owners and entrepreneurs in Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Oconee, Pickens, Abbeville, Edgefield, Saluda, Greenwood, Laurens and McCormick counties of South Carolina. Through personal and

confidential consultation, SBDC representatives provide one-on-one management and technical assistance to small business owners who wish to start, grow or maintain their businesses. The SBDC offers marketing analysis, business plan preparation, financial feasibility studies and other valuable resources to the entrepreneur at little to no cost.

Manufacturing Solutions Center (MSC) – Conover, NC

In June of 2010, the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) invested \$1.5M to the city of Conover and Catawba Valley Community College to build a new home at Conover Station in Hickory, North Carolina, for the Manufacturing Solutions Center (MSC) and its business incubator. The two establishments are already cultivating a new form of manufacturing, one based in smaller and smarter factories that nourish innovation. The new 30,000 square foot facility, which is being built on the premises of a former furniture manufacturing plant, will allow for the expansion of those efforts. The MSC is a proven economic engine and its activities create and retain jobs. The Commerce Department's National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) documents that MSC had an economic impact exceeding \$142 million and helped employers add and retain more than 1500 employees. In the past 2 years, MSC created a total of 337 jobs and had an economic impact of \$34 million in increased manufacturing sales. MSC provides assistance to traditional manufacturers turning them into advanced manufacturers and expands the capabilities of emerging industries in biotechnology, medical technology and nanotechnology utilizing the traditional manufacturing employees, facilities and supply chain. MSC takes the research from universities and ideas from entrepreneurs and existing industry and helps commercialize their work into real products for manufacturing. MSC has also benefitted from the assistance of the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration (ITA) through an award which helped U.S. companies make more than \$25 million in additional sales to foreign buyers between 2005 and 2008. On October 2013 in Panama City, Panama, MSC was profiled as a best practice on innovation and entrepreneurship at the Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) through the Inter American Competitiveness Network (RIAC), which works year-round to facilitate collaboration on competitiveness in the Americas.

North Carolina Research Center, Kannapolis, NC

The North Carolina Research Campus (NCRC) is a public-private research center that is home to corporations, universities and healthcare organizations committed to transforming science at the intersection of human health, nutrition and agriculture.

The goal is to find new ways to prevent and treat diseases such as cancer, diabetes, obesity, Alzheimer's and other diet and lifestyle-related disorders. Research and product development involves fruits, vegetables, grains, herbs and the health-promoting bioactive compounds they contain as well as functional and curative foods, exercise physiology, personalized nutrition and post-harvest technologies. The 350-acre campus is located just north of Charlotte, NC in the city of Kannapolis, North Carolina, United States.

The corporations, universities and healthcare organizations that are partnering tenants at the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis, NC, share a joint mission to improve science, discovery and product development as it relates to human health, nutrition and agriculture. Bioactive compounds in plants and their potential to prevent and treat diseases like cancer, Atherosclerosis, Alzheimer's, diabetes and other metabolic

disorders are a primary research focus. Scientists also study how to improve fruits and vegetables in order to create value-added and more nutritious crops that can benefit farmers and consumers.

6. Contact information

For additional information, please contact the OAS as RIAC Technical Secretariat at secretaria@riacnet.org and cc leann.clark@trade.gov; abonilla@oas.org



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ANNEX I

APPLICATION FORM

THE AMERICAS COMPETITIVENESS EXCHANGE ON INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

March 31 – April 4, 2014, United States

Profile of applicants:

“Gatekeepers” who can make economic development happen: Vice Ministers, Private Sector Leaders, Mayors or Senior Leaders from major cities, Chancellors/Presidents/Vice Presidents of universities, Directors of Technology and Innovation Centers in Universities, senior leaders of regional economic development partnership groups.

Please fill out this application in English

Personal information:

Last name:

Middle name:

First name:

Sex (m/f):

Current nationality (ies):

Date of birth (yyyy-mm-dd):

Place of birth (city, province, country):

Passport #:

Passport issue city:

Passport expiration date:

Profile:

Current title/position:

Describe your current position (max 200 words):

Academic background (max 50 words):

Professional experience (max 50 words):

NOTE: In addition to this, please attach your bio/resume in the moment you send the application form.

Interest in the tour:

Why would you like to participate in the tour? (max 100 words)

How can you benefit from the tour and provide value to it? (max 100 words)

What concrete experience/knowledge you can add to the visit? (max 100 words)

Health:

Do you have any special health condition we need to know of?

Please list any health conditions you have.

Tour requirements:

Applicants should:

- a) Be citizens of any of the OAS Member State countries
- b) Have academic and professional background on economic development with at least 5 years of experience
- c) Be fluent in English
- d) Have a valid visa (If necessary) to enter the United States
- e) Provide visa, passport, and other necessary information to complete travel procedures

I _____ declare that the information provided is true and correct and I meet with all of the requirements to participate during The Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship to take place from March 31 to April 4, 2014.

Applicant signature and date