

For Immediate Release  
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**Mayor Daley Welcomes FAA Conference to Chicago  
Small Businesses Encouraged to take part in O'Hare Modernization**

Mayor Richard M. Daley welcomed the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) National Small Business Procurement Opportunities Training Conference to Chicago today.

"The FAA and the City of Chicago are committed to providing opportunities to small businesses," said Mayor Daley at the conference which began today and will run through July 19th at the McCormick Place Hyatt.

"Given the proper opportunities, small businesses can become big businesses. And that is what keeps the American economy growing."

The theme for this year's conference is "Clearance for Takeoff--Small Business in Aviation Modernization," and includes networking sessions for participants to meet one-on-one with small business specialists.

O'Hare Modernization Program's (OMP) Executive Director Rosemarie S. Andolino updated attendees about construction progress and provided information on opportunities for Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

Andolino stated that smaller bid packages will create more opportunities for small businesses to be competitive in the marketplace.

"The OMP attracts a diverse number of firms and fosters growth," said Andolino. "As we continue to make progress and move forward, there will be countless opportunities for business of all sizes and types. And that includes offering bid packages that vary in size from under \$1 million to \$150 million."

To date, OMP has awarded \$750 million in construction contracts. Next year, they anticipate advertising up to an additional \$720 million in construction contracts.

The O'Hare Modernization Program is Mayor Richard M. Daley's vision to build a 21st century airport at O'Hare International Airport. The OMP will reconfigure an outdated intersecting runway into a modern, parallel runway configuration that will significantly reduce delays and increase capacity.

For more information on the Annual FAA National Small Business Procurement Training Conference, visit [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov).

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