

# OPIC Highlights

Investment Development Office • 1100 New York Avenue, NW • Washington, DC 20527 • 202-336-8600 • [www.opic.gov](http://www.opic.gov)



OPIC IN MEXICO

## OPIC Supports U.S. Investment in Mexico



Mexico is one of America's largest trading partners, a fast-growing economy of 100 million consumers whose bilateral trade with the U.S. exceeded \$250 billion in 2000. Strong demand exists from U.S. companies for OPIC assistance in Mexico. For many small and medium-sized businesses, Mexico is their best prospect for expansion into the global economy. OPIC is presently able to assist US small businesses that are positioned to enter the Mexican market but lack adequate commercial financing. At the same time, OPIC's presence would enable greater private-sector participation in the Mexican economy, supporting U.S. foreign economic policy initiatives as well as Mexican privatization initiatives.

### ~New Small Business Program in Mexico~

- OPIC can provide direct loans to US small businesses-companies with annual revenues less than \$250 million or individuals with net worth less than \$67 million.
- OPIC can lend from \$100,000 up to \$200 million for project investments in Mexico that significantly involve U.S. small business or cooperatives, generally at least a 25 percent ownership interest or other significant involvement.
- OPIC will consider projects in priority sectors that are not sensitive with respect to environmental and labor issues.

### Priority Sectors

- Housing
- Technology, including telecommunications, environmental remediation, internet service firms, and value-added providers
- Distribution and environmentally-focused enterprises
- Eco-sensitive energy systems
- Service-related industries, including tourism, franchise-based consumer and business services

### Program Guidelines

- OPIC will give priority to environmentally-sound projects, including clean-up and remediation, and renewable technology.
- OPIC will analyze the economic impact of every project it supports to calculate the benefits to the U.S. in exports and jobs. OPIC will not support a project that would cause the loss of U.S. jobs.
- OPIC will require every project to observe the internationally-recognized worker rights. OPIC will give priority to projects that improve the living conditions of Mexican workers.
- OPIC will monitor the environmental impacts of its projects, to ensure that safeguards are met.

*Free trade is an incredibly important part of making sure the environment is hospitable to the formation of small businesses. And trade with Mexico is an integral part of making sure that our hemisphere is safe, secure and prosperous. A strong Mexico is in our nations' best interest.*  
President George W. Bush

### Contact OPIC

For further information, consult OPIC's website at [www.opic.gov](http://www.opic.gov), or call the OPIC Infoline at **202-336-8799**.

*We welcome OPIC's participation in fostering joint ventures between Mexican and U.S. companies, which will enable Mexico and the U.S. to deepen an already thriving economic relationship. It will provide U.S. small and medium-sized entrepreneurs access to the financial resources they need to enter the Mexican market.*  
President Vicente Fox