

# OPIC Highlights

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## OPIC IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

### Supporting Private Sector Investment in Southeast Europe

In Southeast Europe and around the world, OPIC leads the way for private-sector investment. OPIC's insurance, finance and investment funds program encourage economic development in emerging markets by supporting U.S. businesses of all sizes. With the July 2001 signing of a new OPIC-Yugoslavia bilateral agreement (which should soon be approved by the Yugoslav Parliament), OPIC is revitalizing its effort to support American companies in all countries of

Southeast Europe. Since the first OPIC Investment Agreement in a Southeast European country was signed, OPIC has provided approximately \$365 million in insurance and financing support to American-sponsored investments in the region. To support this effort, OPIC has established a regional office based in Zagreb, Croatia to work with U.S. investors looking at opportunities in Southeast Europe.

### Highlights of OPIC Support in the Region

OPIC has historically supported a wide spectrum of projects in Southeast Europe in sectors including energy, telecommunications, agribusiness, retail and services.

OPIC also has developed a substantial pipeline of prospective business in Southeast Europe. OPIC has received a number of serious insurance and financing inquiries for investment projects in Southeast Europe in a variety of sectors including power, oil and gas, mining, agriculture, electric services, transportation, communication, manufacturing, food processing, tourism and hotels, general services and financial services.

As the countries of Southeast Europe accelerate progress in improving their investment climates, OPIC is optimistic that a number of these projects can be finalized in the next several months.

#### Past OPIC Southeast Europe projects include:

\* Hyatt International Corporation's hotel project in Belgrade, Yugoslavia for which OPIC committed \$8.8 million in insurance coverage.

\* Macedonian Telecommunications' privatization project in the Macedonian telecommunications industry, for which the OPIC-supported Southeast Europe Fund provided \$20 million of equity financing.

\* Seaboard Corporation's beverage production facility in Bulgaria, for which OPIC committed \$51.7 million in insurance coverage.

\* Entergy Power Group and eligible lenders' power plant in Bulgaria, for which OPIC committed \$100 million in insurance coverage.

\* McDonald's restaurants franchises in Croatia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, and Romania, for which OPIC has provided insurance coverage.

\* Tenneco Holdings' sawmill facility in Romania, for which OPIC committed \$70 million in insurance coverage.

\* ROMGSM's cellular telephone project in Romania, for which an OPIC-supported investment fund committed equity financing.



### OPIC's Southeast Europe Fund

OPIC-backed investment funds leverage financial support for local businesses of all sizes, helping to develop the host economy. The \$150 million Southeast Europe Equity Fund launched last year offers equity financing to commercially attractive projects in Southeast Europe. The fund is managed by Soros Private Funds Management.

In addition, OPIC supports five other equity funds that are authorized to invest in Southeast Europe. OPIC supported investment funds have already made eleven investments in projects in Romania and one investment in a project in Bulgaria for total investment of \$27.5 million. The projects have included retail, television and telecommunications ventures.