



OPIC Highlights



OPIC IN MEXICO

OPIC Supports U.S. Investment in Mexico



With a fast growing economy of over 100 million consumers, Mexico offers significant investment opportunities for U.S. companies. For many small and medium-size firms in the United States, Mexico also serves as an important gateway into the global economy. That's why OPIC is offering financing to U.S. small businesses who are looking to invest in Mexico. At the same time, OPIC's Mexico initiative is enabling greater private-sector participation in the Mexican economy, fostering U.S. foreign policy goals, and encouraging Mexican privatization efforts.

OPIC's Mexico Initiative:

- **Provides** direct loans to US small businesses-companies with annual revenues less than \$250 million or individuals with net worth less than \$67 million.
- **Lends** from \$100,000 up to \$250 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.
- **Considers** 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, or call the OPIC Infoline at **202-336-8700**. To subscribe to our OPIC News newsletter via the Internet please go to <http://www.opic.gov> and click on "subscribe".

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