



OPIC Highlights

OPIC'S SMALL BUSINESS CENTER (SBC)

WHAT IS THE SBC?

Building on OPIC's outreach efforts to the small business community, the Small Business Center offers qualified small businesses the opportunity to utilize OPIC's resources with improved customer service, flexible coverage and easier access through a streamlined approval process.

Recognizing the time constraints facing many small businesses, the Center is committed to considering all applications within a 60-day period. The SBC is made up of experienced OPIC personnel who are dedicated solely to working with small businesses.

WHY WAS THE SBC CREATED?

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation is committed to helping America's small businesses grow through investments in over 150 emerging markets around the world. OPIC recognizes that small businesses looking to participate in the global marketplace have unique requirements. Lack of resources to pursue opportunities abroad, concern over political risks, or the inability to find private sector support can prevent U.S. small businesses from expanding overseas. The SBC will help meet these needs by providing financing and political risk insurance to eligible small businesses.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any U.S. small business with annual revenues less than \$35 million is eligible for SBC programs. For businesses with annual revenues over \$35 million and under \$250 million, OPIC's regular small business programs are available.

WHAT IS THE SBC POLITICAL RISK PROTECTION PROGRAM?

To protect a small business' overseas investment against political uncertainties overseas, the SBC provides insurance against loss or damage resulting from political violence such as terrorism or war, nationalization or expropriation by a foreign government, or the inability to convert local currency and repatriate profits. Insurance rates are fixed and based upon risk. Terms extend up to 20 years and generally offer up to \$15 million in coverage. There are no minimum investment size requirements.

WHAT IS THE SBC FINANCE PROGRAM?

Loan amounts for overseas investments range from \$100,000 to \$10 million with terms from 3-15 years. Interest rates will be capped at 7% above the Direct Loan Discount Rate which is set by the U.S. Treasury. In addition, there may be a one-time maintenance fee of up to 2% and an annual fee not to exceed 1% of the outstanding balance of the loan. While the eligible U.S. small business must own at least 25% of the overseas project, OPIC may be able to finance up to 65% of the total project costs.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

For political risk insurance, the small business needs to register their project, complete an insurance application, and provide a formal business plan. For financing, the small business needs to submit a completed finance application, formal business plan, and sponsor disclosure forms. The approval process will take 60 days from the time of submission of completed documents.

For more information, please call OPIC's Small Business Center at 800-CALLSBC (800-225-5722) or visit OPIC's website at www.opic.gov.



OPIC is a U.S. government agency that helps U.S. businesses invest overseas, fosters economic development in new and emerging markets, complements the private sector in managing risks associated with foreign direct investment, and supports U.S. foreign policy.

Because OPIC charges market-based fees for its products, it operates on a self-sustaining basis at no net cost to taxpayers. Since 1971, OPIC has supported nearly \$145 billion worth of investments that will generate \$65 billion in U.S. exports and create more than 254,000 American jobs.

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