

**For Immediate
Release:
April 1, 2004**

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**GOVERNOR BALDACCI, SENATOR COLLINS ANNOUNCE MAINE
BUSINESS SPONSORS
FOR UPCOMING HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE
*Technology-based Business, Academic Institutions and Security-related
Businesses to Participate in Upcoming Event***

Augusta, Maine – Governor John Baldacci and Senator Susan Collins today announced a group of Maine-based businesses that have agreed to sponsor Maine’s first ever Homeland Security Conference, scheduled to take place at the University of Maine, Orono campus on Friday, May 14, 2004. Baldacci and Collins recently joined forces to organize the conference to educate and inform Maine companies, universities and first responders about how they can access resources available to them through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). A high ranking DHS official, Asa Hutchinson, the Department’s Undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security, recently accepted an invitation to deliver the keynote address at the conference.

“The business community has responded enthusiastically,” stated Governor Baldacci. “Public-private participation is key to the success of this conference. Small businesses and first responders in particular will benefit by gaining direct access to key personnel from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and state resources. I look forward to the exchange of ideas and information, and thank all the partners for sponsorship.”

Senator Susan Collins, who chairs the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee that oversees the Department of Homeland Security said, “I am pleased by the generous and widespread support of Maine businesses with this upcoming Homeland Security Conference. It is important for Maine businesses to know what federal resources are available to them and how to access them. I am confident that this first-ever conference will provide us with valuable information.”

The Maine Space Grant Consortium, an organization dedicated to advancing science and technology in Maine has signed on as the lead “Platinum” sponsor of the upcoming

conference. “Gold” level sponsors include Bushmaster Firearms of Windham, Maine and Applied Thermal Sciences of Sanford, Maine. “Silver” sponsors include ADT Federal Systems headquartered in Boca Raton, Florida, Sandia National Laboratories of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Central Maine Power of Augusta, Maine, and the Maine Department of Transportation. Finally, “Bronze” sponsors include Duke Energy of Veazie, Maine, Elm Construction Management of Portland, Maine, Sensor Research and Development Corporation of Orono, Maine, and Eastern Maine Development Corporation. The Biotechnology Association of Maine is the Pre-Conference Activities Sponsor.

The conference, organized to benefit small businesses, first responders, and state and local governments will feature four seminar tracks:

- Small Business and Procurement
- Small Business/Department of Homeland Security Supply Chain Management
- First Responders/Transportation Security
- Research and Development

In addition, exhibition booths will provide valuable information for homeland security products, as well as contracting and procurement opportunities within private, non-profit, and governmental agencies.

The conference is being produced on behalf of Governor Baldacci and Senator Collins by the University of Maine and the Maine Small Business Development Centers in association with the Maine Emergency Management Agency, the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Maine Market Development Center, and the University of Maine Office of the Vice President for Research.