



One Source Toxicology Laboratory Officially Recognized as Minority Owned

One Source Toxicology Laboratory is recognized as a minority owned business by the Houston Minority Business Council and the Texas Building and Procurement Commission. In addition to this membership, One Source Toxicology Laboratory representatives attended the HMBC Expo at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

The HMBC Expo was held September 10-11 for more than 2,500 business leaders. "Minority owned businesses provide a valuable link between supply and demand that facilitates business growth and creates jobs. In addition, minority business owners provide substantial resources to local communities benefiting everyone," stated Houston Minority Business Council Chairman, William Mearse.

The Houston Minority Business Council is a non-profit organization for minority businesses and major corporations interested in establishing relationships with minority entrepreneurs to help them grow their business. The council is the certifying body for doing business with several vendors in Texas. Some of those vendors include the City of Houston, Chevron, Clear

Channel, H-E-B, METRO, the Texas Department of Transportation, United States Post Office, and the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

The HMBC certification is designed to support companies owned by an economically disadvantaged person. Economically disadvantaged persons are defined as Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Women, Asian Pacific Americans, or Native Americans.

The business can be classified as a corporation, sole proprietorship, partnership, or joint venture. The business must be created for the purpose of making a profit and at least 51 percent of the company must be owned by one of the groups of people as described above.

One Source Toxicology Laboratory qualifies as a Houston Minority Owned Business because it meets the aforementioned standards. Romeo Laurel, a Hispanic male, owns the majority shares of Employer Support Services Inc., the parent company of One Source Toxicology Laboratory.

Butch Woolfolk, Director of Business Development, was vital in achieving

the certification as he chaired the project and was able to ensure the certification process was completed.

The HMBC program ensures minority and women-owned businesses are given the opportunity to participate in the state's awarding of contracts and subcontracts.

The Texas Building and Procurement Commission established an agreement with the Houston Minority Business Council to recognize members meeting the requirement of a Historically Underutilized Business. This agreement reduces the amount of paperwork and administration burdens for eligible businesses.

Mr. Laurel and a family partnership acquired One Source Toxicology Laboratory in 1999 through an acquisition with the University of Texas Medical School. Today, Laurel is actively involved in the business's daily operations. Additionally, One Source Toxicology Laboratory's sister company, Forward Edge Inc., was awarded the minority owned business certification in November 2006.

One Source Toxicology Stands Firm in the Path of Hurricane Ike

Due to Hurricane Ike, One Source Toxicology Laboratory's facilities lost power for 36 hours over the course of three business days but suffered no damage from the storm. The laboratory was able to return to daily operations the Tuesday following Saturday's landfall.

Prior to the hurricane's landfall the laboratory took the necessary precautions to continue providing service in case of substantial damage resulting from the storm.

Preparing for the worst-case scenario, One Source Toxicology made arrangements with another SAMHSA certified laboratory to screen and test samples. The specimens would have been redirected to the alternative laboratory and the results

were to be reported to One Source Toxicology Laboratory's information database management system. Those results were then to be redistributed to clients awaiting the results of a drug test.

The physical facility of One Source Toxicology Laboratory is located in one of the highest geographical locations of Pasadena, Texas. The level of elevation reduces the risk of any damage sustained from flooding due to the storm's surge. Additionally, the building was constructed in accordance with the Texas Department of Insurance's strict standards for coastal commercial construction requirements. The building itself is rated to withstand sustained winds of 125 mph.

"It was fortunate that we only lost

power for a very brief time," said One Source Toxicology President Stan Gerlich, "However, it's always a top priority of ours to take the necessary precautions to prepare for hurricanes."

In September 2005, the laboratory took the same precautions in anticipation of Hurricane Rita, but was fortunate when the storm veered further east.

"In the drug testing industry, our service is everything. It's imperative we're online to serve our customers. Especially after a hurricane," said Gerlich.

The laboratory is also equipped with generators to provide power to the laboratory at full capacity if it ever experiences power loss for an extended period of time.