



## ***PROSPERA PARTNERS WITH EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES***

Bozeman, Montana, May 21, 2008 – Prospera Business Network announced today that the organization has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Export-Import Bank of the United States to be a Montana marketing partner. Prospera and the Montana World Trade Center are the Bank’s two marketing partners in Montana. This agreement allows Prospera to introduce the services and products of the Export-Import Bank to local companies that are interested in exporting their products and services. Prospera will also work with lending institutions and credit insurance brokers that are involved with exporting. The goal of the agreement is to promote exports from Montana through the Export-Import Bank’s financial support programs, including working capital guarantee programs and the export credit insurance program.

“We see this partnership as a great opportunity to expand our services to local companies that are engaged in exporting. There is a growing group of companies in southwest Montana that can benefit from these services”, stated Bob Hietala Chief Executive Officer of Prospera. He added, “During the past year we have seen a real increase in interest and attendance at Prospera training events that focused on exporters.”

The Export-Import Bank is the official U.S. export credit agency, providing export credit insurance, working capital and loan guarantees to help support the sale of U.S. goods and services to international markets. The Export-Import Bank participated in the Montana World Trade Center’s Global Trade Certificate Program in Bozeman earlier this month. Rob Guthrie, Business Development Officer for the Export-Import Bank in announcing this agreement said, “We are thrilled to have a partnership with Prospera and look forward to working together to assist Montana companies with their exporting needs.”

Companies that are interested in learning more about the services and products of the Export-Import Bank can contact Prospera Business Network.

### **ABOUT PROSPERA BUSINESS NETWORK**

Prospera Business Network is a private, non-profit, member supported economic development organization in southwestern Montana. Originally established in 1985 as the Gallatin Development Corporation, Prospera is the leading economic development organization serving a region that is one of the fastest growing economic areas in the northern Rocky Mountains. Prospera is dedicated to encouraging and supporting business expansion, retention and relocation by providing access to business consulting, capital, professional development and research. To learn more about Prospera Business Network, visit:

[www.ProsperaBusinessNetwork.com](http://www.ProsperaBusinessNetwork.com)