

EARNEST Partners Commences the Sale of SBA 7(a) Securities as the U.S. Treasury's Agent

June 2, 2011

EARNEST Partners is pleased to continue to act as the U.S. Treasury's agent in the Small Business Administration (SBA) 7(a) securities market.

The United States Department of the Treasury announced today its intention to begin unwinding the SBA 7(a) portfolio incepted in 2009 as part of TARP.

Treasury confirmed in its release that EARNEST Partners will continue to act as sole agent in these transactions:

"Treasury acquired its SBA 7(a) securities portfolio through the Troubled Asset Relief Program's (TARP) Consumer and Business Lending Initiative (CBLI). From March through September of 2010, Treasury made open market purchases from participating pool assemblers of SBA 7(a) securities backed by the guaranteed portion of SBA loans. In so doing, Treasury injected liquidity into this market to help restart the flow of credit, enabling pool assemblers to purchase additional small business loans from loan originators. SBA 7(a) loans finance a wide-range of small business needs, including working capital, machinery, equipment, furniture, and fixtures. The disposition of these SBA 7(a) securities is part of Treasury's ongoing efforts to wind down TARP. EARNEST Partners, which has acted as Treasury's Financial Agent for the SBA 7(a) securities portfolio, will execute the securities disposition on behalf of Treasury. Prospective purchasers of SBA 7(a) securities held by Treasury should contact EARNEST Partners by e-mailing UCSBTeam@earnestpartners.com or by calling (404) 815-8772."

EARNEST Partners CEO Paul Viera commented, "The firm has a successful history of trading and managing SBA assets. We're honored to have been a part of the Treasury's efforts to rebuild economic stability in the United States and will continue to work diligently on its behalf".

About EARNEST Partners

EARNEST Partners is an independent, employee-owned asset management firm currently advising on more than \$15 billion in assets for clients around the world. EARNEST Partners manages portfolios for more than 300 clients including corporations, government pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, jointly-trusted plans, endowments and foundations. EARNEST Partners is headquartered in Atlanta, GA with representative offices in Beijing and Hong Kong.

Link to the Treasury press release:

<http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1198.aspx>

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