



PRELIMINARY COMMITMENT TO SONATRACH

- The Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) approved a preliminary commitment for a **\$1 billion** line of credit extended to Sonatrach, Algeria's state-owned petroleum company. The preliminary commitment supports long-term financing for Sonatrach's purchase of U.S. equipment and services.
- "Sonatrach has been a partner of Ex-Im Bank for more than 30 years, and Algeria is an important market for U.S. exporters," said Ex-Im Bank Chairman Philip Merrill. "This transaction would support Algeria's economic development, trade relations between our two countries, and U.S. exports and jobs."
- Sonatrach is planning a series of large-scale projects to rehabilitate oil and gas fields and expand pipelines as part of its capital expenditure program for the next five years (2005-2009). Total estimated cost for these projects is **\$24.5 billion**.
- Individual credits for projects under the line will be considered separately by Ex-Im Bank for final approval, after a technical and environmental review of each project.
- To date, Ex-Im Bank has approved credits totaling **\$39.3 million** under the line of credit. These credits support exports from **General Electric (GE)** and **Solar Turbines**, to be used in the renovation and upgrade of gas turbine compression stations along four pipelines owned by Sonatrach.
- When responding to Sonatrach tenders, U.S. firms are urged to state their eligibility for use of the Ex-Im Bank \$1 billion preliminary commitment.
- In addition to the preliminary commitment to Sonatrach, Ex-Im Bank is fully available to support public sector financing in Algeria and is open to support short- and medium-term private sector financing.
- Ex-Im Bank marks its 71st year of helping finance the sale of U.S. exports, primarily to emerging markets throughout the world, by providing loan guarantees, export credit insurance, and direct loans. To date, Ex-Im Bank, an independent federal agency, has supported more than **\$700 billion** of U.S. exports worldwide. For more information on Ex-Im Bank visit <http://www.exim.gov>.