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## **EDCs seek Manatee and Sarasota businesses for Panama trade mission**

BRADENTON – The Manatee Economic Development Council and Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County are seeking companies to participate in an upcoming trade mission to Panama. The trade mission is planned for Sept. 6-9 and will include group briefings as well as one-on-one appointments with businesses in Panama.

Only 15 Florida manufacturers, distributors, exporters and service companies that best meet the participation criteria will be selected for this opportunity. The deadline for expressing interest in the trade mission is July 9.

The U.S. Department of Commerce will coordinate with U.S. businesses going on the trip to arrange meetings with potential customers in Panama. Businesses interested in participating in the trade mission should contact Lauren Kratsch, 941-748-4842, ext. 134, [laurenk@manateeedc.com](mailto:laurenk@manateeedc.com).

The Economic Development Council, a division of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, develops and implements programs to attract new high-impact businesses and to assist in the retention and growth of targeted existing businesses in Manatee County. Information: [www.ManateeEDC.com](http://www.ManateeEDC.com).

The EDC of Sarasota County is the private, not-for-profit corporation leading the community's economic development strategy to add high-wage jobs and diversify the local economy. The EDC provides business assistance to companies in Sarasota County and helps forge solutions to community challenges that affect quality of life. The EDC works in partnership with chambers of commerce, local governments and other organizations throughout the county and the region. For more information, visit [www.edcsarasotacounty.com](http://www.edcsarasotacounty.com).

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