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"It is good news all around for NMSDC's International program, Global-Link," says Shelley Stewart, Jr. chairman, International Program Advisory Committee and vice president, Supply Chain, Tyco International Inc.

On October 12, the Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council (CAMSC) was launched and the East Midlands Supplier Development (EMDS) program in the United Kingdom kicked off earlier this year.

This year also marked NMSDC's return to South Africa where, thanks to DaimlerChrysler Corporation, Global-Link gets underway with the new Automotive Business Opportunity mission to promote business relationships between minority suppliers and South African Black enterprises. This development also renews South African interest in the NMSDC model for minority supplier certification.

"This program will benefit the Chrysler Group, U.S.-based MBEs and South Africa's Black-owned businesses," said Thomas Sidlik, a member of the Board of Management and vice president, DaimlerChrysler Global Procurement and Supply, and vice chairman of the Board of NMSDC.

Global-Link is growing in Brazil where the federal government is supporting the economic inclusion of Afro-Brazilian descendants. The public sector drive also sparks private sector interest, prompting corporations to become members of Integrare, NMSDC's Brazilian counterpart.

The international program has definitely caught fire, but not without the expertise of the volunteers on the International Program Advisory Committee. "Committee member Jethro Joseph, senior manager, Diversity Supplier Development, at DaimlerChrysler, has distinguished himself by the significant commitment of time and energy in meeting Global-Link's goals," says Mr. Stewart.

Global-Link surpassed last year's funding by \$25,000 thanks to the generosity of national corporate members: AT&T Corporation, ChevronTexaco Corporation, DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund, Exxon Mobil Corporation, Honda of America Manufacturing, MCI, PepsiCo and United Technologies Corporation.

Country-by-country here are greater details about NMSDC activities in Brazil, Canada, the United Kingdom and South Africa.

Brazil_____

"During 2004, NMSDC's affiliate in Brazil not only became debt-free, but also improved its image and visibility by adding new members, increasing its stock of certified suppliers, and increasing its staff to meet growing demands," said Mr. Stewart.

A positive political climate in Brazil that welcomes affirmative action and encourages Black business inclusion has helped Integrare do well in attracting corporate attention. Minister Matilde Ribeiro, the Secretary of State for Racial Equality in Brazil, has demonstrated particular interest in the work of Integrare and also a strong interest within the State of Rio de Janeiro for an affiliate Integrare operation.

Due to a restructuring of DuPont's worldwide operations, the Integrare chairman of nearly three years. Henrique Ubrig, president and CEO of DuPont S.A., was transferred to head the company's operations in India.

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With Mr. Ubrig's departure, Integrare lost its biggest champion, but a quick and smooth leadership transition took place when Rogério Oliveira, president and CEO of IBM do Brasil, was confirmed as Integrare's new chairman.

Canada_____

In 2004, the Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council (CAMSC) became a legal and functional entity after being officially registered under the provincial laws of Ontario and installation of its Board of Directors, officers and president.

The non-profit organization was formed over an 18-month period of corporate research and inter-company discussions on minority supplier development in Canada. Members of the organizing group examined the business value and economic development potential of minority suppliers in the corporate supply chain.

"This unique initiative supports Aboriginal and minority businesses through win-win commercial relationships with the country's largest buyers," says Doug Lord, chair of CAMSC and president and CEO of Xerox Canada Ltd.

With a solid base of corporate members and strong leadership from the new president and CEO, Orrin Benn, the Council is well positioned to promote new opportunities. "Integrating Aboriginal and minority businesses into the supply chain of major companies is the core mission of the organization. By pursuing this mission, we become an enabler to government in promoting employment and economic development," says Mr. Benn.

CAMSC enjoys the support of a growing number of procurement executives from: Alberici Constructors, Ltd.; Canadian Pacific Railway; Coca-Cola Canada; Corporate Express Canada; DaimlerChrysler Canada; Hewlett-Packard Canada; IBM Canada; International Truck and Engine Corporation Canada; Office Depot International Inc.; Royal Bank of Canada; Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America, Inc.; Waste Management of Canada, and Xerox Canada Ltd.

United Kingdom_____

2004 was also a busy and productive year for Global-Link and its strategic partners in the United Kingdom, [De Montfort University (DMU) and the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)]. Collective effort resulted in the launch of the Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CREME), a research, academic and policy-oriented center on minority entrepreneurship.

Under CRÈME's direct management, the East Midlands Supplier Development (EMSD) was rolled out as a minority supplier certification program for all of Great Britain. EMDA provided financial support to jumpstart this program while a corporate steering group prepares to transform EMSD into an NMSDC-like counterpart.

In September, NMSDC President Harriet Michel was a keynote speaker at the EMSD conference in the city of Leicester. "Minorities are increasingly well educated, have increasingly decent jobs and growing incomes. Corporations want to go after these people for their dollars and to boost their market share. You can't ignore minority communities. The way to appeal to them is to have minority suppliers," she told the audience of more than 200 business leaders and academics from the UK.

The business conference title was "Ethnic Minority Businesses and Corporate Britain: Building Bridges for Economic Development." During the two-day conference Martin Glenn, president, PepsiCo UK; and Nigel Griffith, MP and Minister for Small Business, were also keynote speakers.

The EMSD steering committee is composed of NMSDC and the following organizations: The Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply, Clifton Packaging Group, Commission for Racial Equality, De Montfort University, East Midlands Development Agency, Enterprise Rent A Car, Environment Agency, Ford Motor Company Ltd, IBM UK Ltd., J.P. Morgan Chase & Company, Metropolitan Police, PepsiCo UK, Race for Opportunity and Seven Trent Water.

South Africa_____

With the purpose of stimulating business partnerships and strategic alliances between U.S. minority suppliers and their Black counterparts in the South African automotive parts manufacturing and supply industries, DaimlerChrysler and NMSDC partnered with the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) to lead a business

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opportunity mission in November.

This mission is designed to assist NMSDC in promoting its certification model to corporate South Africa to address current inadequacies and lack of uniformity in the accreditation process currently used throughout the country.

The mission plans include visits and meetings in Johannesburg, Pretoria, East London and Cape Town. Based on individual business objectives established in advance by the participants in this mission, the sponsors and associates in South Africa will schedule individual business appointments with Black-owned companies interested in capacity building through international business alliances.

The following NMSDC-certified MBEs are participating in this mission: The Asaba Group, Inc.; APG, Inc.; The Bartech Group, Inc.; Craft-Co Enterprises, Inc.; Diversified Chemical Technologies, Inc.; Endow, Inc.; Engineering Plastic Products Inc.; Flex-N-Gate Corp.; Freight Masters Systems, Inc.; The Ideal Group; Integrated Packaging; KenSa LLC (formerly Clements Manufacturing LLC; SET Enterprises, Inc.; Uni Boring, Inc. and Viking Industries, LLC.

The corporations assisting DaimlerChrysler in this mission include: Chevron Texaco Corporation, Cisco Systems, IBM, International Truck and Engine, and Johnson Controls.