

888..369.0077 toll-free
425..462.0300 main
425..462.0301 fax

10900 NE 4th Street, Suite 2300
Bellevue, WA 98004

info@zenithassets.com
www.zenithassets.com

News Release

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Media Contact:
Tim Coghill, Marketing Manager
t: 425..462.0300
e: tcoghill@zenithassets.com

Thinking outside the conventional financing box *Roundtable speakers encourage business owners, decision-makers and advisors to learn about non-conventional funding methods*

SEATTLE – As conventional lenders tighten their underwriting policies in reaction to the meltdown in the sub-prime residential market, business owners are experiencing increased difficulty in obtaining capital expansion financing through traditional funding channels. In response to this, experts have come together and are offering business owners, decision-makers and their attorneys, accountants and other trusted advisors to learn more about often overlooked non-conventional finance tools available to finance business growth through the Business Financing Roundtable.

Topics covered at the free two-hour roundtable-style seminar include Industrial Revenue Bonds; Small Business Administration (SBA) 7a and 504 loan programs; Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF) loan programs; programs and services provided by area Small Business Development Centers (SBDC). Additionally, attendees will receive an overview of the current economy as it relates to small- and medium-sized companies. The seminar will conclude with a question-and-answer session so that attendees can ask questions of the panel members.

The Business Financing Roundtable is scheduled to be presented three times in the Puget Sound area. On Wednesday, May 14, the roundtable will be offered from 10 a.m. to noon at the Lynnwood campus of Edmonds Community College. It will also be presented twice on Wednesday, May 21: from 10 a.m. to noon at Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood, and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eastgate campus of Bellevue Community College.

Participating as part of the roundtable's panel are David Bovée of Zenith Assets, Inc. (moderator and Industrial Revenue Bonds – all locations); Lisa Forrest of Wells Fargo (SBA 7a loan program – all locations); ECDA regional loan officers (SBA 504 and CRF loan programs – Kerry Keely, Lakewood; Desiree Gray, Lynnwood presentation; Pat Rogers, Bellevue); SBDC advisors (SBDC programs and services – John Rodenberg, Lakewood; Jennifer Shelton, Lynnwood; David Young, Bellevue); and Dr. Levis Kochin, UW Associate Professor of Economics (economic overview – all locations).

The Business Financing Roundtable is sponsored by Zenith Assets, Inc., Evergreen Community Development Association (ECDA) and Wells Fargo.

To register for the free Business Finance Roundtable, call Zenith Assets at (888) 369-0077, or send an e-mail to seminar@zenithassets.com with information including the name of each attendee, company name, phone number, e-mail address and the desired seminar location.

About Zenith Assets – Zenith Assets, Inc. is a consulting firm specializing in business financial services. The company works with manufacturer clients in industries such as marine, health care and aviation, as well as real estate investors and developers. As a financial services consultancy, we employ well-trained and educated consultants. Each of our consultants will be capable of serving your needs and those of your clients.

About Evergreen – Evergreen is dedicated to offering alternative business capital services that enhance small business growth in our region, while providing the most exceptional service in our industry. We are the Northwest's leading alternative business capital expert, facilitating loans for equipment and real estate in Washington, Oregon, Alaska and the Idaho Panhandle. We are deeply involved in industry affairs and in the communities we serve. On behalf of the borrowers and lenders, we guide our industry and the 504 loan program toward constant improvement.

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