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## SBA Announces Minority Enterprise Development Week Honorees

**Santa Ana, CA** - The [Santa Ana District Office](#) of the U.S. Small Business Administration today announced the selection of two area firms as [Minority Enterprise Development Week](#) (MED Week) honorees.

David Cheng, president of Santa Ana-based [Accord Engineering](#), Inc. has been named the Minority Small Business Person of the Year, and Henry C. Rhee, CEO of [Acepex Management Corporation](#) in Montclair has been named 8(a) Graduate of the Year. Both will be recognized on September 2nd at [BIZCON 2009](#) in Anaheim.

Karen Burgess, SBA's head of the Santa Ana District's 8(a) department said, "Both Accord Engineering and Acepex Management Corp., have made great strides in the federal contracting arena, and, specifically through the SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program. Through hard work, diligence, and, perseverance, they are a true testament of the entrepreneurial spirit. We are honored to recognize these two businesses for their individual accomplishments and their contribution to the nation's economy."

Accord Engineering, is a highly respected multi-disciplined engineering and construction company providing environmental and construction services to both the public and private sectors.

Since the founding of the company in 2000, Accord has successfully diversified from primarily environmental engineering and consulting into large-scale remedial construction, storm water compliance services and complex field investigation projects. Among Accord's clients are the United States Navy and Marine Corps, Bureau of Reclamation, the Port of Long Beach and the Los Angeles Unified School District. Accord now has comprehensive capabilities in end-to-end services to meet their client's environmental infrastructure needs.

The firm obtained [SBA 8\(a\)](#) and Small Disadvantaged Business certification in 2002 and began teaming with larger firms to win large-size federal government contracts. Accord is now acting as the prime contractor on several important contracts that include regional and worldwide performance requirements. This has attracted talented professionals to Accord, bringing the number of full-time employees to twenty three, up from three in 2002.

Accord Engineering further enhanced its service offering in 2008 by forming a mentor/protégé relationship

with MACTEC Engineering and Consulting. This both increased Accord's capacity and laid the groundwork for a successful graduation from the 8(a) program.

SBA's 8(a) program is a nine year certification program that helps develop businesses and provides them with access to government contracting opportunities, allowing them to become solid competitors in the federal marketplace while preparing them for life after the 8(a) program.

Acepex Management Corporation is the Santa Ana District's 8(a) Graduate of the Year. ACEPEX is a leading maintenance, repair, operations, and services company serving clients in both government and private sectors.

ACEPEX, founded in 1989, is highly experienced in base operations and maintenance, hospital operations and maintenance, military family housing maintenance and repair, custodial and related services, mechanical maintenance, and facilities operations & maintenance. With a highly experienced staff, ACEPEX is able to expertly manage multiple, high dollar value contracts in various locations throughout the country efficiently.

The company entered the 8(a) program in 1999, with 112 employees. In the years spent in the program, ACEPEX has grown to 570 employees and has earned 8(a) federal government contracts totaling \$20 MM. The company also obtained an SBA loan of more than \$1 MM, which it has since paid in full.

National MED Week commemorates the contribution of the nation's minority entrepreneurs and firms. MED Week was first initiated by Presidential Proclamation by President Reagan in 1983 and now stands as the premiere national conference for the minority business enterprise community. MED Week is hosted by the Minority Business Development Agency in collaboration with the U.S. Small Business Administration and other partners from the public and private sectors.

BIZCON 2009 is the sixth annual business conference & expo event of [Orange County Presidents Council](#). The goal of BIZCON 2009 is to promote and develop the multicultural diversities of small businesses to help strengthen the regional economy. BIZCON 2009 is a day of networking with business & government supplier diversity managers, seminars with panel discussions, products/services exposition to help understand the market and an opportunity to meet with community business leaders to explore business opportunities locally, nationally and in foreign markets.