



FOR **Immediate** RELEASE

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### **FedBid to Promote AbilityOne Products and Services in Federal Government Marketplace**

**Arlington, VA, July 8, 2009** – The AbilityOne Program, National Industries for the Blind, and FedBid Inc. are collaborating to help Federal government agencies comply with the requirements of the AbilityOne Program by raising awareness among Federal buyers of SKILCRAFT® and other AbilityOne products and services. AbilityOne products and services are manufactured by Americans who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

A memorandum of understanding was formally signed by Kimberly M. Zeich, Deputy Executive Director, Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled; Claudia S. “Scottie” Knott, Vice President of Operations, NIB; and Geoffrey Miller, Chief Operating Officer, FedBid Inc., on June 10 at the NIB/NAEPB (National Association for the Employment of People Who Are Blind) Opportunity Forum in San Antonio, Texas.

“This new AbilityOne/FedBid memorandum of understanding ensures that Federal customers are provided more information about the AbilityOne Program and greater opportunities to buy AbilityOne products and services,” said Tina Ballard, Executive Director and CEO of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled. “Through this initiative, we expect increased AbilityOne sales, resulting in increased employment opportunities for Americans who are blind or have other severe disabilities.”

FedBid Inc. owns and operates The Buyer-Driven Marketplace®, where Federal agencies compete requirements for commodities and simple services, some of which overlap with AbilityOne product offerings. Under the AbilityOne/FedBid agreement, FedBid will both ensure that customers are aware of products available through the program and enable AbilityOne authorized distributors to submit offers to supply the products.

#### **AbilityOne Program**

Providing employment opportunities to more than 40,000 people, the AbilityOne Program is the largest single source of employment for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the United States. More than 600 participating nonprofit organizations employ these individuals and provide quality goods and services to the Federal Government at a fair market price. The AbilityOne Program is administered by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled ([www.abilityone.gov](http://www.abilityone.gov)), an independent Federal agency, with assistance from National Industries for the Blind (NIB, [www.nib.org](http://www.nib.org)) and NISH-Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Severe Disabilities ([www.nish.org](http://www.nish.org)).

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