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accelerators and other entrepreneurial ecosystem models to compete for monetary prizes of \$50,000 each. To award the prizes, an expert panel of judges will consider each applicant's stated mission, founding team members and business goals among other core components. The deadline for applying is August 2, 2014.

May. 12, 2014

The [Small Business Administration](#) is launching a \$2.5 million competition for accelerators and other entrepreneurial ecosystem models to compete for monetary prizes of \$50,000 each. To award the prizes, an expert panel of judges will consider each applicant's stated mission, founding team members and business goals among other core components. The deadline for applying is August 2, 2014.

The panel will give particular attention to, and the SBA encourages, applicants that fill geographic gaps in the accelerator and entrepreneurial ecosystem space. It is well known that the most successful accelerators to date were founded on the coasts. Through this competition, we are looking to support the development of accelerators and thus startups in parts of the country where there are fewer conventional sources of access to capital (i.e., venture capital and other investors).

In addition to accelerators which fill the gaps described above, we are also seeking out accelerators which are run by and support women or other underrepresented groups. Lastly, special consideration will be given to any accelerator models which support manufacturing.

For the purposes of this competition, Growth Accelerators include accelerators, incubators, co-working startup communities, shared tinker-spaces or other models to accomplish similar goals.

Over the coming months, SBA will be working with a number of partners such as the Global Accelerator Network (GAN) and others to host a number of Demo Days across

the country. Demo Days provide opportunities for networking and the sharing of

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Day remotely, thus there is no requirement for applicants to participate in the in-person events.

Small Business

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