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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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South32 Hermosa and Nogales Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce Launch Partnership to Empower Local Businesses

NOGALES, ARIZONA (March 3rd, 2025)–South32 Hermosa and the Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce a strategic partnership to support local businesses through the Vendor Readiness Program. This initiative is designed to equip local enterprises with the necessary tools and knowledge to participate in South32's local procurement program, fostering economic growth and opportunities in Santa Cruz County.

Program Overview

The Vendor Readiness Program will provide comprehensive training and resources to help local businesses navigate the procurement process and meet the required standards to work with South32. This partnership underscores South32's commitment to empowering local communities and promoting regional economic development.

Key Program Components:

- **Workshop Series:** Educational workshops will cover topics such as contract management, compliance, and business operations, tailored to meet the specific needs of South32's procurement process.
- **Mentorship Opportunities:** Participants will have access to experienced mentors who can offer guidance and support throughout the program.
- **Procurement Guidance:** Detailed information on South32's procurement procedures and requirements will be provided to ensure businesses are well-prepared to bid on contracts.

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"This partnership aligns with our broader strategy to invest in workforce development and strengthen community engagement, creating lasting economic benefits for the region." said Pat Risner, President of South32 Hermosa.

"By supporting local businesses through the Vendor Readiness Program, we aim to create a robust and sustainable supply chain that benefits both our operations and the community. This partnership aligns with our broader strategy to invest in workforce development and community engagement, ensuring that the economic benefits of our project are retained locally."

"This partnership represents a significant opportunity for local businesses to grow and thrive," said Olivia Ainza-Kramer, President & CEO of the Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce.

"By working together with South32, we can provide our members with the tools they need to succeed in a competitive market. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this program will have on our community."

Program Enrollment and Details

Enrollment for the Vendor Readiness Program will begin in March 2025. Interested businesses are encouraged to contact the Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce for more information and to register. The program is open to all Santa Cruz County businesses, Chamber membership is not required.

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About South32 Hermosa

Located in a historic mining district in the Patagonia Mountains of Southern Arizona, South32's Hermosa project is currently the only advanced mine development project in the United States that could produce two federally designated critical minerals – manganese and zinc – both of which are essential minerals for powering the nation's clean energy future. Learn more at www.south32hermosa.com.

About the Nogales Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce

The Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to promoting economic growth and prosperity in the Nogales and Santa Cruz County region. Through advocacy, networking, and community engagement, the Chamber supports local businesses and strengthens the vitality of the community. Learn more at www.thenogaleschamber.org.