

# Ingram Engineering, Inc.

## **IEI receives 8(a), SDB, and SDVOB Certification** **IEI and SBA Partnership simplifies Government IT contracting**

**Brookeville, MD (October 29, 2004)** — Ingram Engineering Inc., a Government IT professional engineering and software services provider, announced today that it has been awarded the Small Business Administration's 8(a), Small Disadvantaged Business, and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business certification. The 8(a) program offers a broad scope of assistance to socially and economically disadvantaged firms, while the SDB and the SDVOB certifications strictly pertains to benefits in federal procurement.

Updated regulations permit 8(a) certified companies to form beneficial teaming partnerships and allow federal agencies to streamline the contracting process. Moreover, participants can receive sole-source contracts, up to a ceiling of \$3 million for goods and services and \$5 million for manufacturing. While SBA helps 8(a) firms build their competitive and institutional know-how, the agency also encourages them to participate in competitive acquisitions. Federal acquisition policies encourage federal agencies to award a certain percentage of their contracts to SDBs and SDVOBs. To speed up the award process, the SBA has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with 25 Federal agencies allowing them to contract directly with certified 8(a) firms. Recent changes permit 8(a) firms to form joint ventures and teams to bid on contracts. This enhances the ability of 8(a) firms to perform larger prime contracts and overcome the effects of contract bundling, the combining of two or more contracts together into one large contract.

"We welcome our new partnership with the SBA and look forward to working closely with our SBA Business Opportunity Specialist. These three certifications are instrumental to the strengthening of IEI's business model and future", stated IEI's President and CEO Vern Ingram.