We invite Illinois small businesses to join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment on a multi-sector trade mission to Australia and New Zealand from March 16-23, 2024. Participants will receive a customized itinerary which will include networking events and one-on-one pre-vetted meetings with potential distributors and business partners.

Australia is a top export market for Illinois-made products, ranking 3rd in 2022. Traditionally, Illinois has supplied transportation equipment, machinery, chemicals, electronic products, processed foods, and agricultural products and equipment to Australia. Today additional opportunities exist in defense, cybersecurity, medical equipment, and environmental technologies.

New Zealand’s economy is primarily based on the production and export of agricultural commodities (dairy, meat, etc.) and the U.S. is her 3rd largest trading partner. Key items sourced from Illinois include agricultural and food products, electronic machinery, chemicals, and healthcare products. As one of the few countries to have a zero-emissions goal enshrined in law, New Zealand organizations are motivated to invest in innovative technologies. Solutions that reduce costs and increase productivity, especially in sectors such as agriculture and healthcare, are in high demand.

**Participation Details:**
Companies selected to participate in the mission will receive the following, in accordance with eligibility guidelines:
- Pre-scheduled B2B Matchmaking
- 50% — 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs
- In-country briefing materials
- Assistance with travel logistics

**Participation Fee:** $1500

**Participation Deadline:**
The registration deadline is December 6, 2023. Space is limited and qualified Illinois firms will be considered on a rolling basis.

**For more information contact:**
Kevin Kim, Asia-Pacific Trade Specialist
kevin.kim@illinois.gov / (312) 833-3081

**Mission Webinar:**
To learn more about market opportunities and plans for our upcoming mission, please join us for a webinar on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. CST. Our guest speaker Angela Foley will provide an overview of Australia and New Zealand, highlighting key industries and opportunities for Illinois exporters. The webinar is free, but registration is required. To learn more and to register, visit: [https://bit.ly/479TVaq](https://bit.ly/479TVaq)