

# **PROGRAM TO SUPPORT THE INTRODUCTION OF QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM STANDARDS IN SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**

**(TC-99-06-02-6)**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

<b>Executing agency:</b>	Colombian Institute of Technical Standards (ICONTEC)
<b>Cosponsoring agency:</b>	National Training Service (SENA)
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	The beneficiaries are: (i) 840 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) sensitized as to the strategic importance of quality and environmental management; (ii) 375 SMEs that will receive technical assistance and/or training in introducing quality and environmental management systems; (iii) 320 service providers and external auditors selected competitively or by invitation to participate as partners in the various training programs contemplated in the project.
<b>Objectives:</b>	To help make Colombia's SMEs more competitive by strengthening and fostering a culture of concern for quality and environmental conservation as keys to success when competing on world markets. The Program's specific objectives are: (i) to raise the awareness of SME personnel about the importance of applying administrative and operational procedures designed to facilitate evaluation and compliance with requirements agreed upon with national and international buyers; (ii) to train auditors and consultants in order to raise the level and supply of technical service providers on the market; (iii) to provide technical advice to enterprises setting up quality and environmental management systems, under a shared funding scheme; and (iv) to promote coordination among the various programs designed to improve quality and environmental management in Colombia, by strengthening the entities in charge.
<b>Description:</b>	This project was designed to improve the quality and competitiveness of Colombian SMEs by introducing quality assurance systems based on ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 standards. Developing and introducing this program will provide direct support to SMEs attempting to become more competitive. To achieve its pre-established objectives, this Program comprises the following four components:

- (i) Raising awareness of the SMEs;
- (ii) Training for professionals offering their services on the market;
- (iii) Introduction of quality and environmental management systems; and
- (iv) Transferring know-how and marketing.

<b>Financing:</b>	Modality:	nonreimbursable - Facility II
	MIF:	US\$1,231,000
	Local counterpart:	US\$1,214,000
	Total:	US\$2,445,000

<b>Execution timetable:</b>	Execution period:	48 months
	Disbursement period:	54 months

**Special contractual clauses:** In addition to the general contractual terms applicable to this operation, the following special terms also apply:

Conditions to be met prior to the first disbursement of MIF resources are that the executing agency submit to the Bank within three months of the signing of the agreement: (i) evidence that the Board of Directors has been installed and has begun its activities; (ii) the agreement reached between ICONTEC and SENA, defining each party's operational and financial responsibilities.

**Environmental and social review:** The Profile for this operation was reviewed on October 8, 1999 by the Committee on Environment and Social Impact (CESI/TRG), which issued no recommendations.