RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as part of a trade mission she is currently leading to Japan and Korea. She was joined by representatives of 20 U.S. firms, including Humacyte, Inc. of Morrisville.

Secretary Pritzker underscored the Obama Administration's commitment to the Asia-Pacific region and the strength of the U.S.-Japan alliance. Secretary Pritzker noted that the economic and commercial dimension of the Administration's rebalance to Asia is particularly important, which is part of the reason she is leading a delegation of 20 American companies to Japan and Korea, some with longstanding relationships in the region and some who are looking to forge brand new relationships.

Secretary Pritzker said that deepening the already-strong economic and commercial ties between the U.S. and Japan is critical to strengthening our overall strategic partnerships across the Asia-Pacific.

Secretary Pritzker commended Prime Minister Abe on his commitment to reform throughout his two years in office, and noted that American businesses are eager to partner with Japan in the country's ongoing efforts to reform and strengthen its health care and energy sectors.

The mission will focus on the health care and energy sectors, promoting U.S. exports to Japan and South Korea by helping American companies launch or increase their business in these key markets.

In addition to Humaycyte, Inc. the firms on the trip are:

Abbott (Abbott Park, IL)

AmerisourceBergen (Valley Forge, PA)

Beautiful Earth Group, LLC (Brooklyn, NY)

C3 Energy (Redwood City, CA)

Cargill (Minneapolis, MN)

Cytori Therapeutics, (San Diego, CA)

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The Dow Chemical Company (Midland, MI)

Eli Lilly and Company (Indianapolis, IN)

HPI, LLC (Houston, TX)

Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (Sunnyvale, CA)

Marmon Engineered Wire and Cable (Chicago, IL)

Medidata Solutions (New York, NY)

Merck & Co. (Whitehouse Station, NJ)

Oregon LNG (Vancouver, WA)

Principle Power Inc. (Seattle, WA)

Quality Electrodynamics (Mayfield Village, OH)

Spacelabs Healthcare (Snoqualmie, WA)

Varian Medical Systems (Palo Alto, CA)

Zilkha Biomass Fuels (Houston, TX)