

(d) Hyperthyroidism Potentiates Aging Effects in Heart,
 (e) Bile Canaliculi Injury; Comparing Function to Structure,
 (f) Dolphin Mortality an Indicator of Environmental Degradation and
 (g) Splenic Toxicity of Aniline.

Application Accepted by Commissioner of Customs: April 19, 1995.

Docket Number: 95-036. *Applicant:* University of South Carolina, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, 730 S. Main Street, Columbia, SC 29208. *Instrument:* ICP Mass Spectrometer, Model ELEMENT. *Manufacturer:* Finnigan MAT GmbH, Germany. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used for studies of trace elements and their isotopes in environmental, geological and marine samples with complex background matrices. In addition, the instrument will be used as a supplement to several courses such as "Environmental and Analytical Chemistry" and seminars on instrument operation to prepare students to analyze their own samples and acquire accurate and precise data.

Application Accepted by Commissioner of Customs: April 24, 1995.

Docket Number: 95-037. *Applicant:* University of Miami, Chemistry, 1301 Memorial Dr., Room 315, Coral Gables, FL 33145. *Instrument:* L-B Film Deposition Apparatus with Ellipsometric Microscope.

Manufacturer: Nippon Laser & Electronics Lab., Japan. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used for studies of lipids, phospholipids, fatty acids, proteins, pigments and other molecules that are surfactant and may be spread at the air/water interface. The objective of these studies is to obtain better knowledge of the aggregation form of these molecules in a molecular model (monolayer) to understand phenomena like membrane rigidity, charge transport, reaction rate, etc. as they take place in living organisms. *Application Accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* April 25, 1995.

Docket Number: 95-039. *Applicant:* Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center, 1481 West Tenth Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope, Model CM120. *Manufacturer:* Philips, The Netherlands. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used in experiments involving collection of surgical, autopsy, and cytologic specimens for evaluation at the ultrastructural level and correlation of these findings with light microscopy and clinical findings to eventually render a pathologic description and diagnosis. In addition, the instrument will be used to provide hands-on experience for pathology residents,

fellows, and medical students in visualizing ultrastructural criteria necessary for making a variety of known pathologic diagnoses. *Application Accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* April 28, 1995.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

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BILLING CODE 3510-DS-F

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 950519137-5137-01]

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology invites proposals from qualified organizations for funding projects to provide manufacturing extension services to small- and medium-sized manufacturers in the United States. These projects correspond to the Manufacturing Technology Centers component of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP).

Manufacturing extension centers must be affiliated with a U.S.-based not-for-profit institution or organization. Support may be provided for a period not to exceed six years. Applicants are required to provide 50% or more of the operating costs for providing these manufacturing extension services in year 1 through 3 and an increasing percentage in years 4 through 6.

DATES: Proposals from qualified applicants must be received at the address below by August 7, 1995. Selection of awards will be made in September 1995.

ADDRESSES: Applicants must submit one signed original and six (6) copies of their proposal along with a Standard Form 424, 424-A, and 424-B (Rev 4-92) and Form CD-511 to the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Building 301, Room C121, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-0001. Plainly mark on the outside of the package that it contains a manufacturing extension center proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding this announcement, contact Roger Kilmer of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership by calling (301) 975-5020; or by mailing information requests to

the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Building 301, Room C121, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20899-0001. Information packets, which include background materials on MEP, existing centers and the necessary application forms, should be requested via a one page fax sent to (301) 963-6556. Please include name, organization, mailing address, telephone number, and fax number on this request.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

The catalog number for the award of Manufacturing Technology Centers funds in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is 11.611.

Background

In accordance with the provisions of Section 5121 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-418), codified in 15 U.S.C. § 278k, and final rule 15 CFR 290 published September 17, 1990 and amendment published May 2, 1994, NIST will provide assistance for the creation and support of manufacturing extension centers. The objective of these centers is to enhance productivity, technological performance, and strengthen the global competitiveness of small- and medium-sized U.S.-based manufacturing firms.

These manufacturing extension centers will become part of the MEP national system of extension service providers. Currently, MEP is managing 44 centers located throughout the United States. Information regarding MEP and these centers is provided in the information packet which can be obtained as explained above.

Funding Availability

It is anticipated that approximately \$41,000,000 will be available to support manufacturing extension centers under this program. The funding level for individual awards is not prescribed. The funding requested by the applicant should be directly related to the level of activity of the center, which is a function of the number of manufacturers in the designated service region, and to the availability of applicant-provided cash and in-kind contributions to be used as cost share.

Invitation for Proposals

Proposals must be received at the address listed above by August 7, 1995.

Award Period

The projects awarded under this program will have an initial performance period of one year. These

projects are renewable on an annual basis up to a maximum of six (6) years subject to the review requirements described in 15 CFR 290.8. Renewal of these projects shall be at the sole discretion of NIST and shall be based upon satisfactory performance, priority of the need for the service, existing legislative authority, and availability of funds.

Cost Share Requirements

A cost sharing contribution from the applicant is required. The applicant must provide 50% or more of the total capital, operating and maintenance costs for the center for years 1 through 3. The applicant's cost share requirement increases to 60% or more in year 4 and 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % or more in years 5 and 6. The applicant's share of the center expenses may include cash and in-kind contributions. In each of the six years, at least 50% of the applicant's total cost share (cash plus in-kind) must be in cash. The source of the cost share, both cash and in-kind, must be documented in the budget submitted in the proposal.

In all cases, a contribution will only be treated as cash cost share if the center director has suitable authority and discretion to control its expenditure. Acceptable cash cost share, which must come from non-federal sources, includes:

- Dollar contributions from state, country, city, industrial or other sources
- Income from fees charged for services performed
- Revenue from licensing, royalties, dividends, and capital gains
- Contributions of full-time personnel from other organizations
- Other contributions as approved by NIST

To qualify as in-kind cost share, the claimed items must be directly related to the tasks to be accomplished and must be utilized solely for the center activities or the cost share must be prorated based upon the percentage of time they are used for these activities. Acceptable in-kind cost share includes:

- Contributions of full-time personnel for which the center director lacks suitable authority and discretion to qualify as cash cost share
- Contributions of part-time personnel from other organizations
- Contributions of equipment, software, rental value of office, laboratory or other space
- Other contributions as approved by NIST

Proposal Content

The proposal must, at a minimum, include the following:

- A. An executive summary of the proposed project, consistent with the Evaluation Criteria stated in this notice.
- B. A description of the proposed project, sufficient to permit evaluation of the proposal, in accordance with the proposal Evaluation Criteria stated in this notice.
- C. A detailed budget for the proposed project which breaks out all expenses for year 1 of operation and identifies all sources of funds to pay these expenses.
- D. A budget outline for annual costs and sources of funds for years 2 through 6. It is expected, especially for newly created centers, that year one costs are lower because of a ramp-up of operations from start-up to the point where the center is fully operational and services are being provided. If such a ramp-up of operations is to occur, this should be reflected in the budget outline for years 2 through 6.
- E. A description of the qualifications of key personnel who will be assigned to work on the proposed project.
- F. A statement of work that discusses the specific tasks to be carried out, including a schedule of measurable events and milestones.
- G. A Standard Form 424, 424-A, and 424-B (Rev 4-92) prescribed by OMB circular A-110 and Form CD-511, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying. The 424 series of forms and form CD-511 will not be considered part of the page count of the proposal.

Proposal Format

The proposal must not exceed 25 typewritten pages in length. The proposal must contain both technical and cost information. The proposal page count shall include every page, including pages that contain words, table of contents, executive summary, management information and qualifications, resumes, figures, tables, and pictures. All proposals shall be printed such that pages are single-sided, with no more than fifty-five (55) lines per page. Use 21.6 x 27.9 cm (8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11") paper or A4 metric paper. Use an easy-to-read font of not more than about 5 characters per cm (fixed pitch font of 12 or fewer characters per inch or proportional font of point size 10 or larger). Smaller type may be used in figures and tables, but must be clearly legible. Margins on all sides (top,

bottom, left and right) must be at least 2.5 cm. (1"). The applicant may submit a separately bound document of appendices containing other supporting information. The proposal should be self-contained and not rely on the appendices for meeting criteria. Excess pages in the proposal will not be considered in the evaluation. Applicants must submit one signed original plus six (6) copies of the proposal.

Manufacturing Extension Centers

a. Project Objective

The objective of the projects funded under this program is to provide manufacturing extension services to small- and medium-sized manufacturers in the United States. These services are provided through the coordinated efforts of a regionally-based manufacturing extension center and local technology resources.

The management and operational structure of the manufacturing extension center is not prescribed, but should be based upon the characteristics of the manufacturers in the region and locally available resources. The center should include plans for integration into the MEP national system and linkages to appropriate national resources.

The focus of the center is to provide those manufacturing extension services required by the small- and medium-sized manufacturers in their service region using the most cost effective sources for those services. It is not the intent of this program that centers perform research and development.

b. Evaluation Criteria

All qualified proposals will be evaluated and rated on the basis of the following criteria by an impartial review panel. Each proposal should address all four evaluation criteria, which are assigned equal weighting. Selection will be based upon the total evaluation score of qualified proposals.

(1) *Identification of Target Firms in Proposed Region.* Does the proposal define an appropriate service region with a large enough population of target firms of small- and medium-sized manufacturers which the applicant understands and can serve, and which is not presently served by an existing center?

(i) *Market Analysis.* Demonstrated understanding of the service region's manufacturing base, including business size, industry types, product mix, and technology requirements.

(ii) *Geographical Location.* Physical size, concentration of industry, and economic significance of the service

region's manufacturing base. Geographical diversity of the centers will be a factor in evaluation of proposals; a proposal for a center located near an existing center may be considered only if the proposal is unusually strong and the population of manufacturers and the technology to be addressed justify it.

(2) *Technology Resources.* Does the proposal assure strength in technical personnel and programmatic resources, full-time staff, facilities, equipment, and linkages to external sources of technology to develop and transfer technologies related to NIST research results and expertise in the technical areas noted in these procedures?

(3) *Technology Delivery Mechanisms.* Does the proposal clearly and sharply define an effective methodology for delivering advanced manufacturing technology to small- and medium-sized manufacturers?

(i) *Linkages.* Development of effective partnerships or linkages to third parties such as industry, universities, nonprofit economic organizations, and state governments who will amplify the center's technology delivery to reach a large number of clients in its service region.

(ii) *Program Leverage.* Provision of an effective strategy to amplify the center's technology delivery approaches to achieve the proposed objectives as described in 15 CFR 290.3(e).

(4) *Management and Financial Plan.* Does the proposal define a management structure and assure management personnel to carry out development and operation of an effective center?

(i) *Organizational Structure.* Completeness and appropriateness of the organizational structure, and its focus on the mission of the center. Assurance of full-time top management of the center.

(ii) *Program Management.* Effectiveness of the planned methodology of program management.

(iii) *Internal Evaluation.* Effectiveness of the planned continuous internal evaluation of program activities.

(iv) *Plans for Financial Matching.* Demonstrated stability and duration of the applicants funding commitments as well as the percentage of operating and capital costs guaranteed by the applicant. Identification of matching fund sources and the general terms of the funding commitments. Evidence of the applicant's ability to become self-sustaining in six years.

(v) *Budget.* Suitability and focus of the applicants detailed one-year budget and six-year budget outline.

c. Eligibility Criteria

- Eligible applicants for these projects must be affiliated with a non-profit institution or organization.
- The applicant must provide the necessary cost share as specified above.
- Proposals for a center which provides services in a region in which another center already exists may be considered only if the proposal presents strong evidence that the number of manufacturers and the service it proposes to provide justifies it.
- Proposals for an industry sector-specific center or for expansion of an existing center will be considered. These proposals will be evaluated using the same selection criteria as for all other proposals.

Proposal Selection Process

Proposal evaluation and selection will consist of four principal phases: proposal qualification, proposal review, site visits and award determination.

a. Proposal Qualification

All proposals will be reviewed by NIST to assure compliance with the proposal content as described in 15 CFR 290.5 and other basic provisions of this notice. Proposals which satisfy these requirements will be designated as qualified proposals. Non-qualified proposals will not be evaluated and will be returned to the applicant.

b. Proposal Review

NIST will appoint an evaluation panel to review and evaluate all qualified proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in this notice. Based upon this review, the panel will select a group of finalists to be site visited.

c. Site Visits

Finalists will be notified and a site visit scheduled. Finalists will be reviewed and assigned numeric scores, assigning equal weight to each of the four criteria. Based upon these scores, the panel will submit recommendations to the Director of NIST, or a designee, for final award determination.

d. Award Determination

The Director of NIST, or a designee, shall make final determination of whether an award should be made to the proposing organization based on a review of the panel's recommendations.

Additional Requirements

(a) *Federal Policies and Procedures.* Recipients and sub-recipients are subject to all Federal laws and Federal and NIST policies, regulations, and

procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

(b) *Indirect Costs.* The total dollar amount of the indirect costs proposed in an application under this program must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by a cognizant Federal agency prior to the proposed effective date of the award or 100 percent of the total proposed direct costs dollar amount in the application, whichever is less.

(c) *Pre-award Activities.* If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any written or verbal assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation on the part of NIST to cover pre-award costs.

(d) *Delinquent Federal Debts.* No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either:

- (1) The delinquent account is paid in full;
- (2) A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received; or
- (3) Other arrangements satisfactory to NIST are made.

(e) *Past Performance.* Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

(f) *Name Check Review.* All non-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associated with the applicant have been convicted of or are presently facing criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters which significantly reflect on the applicant's management honesty or financial integrity.

(g) *Primary Applicant Certification.* All primary applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying," and the following explanations are hereby provided.

(1) *Non Procurement Debarment and Suspension.* Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 105) are subject to 15 CFR 26, "Non procurement Debarment and Suspension" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

(2) *Drug-free Workplace.* Recipients (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F, "Government-wide

Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

(3) *Anti-lobbying.* Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Section 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000, or the single family maximum mortgage limit for affected programs, whichever is greater; and

(4) *Anti-lobbying Disclosures.* Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required under 15 CFR Part 28, Appendix B.

(h) *Lower Tier Certifications.* Recipients shall require applicants/bidders for subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or other lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form, SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to NIST. SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or sub-recipient should be submitted to NIST in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

(i) *False Statements.* A false statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001

(j) *American-made Equipment and Products.* Applicants are hereby notified that they are encouraged, to the greatest extent practicable, to purchase American-made equipment and products with the funding provided under this program in accordance with Congressional intent.

(k) *North American Free Trade Agreement Patent Notification Procedures.* Pursuant to Executive Order 12889, the Department of Commerce (DoC) is required to notify the owner of any valid patent covering technology whenever the DoC or its financial assistance recipient, without making a patent search, knows (or has demonstrable reasonable grounds to know) that technology covered by a

valid United States patent has been or will be used without a license from the owner. Applicants selected for awards under this program are required to comply with this executive order.

(l) *Intergovernmental Review.*

Applications under this program are not subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs".

(m) *Paperwork Reduction Act.* This notice contains collection of information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act which have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB Control Number 0693-0005, 0348-0043 and 0348-0044).

Program Execution

(a) *Cooperative Agreement.* The formal agreement between NIST and the applicant will be in the form of a cooperative agreement. Under this agreement, the NIST MEP will have substantial interactions with the applicant in planning and executing this project. This may include the following:

- Assisting in developing required plans
- Providing access to standard manufacturing extension and related tools
- Facilitating partnering with appropriate organizations both within and outside of the MEP
- Defining measures for evaluation of performance
- Direct involvement in helping to understand, define, and resolve problems in the center's operations

(b) *Operating Plan.* All recipients of awards are required to submit an Operating Plan within ninety (90) days of the project start date. The Operating Plan is a more detailed statement of work based on project objectives and activities the applicant will undertake to achieve the objectives and incorporates recommendations provided by the evaluation panel and the NIST Program Officer. The Operating Plan must be reviewed and approved by NIST and will be incorporated into the cooperative agreement by amendment. Operating Plan guidelines will be distributed to award recipients.

(c) *Project Reporting.* Quarterly reports will be submitted to the NIST Program Officer no later than thirty (30) days after the end of each quarter of the award year. The information provided is used to characterize the projects, develop detailed case studies, and evaluate individual examples of outcomes. Quarterly reporting instructions will be distributed to award recipients.

Dated: May 31, 1995.

Samuel Kramer,

Associate Director.

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[Docket No. 950420110-5110-01]

RIN 0693-XX06

Proposed Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) for Public Key Cryptographic Entity Authentication Mechanisms

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NIST is proposing a FIPS for Public Key Cryptographic Entity Authentication Mechanisms, which will specify two challenge-response mechanisms by which entities in a computer system may authenticate their identities to one another. This standard defines protocols which are derived from an international standard for entity authentication based on public key cryptography using digital signatures and random number challenges.

Public key based authentication is advantageous because no secret information has to be shared by the entities involved in the exchange. In the authentication process, a user employs a private key to digitally sign a random number challenge issued by the verifying entity. This random number is a time variant parameter which is unique to the authentication exchange. If the verifier can successfully verify the signed response using the claimant's public key, then the claimant has been successfully authenticated.

Prior to the submission of this proposed FIPS to the Secretary of Commerce for review and approval, it is essential to assure that consideration is given to the needs and views of manufacturers, the public, and State and local governments. The purpose of this notice is to solicit such views.

The proposed FIPS contains two sections: (1) An announcement section, which provides information concerning the applicability, implementation, and maintenance of the standard; and (2) a specifications section which deal with the technical aspects of the standard. Only the announcement section of the standard is provided in this notice. Interested parties may obtain copies of the specifications section from the Standards Processing Coordinator, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Technology Building, Room B-64, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, telephone (301) 975-2816.