

Washington, DC 20573, within 10 days of the date this notice appears in the Federal Register.

Agreement No.: 224-200587-001.

Title: Puerto Rico Authorities/

Intership Army Terminal Agreement.

Parties:

Puerto Rico Ports Authority
International Shipping Agency, Inc
("Intership")

Synopsis: The proposed Agreement is modified to resolve outstanding issues and disputes (Docket No. 94-25), and to clarify the parties' respective rights and obligations. The Agreement also grants Intership an additional five-year extension option, and makes various other substantive and non-substantive changes.

Agreement No.: 224-201010.

Title: Philadelphia Regional Port Authority/Tioga Fruit Terminal Inc. Lease Agreement.

Parties:

Philadelphia Regional Port Authority
Tioga Fruit Terminal Inc.

Synopsis: Under the proposed lease agreement, Tioga will have exclusive use of certain buildings and yard space as well as berthing and other rights. The initial term of the lease runs through May 31, 1997, with an option to extend for two additional months.

Agreement No.: 224-201011.

Title: Piers M/N/O Terminal Lease and Development Agreement

Parties:

Puerto Rico Ports Authority
International Shipping Agency, Inc
("Intership")

Synopsis: The proposed Agreement provides for the lease to, and development and operation as a modern public marine terminal by, Intership of specified areas at the eastern end of the Puerto Nuevo Marine Terminal area in the Port of San Juan, which areas will be delivered and developed in phases as they become available. The Agreement also provides for five-year development period, followed by an initial 15-year operating term, with two five-year extension options.

Dated: December 12, 1996.

By order of the Federal Maritime Commission.

Joseph C. Polking,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-31965 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

Ocean Freight Forwarder License Applicants

Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have filed with the

Federal Maritime Commission applications for licenses as ocean freight forwarders pursuant to section 19 of the Shipping Act of 1984 (46 U.S.C. app. 1718 and 46 CFR 510).

Persons knowing of any reason why any of the following applicants should not receive a license are requested to contact the Office of Freight Forwarders, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, D.C. 20573.

AIT Ocean Systems, Inc., 210 Mittel

Drive, Wood Dale, IL 60191; Officers: Steven Leturno, President; Daniel Lisowski, Vice President

Paramount Transportation Service, Inc., 2258 Lazy River Drive, Charleston, SC 29414, Officers: Gregg W. Aselage, President; Robyn G. Aselage, Vice President

International Transport Services, 18747 Sheldon Road, Cleveland, OH 44130; Officer: Lawrence P. Yankow, President

Dated: December 12, 1996.

Joseph C. Polking,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-31964 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

Labor-Management Cooperation Program; Application Solicitation for Labor-Management Committees FY 1997

A. Introduction

The following is the final solicitation for the Fiscal Year (FY) 1997 cycle of the Labor-Management Cooperation Program as it pertains to the support of labor-management committees. These guidelines represent the continuing efforts of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to implement the provisions of the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978 which was initially implemented in FY81. The Act generally authorizes FMCS to provide assistance in the establishment and operation of plant, area, public sector, and industry-wide labor-management committees which:

(A) Have been organized jointly by employers and labor organizations representing employees in that plant, area, government agency, or industry; and

(B) Are established for the purpose of improving labor-management relationships, job security, and organizational effectiveness; enhancing economic development; or involving workers in decisions affecting their jobs, including improving communication

with respect to subjects of mutual interest and concern.

The Program Description and other sections that follow, as well as a separately published FMCS Financial and Administrative Grants Manual, make up the basic guidelines, criteria, and program elements a potential applicant for assistance under this program must know in order to develop an application for funding consideration for either a plant, area-wide, industry, or public sector labor-management committee. Directions for obtaining an application kit and an optional video tape may be found in Section H. A copy of the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978, included in the application kit, should be reviewed in conjunction with this solicitation.

B. Program Description

Objectives

The Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978 identifies the following seven general areas for which financial assistance would be appropriate:

- (1) To improve communication between representatives of labor and management;
- (2) To provide workers and employers with opportunities to study and explore new and innovative joint approaches to achieving organizational effectiveness;
- (3) To assist workers and employers in solving problems of mutual concern not susceptible to resolution within the collective bargaining process;
- (4) To study and explore ways of eliminating potential problems which reduce the competitiveness and inhibit the economic development of the plant, area, or industry;
- (5) To enhance the involvement of workers in making decisions that affect their working lives;
- (6) To expand and improve working relationships between workers and managers; and
- (7) To encourage free collective bargaining by establishing continuing mechanisms for communication between employers and their employees through Federal assistance in the formation and operation of labor-management committees.

The primary objective of this program is to encourage and support the establishment and operation of joint labor-management committees to carry out specific objectives that meet the forementioned general criteria. The term "labor" refers to employees represented by a labor organization and covered by a formal collective bargaining agreement. These committees may be found at either the plant (worksites), areas, industry, or public sector levels.

A plant or worksite committee is generally characterized as restricted to one or more organizational or productive units operated by a single employer. An area committee is generally composed of multiple employers of diverse industries as well as multiple labor unions operating within and focusing upon city, county, contiguous multicounty, or statewide jurisdictions. An industry committee generally consists of a collection of agencies or enterprises and related labor union(s) producing a common product or service in the private sector on a local, state, regional, or nationwide level. A public sector committee consists either of government employees and managers in one or more units of a local or state government, managers and employees of public institutions of higher education, or of employees and managers of public elementary and secondary schools. Those employees must be covered by a formal collective bargaining agreement or other enforceable labor-management agreement. In deciding whether an application is for an area or industry committee, consideration should be given to the above definitions as well as to the focus of the committee.

In FY 1997, competition will be open to plant, area, private industry, and public sector committees. Public Sector committees will be divided into the sub-categories for scoring purposes. One sub-category will consist of committees representing state/local units of government and public institutions of higher education. The second sub-category will consist of public elementary and secondary schools.

Special consideration will be given to committee applications involving innovative or unique efforts. All application budget requests should focus directly on supporting the committee. Applicants should avoid seeking funds for activities that are clearly available under other Federal programs (e.g., job training, mediation of contract disputes, etc.).

Required Program Elements

1. Problem Statement

The application, which should have numbered pages, must discuss in detail what specific problem(s) face the plant, area, government, or industry and its workforce that will be addressed by the committee. Applicants must document the problem(s) using as much relevant data as possible and discuss the full range of impacts these problem(s) could have or are having on the plant, government, area, or industry. An industrial or economic profile of the

area and workforce might prove useful in explaining the problem(s). This section basically discusses *WHY* the effort is needed.

2. Results or Benefits Expected

By using specific goals and objectives, the application must discuss in detail *WHAT* the labor-management committee as a demonstration effort will accomplish during the life of the grant. Applications that offer to provide objectives *after* a grant is awarded will receive little or no credit in this area. While a goal of "improving communication between employers and employees" may suffice as one over-all goal of a project, the objectives must, whenever possible, be expressed in specific and measurable terms. Applicants should focus on the impacts or changes that the committee's efforts will have. Existing committees should focus on *expansion* efforts/results expected from FMCS funding. The goals, objectives, and projected impacts will become the foundation for future monitoring and evaluation efforts.

3. Approach

This section of the application specifies *HOW* the goals and objectives will be accomplished. At a minimum, the following elements must be included in all grant applications:

- (a) A discussion of the strategy the committee will employ to accomplish its goals and objectives;
- (b) A listing, by name and title, of all existing or proposed members of the labor-management committee. The application should also offer a rationale for the selection of the committee members (e.g., members represent 70% of the area or plant workforce).
- (c) A discussion of the number, type, and role of all committee staff persons. Include proposed position descriptions for all staff that will have to be hired as well as resumes for staff already on board;
- (d) In addressing the proposed approach, applicants must also present their justification as to why Federal funds are needed to implement the proposed approach;
- (e) A statement of how often the committee will meet (we require meetings at least every other month) as well as any plans to form subordinate committees for particular purposes; and
- (f) For applications from existing committees (i.e., in existence at least 12 months prior to the submission deadline), a discussion of past efforts and accomplishments and how they would integrate with the proposed expanded effort.

4. Major Milestones

This section must include an implementation plan that indicates what major steps, operating activities, and objectives will be accomplished as well as a timetable for *WHEN* they will be finished. A milestone chart must be included that indicates what specific accomplishments (process and impact) will be completed by month over the life of the grant using September 15, 1997, as the start date. The accomplishment of these tasks and objectives, as well as problems and delays therein, will serve as the basis for quarterly progress reports to FMCS.

5. Evaluation

Applicants must provide for either an external evaluation or an internal assessment of the project's success in meeting its goals and objectives. An evaluation plan must be developed which briefly discusses what basic questions or issues the assessment will examine and what baseline data the committee staff already has or will gather for the assessment. This section should be written with the application's own goals and objectives clearly in mind and the impacts or changes that the effort is expected to cause.

6. Letters of Commitment

Applications must include current letters of commitment from all proposed or existing committee participants and chairpersons. These letters should indicate that the participants support the application and will attend scheduled committee meetings. A blanket letter signed by a committee chairperson or other official on behalf of all members is not acceptable. We encourage the use of individual letters submitted on company or union letterhead represented by the individual. The letters should match the names provided under Section 3(b).

7. Other Requirements

Applicants are also responsible for the following:

- (a) The submission of data indicating approximately how many employees will be covered or represented through the labor-management committee;
- (b) From existing committees, a copy of the existing staffing levels, a copy of the by-laws, a breakout of annual operating costs and identification of all sources and levels of current financial support;
- (c) A detailed budget narrative based on policies and procedures contained in the FMCS Financial and Administrative Grants Manual;
- (d) An assurance that the labor-management committee will not

interfere with any collective bargaining agreements; and

(e) An assurance that committee meetings will be held at least every other month and that written minutes of all committee meetings will be prepared and made available to FMCS.

Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used in the scoring and selection of applications for award:

(1) The extent to which the application has clearly identified the problems and justified the needs that the proposed project will address.

(2) The degree to which appropriate and measurable goals and objectives have been developed to address the problems/needs of the area. For existing committees, the extent to which the committee will focus on expanded efforts.

(3) The feasibility of the approach proposed to attain the goals and objectives of the project and the perceived likelihood of accomplishing the intended project results. This section will also address the degree of the innovativeness or uniqueness of the proposed effort.

(4) The appropriateness of committee membership and the degree of commitment of these individuals to the goals of the application as indicated in the letters of support.

(5) The feasibility and thoroughness of the implementation plan in specifying major milestones and target dates.

(6) The cost effectiveness and fiscal soundness of the application's budget request, as well as the application's feasibility vis-a-vis its goals and approach.

(7) The overall feasibility of the proposed project in light of all of the information presented for consideration; and

(8) The value to the government of the application in light of the overall objectives of the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978. This includes such factors as innovativeness, site location, cost, and other qualities that impact upon an applicant's value in encouraging the labor-management committee concept.

C. Eligibility

Eligible grantees include state and local units of government, labor-management committees (or a labor union, management association, or company on behalf of a committee that will be created through the grant), and certain third party private non-profit entities on behalf of one or more committees to be created through the

grant. Federal government agencies and their employees are not eligible.

Third-party private, non-profit entities which can document that a major purpose or function of their organization has been the improvement of labor relations are eligible to apply. However, all funding must be directed to the functioning of the labor-management committee, and all requirements under Part B must be followed. Applications from third-party entities must document particularly strong support and participation from all labor and management parties with whom the applicant will be working. Applications from third-parties which do not directly support the operation of a new or expanded committee will not be deemed eligible, nor will applications signed by entities such as law firms or other third parties failing to meet the above criteria.

Applicants who received funding under this program in the past for committee operations are generally not eligible to apply. The only exceptions apply to third-party grantees who seek funds on behalf of an entirely different committee.

D. Allocations

The total FY 1997 appropriation for this program is \$1.5 million, of which at least \$725,000 will be available competitively for new applicants. Specific funding levels will not be established for each type of committee. Instead, the review process will be conducted in such a manner that at least two awards will be made in each category (plant, industry, public sector, and area), providing that FMCS determines that at least two outstanding applications exist in each category. After these applications are selected for award, the remaining applications will be considered according to merit without regard to category. A maximum of \$400,000 of the \$1.5 million appropriation has been reserved for the limited continuation of FY95-funded grantees.

In addition to the competitive process identified in the preceding paragraph, FMCS will set aside a sum not to exceed thirty percent of its non-reserved appropriation to be awarded on a non-competitive basis. These funds will be used only to support industry-specific national-scope initiatives and/or regional industry models with high potential for widespread replication that have been solicited by the Director of the Service.

FMCS reserves the right to retain up to an additional five percent of the FY97 appropriation to contract for program support purposes (such as evaluation)

other than administration. In addition, \$25,000 has been reserved to support the Ninth National Labor-Management Conference which will be held in Chicago on April 7-9, 1998.

E. Dollar Range and Length of Grants and Continuation Policy

Awards to continue and expand existing labor-management committees (i.e., in existence 12 months prior to the submission deadline) will be for a period of 12 months. If successful progress is made during this initial budget period and if sufficient appropriations for expansion and continuation projects are available, these grants may be continued for a limited time at a 40 percent cash match ratio. Initial awards to establish new labor-management committees (i.e., not yet established or in existence less than 12 months prior to the submission deadline), will be for a period of 18 months. If successful progress is made during this initial budget period and if sufficient appropriations for expansion and continuation projects are available, these grants may be continued for a limited time at a 40 percent cash match ratio. The dollar range of awards is as follows:

- Up to \$35,000 in FMCS funds per annum for existing in-plant or single department public sector applicants;
- Up to \$50,000 over 18 months for new in-plant committee or single department public sector applicants;
- Up to \$75,000 in FMCS funds per annum for existing area, industry and multi-department public sector committees applicants;
- Up to \$100,000 per 18-month period for new area, industry, and multi-department public sector committee applicants.

Applicants are reminded that these figures represent maximum Federal funds only. If total costs to accomplish the objectives of the application exceed the maximum allowable Federal funding level and its required grantee match, applicants may supplement these funds through voluntary contributions from other sources. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with their local or regional FMCS field offices to determine what kinds of training may be available at no cost before budgeting for such training in their applications. A list of our field leadership team and their phone numbers is included in the application kit.

F. Match Requirements and Cost Allowability

Applicants for new labor-management committees must provide at least 10

percent of the total allowable project costs. Applicants for existing committees must provide at least 25 percent of the total allowable project costs. All matching funds may come from state or local government sources or private sector contributions, but may generally not include other Federal funds. Funds generated by grant-supported efforts are considered "project income," and may not be used for matching purposes.

It will be the policy of this program to reject all requests for indirect or overhead costs as well as "in-kind" match contributions. In addition, grant funds must not be used to supplant private or local/state government funds currently spent for these purposes. Funding requests from existing committees should focus entirely on the costs associated with the expansion efforts. Also, under no circumstances may business or labor officials participating on a labor-management committee be compensated out of grant funds for their *time* spent at committee meetings or *time* spent in training sessions. Applicants generally will not be allowed to claim all or a portion of *existing* full-time staff time as an expense or match contribution.

For a more complete discussion of cost allowability, applicants are encouraged to consult the FY97 FMCS Financial and Administrative Grants Manual which will be included in the application kit.

G. Application Submission and Review Process

Applications should be signed by *both* a labor and management representative and be postmarked no later than April 19, 1997. No application or supplementary materials can be accepted after the deadline. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is correctly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or other carrier. An original application containing numbered pages, plus *three* copies, should be addressed to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Labor-Management Program Services, 2100 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20427. FMCS will not consider videotaped submissions or video attachments to submissions.

After the deadline has passed, all eligible applications will be reviewed and scored initially by one or more Customer Review Boards. The Board(s) will recommend selected applications for further funding consideration. The Director, Labor-Management Program Services, will finalize the scoring and selection process. The individual listed as contact person in Item 6 on the

application form will generally be the only person with whom FMCS will communicate during the application review process.

All FY97 grant applicants will be notified of results and all grant awards will be made before September 15, 1997. Applications submitted after the April 19 deadline date or that fail to adhere to eligibility or other major requirements will be administratively rejected by the Director, Labor-Management Program Services.

H. Contact

Individuals wishing to apply for funding under this program should contact the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service as soon as possible to obtain an application kit. These kits and additional information or clarification can be obtained free of charge by contacting Karen Pierce or Linda Stubbs, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Labor-Management Program Services, 2100 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20427; or by calling 202-606-8181.

An optional video tape, entitled "How to Apply for a Grant From FMCS", is also available. The tape, however, will only be sent out after we receive a specific *written* request for the video.

John Calhoun Wells,

Director, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

[FR Doc. 96-31916 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6732-01-M

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. Once the application has been accepted for processing, it will also be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in

the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act, including whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company can "reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public, such as greater convenience, increased competition, or gains in efficiency, that outweigh possible adverse effects, such as undue concentration of resources, decreased or unfair competition, conflicts of interests, or unsound banking practices" (12 U.S.C. 1843). Any request for a hearing must be accompanied by a statement of the reasons a written presentation would not suffice in lieu of a hearing, identifying specifically any questions of fact that are in dispute, summarizing the evidence that would be presented at a hearing, and indicating how the party commenting would be aggrieved by approval of the proposal. Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than January 11, 1997.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (John E. Yorke, Senior Vice President) 925 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64198:

1. *Mid-America Bankshares, Inc.*, Baldwin City, Kansas; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of State Bank of Esbon, Esbon, Kansas.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 11, 1996.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 96-31906 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TIME AND DATE: Approximately 11:30 a.m., Friday, December 20, 1996, following a recess at the conclusion of the open meeting.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, C Street entrance between 20th and 21st Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551.

STATUS: Closed