

Yale University; Notice of Decision on Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instrument

This decision is made pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Docket Number: 96-102. Applicant: Yale University, New Haven, CT 06520. Instrument: SIMS IVS Console. Manufacturer: Surrey Medical Imaging Systems Ltd., United Kingdom. Intended Use: See notice at 61 FR 55972, October 30, 1996.

Comments: None received. Decision: Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as it is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States. Reasons: This is a compatible accessory for an existing instrument purchased for the use of the applicant. The National Institutes of Health advises in its memorandum dated October 21, 1996, that the accessory is pertinent to the intended uses and that it knows of no comparable domestic accessory.

We know of no domestic accessory which can be readily adapted to the existing instrument.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 97-926 Filed 1-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

[Docket No. 970109004-7004-01]

RIN 0625-ZA04

Amend Cooperative Program to Establish and Operate "American Business Centers" in the Newly Independent State of the Former Soviet Union

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Reference 58 FR 36941, July 9, 1993, the International Trade Administration (ITA) announces that it will accept competitive proposals from organizations currently managing one, or more, American Business Center(s) to continue operations at their respective site(s). Each organization currently working with ITA under a cooperative agreement may submit competitive proposals for up to \$150,000 in

additional Federal support to continue operations for up to an additional twelve months. Successful Applicants will be funded by amending existing cooperative agreements. The total amount of award funds available is \$650,000.

DATES: Applications must be received no later than 4:30 pm, E.S.T., February 14, 1997. Applications received after that time will not be reviewed by ITA. Applications will not be accepted via e-mail or facsimile machine transmission.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be mailed or hand delivered to, and Application Kits may be obtained from, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 1235, HCHB, Washington, D.C. 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Vivian Spathopoulos, Deputy Director, Russia/NIS Program Office, U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, telephone: (202) 482-2902.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Proposals will be reviewed competitively against the following seven criteria: Quality of Work Plan, 30%; U.S. Trade and Investment Opportunities, 30%; Plan for Self-Sustainability, 10%; Success to Date, 15%; U.S. Small Business Utility, 5%; Qualifications of Applicant, 5%; and, Reasonableness of Cost, 5%. The application selection process will be the same as those published in the July 9, 1993 Federal Register notice referenced above. ITA reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposals.

This announcement extends the period of time during which an American Business Center (ABC) operator may receive Federal assistance from three (03) to four (04) years and postpones the end date of the program from September 30, 1997 to September 30, 1998. All other terms and conditions listed in the above referenced Federal Register notice remain in effect. All eligible Applicants will be sent an Application Kit via overnight mail or other priority mail.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to nor shall a person be subject to penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

This action involves collections of information subject to the PRA and have been approved under control numbers 0348-0040, 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0046 and 0605-0001.

ITA will accept only those applications submitted by institutions

currently administering one, or more, ABC(s) under the terms of this program. Incumbent operators may only apply to secure additional funding to continue operations at the site(s) where the Applicant already operates an ABC. Applicants must submit separate applications for each site.

Dated: January 7, 1997.

Lauri J. Fitz-Pegado,

Assistant Secretary and Director General, The Commercial Service.

[FR Doc. 97-1011 Filed 1-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-FP-P

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Notice of Public Meeting on the Fastener Quality Act

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

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: NIST will hold an open meeting on February 4, 1997, to solicit industry views on the use of the statistical process control (SPC) in the manufacture of fasteners under the Fastener Quality Act (Public Law 101-592, as amended by Public Law 104-113) (The Act). The purposes of the meeting are to determine what impact, if any, the inspection, testing, and certification requirements of the Act and regulations may have on fastener manufacturers who use statistical process control and to identify ways in which the requirements of the Act and regulations might be met by SPC. Fastener manufacturers, Major End Users of fasteners (Automobile, Aerospace, Heavy Machinery, and others), representatives of Consensus Standards Bodies and Laboratory Accreditation Organizations, and academics with appropriate engineering expertise are invited to make presentations not exceeding 15 minutes each during the meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on February 4, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Individuals and organizations wishing to present information orally during the meeting must contact NIST not later than January 24, 1997, to request time, not to exceed 15 minutes, on the program.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place in the Green Auditorium, Administration Building (Bldg. 101), at NIST in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Individuals and organizations wishing to present information orally during the meeting should contact Mr. David

Edgerly, Deputy Director, Technology Services, NIST, telephone 301-975-4510, telefax 301-975-2183. All other questions should be directed to Dr. Subhas Malghan, Program Manager, Fastener Quality Act, Building 820, Room 306, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899; telephone 301-975-6101, telefax 301-975-2183.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The agenda for the meeting is:

1. Welcome and opening remarks.
2. NIST overview of SPC issues raised by industry.
3. Statements by members of the public on the issues.
4. Discussion of potential solutions.
5. Next Steps (NIST).

Various industries, including automobiles, aerospace, and heavy machinery industries have established quality assurance programs as a means of assuring quality parts and materials from large networks of suppliers, and have invested considerable energy and expense in developing such systems. Companies supplying fasteners under quality assurance systems (such as QS9000), have also invested considerable energy and expense in putting quality systems in place and in getting registered to them as a condition of supplying fasteners to major end users. NIST has heard from some representatives of industry that the Fasteners Quality Act's reliance on lot control and final inspection of fasteners may be inconsistent with and may not meet the standards of modern mass production using statistical process control.

The proposed meeting is for the purpose of addressing these issues and to provide a forum for discussion of possible solutions under the Act and regulations. NIST would like to hear from a variety of sources including the aerospace, automobile and heavy machinery industries, fastener manufacturers who supply such industries on the use of statistical process control under quality assurance plans similar to QS9000, and interested academics. Also, because reliance upon existing consensus standards and specifications is a cornerstone of the Fastener Quality Act, representatives of consensus standards organizations are invited to discuss efforts underway to recognize statistical process control in fastener standards and specifications. Similarly, some fastener manufacturers rely on in-process measurements of critical fastener parameters by manufacturing personnel rather than upon final testing of such parameters by

an accredited laboratory. Because SPC may implicate laboratory accreditations under the Act and regulations, laboratory accreditation bodies are also invited to present their views.

Dated: January 8, 1997.

Elaine Bunten-Mines,

Acting Associate Director.

[FR Doc. 97-942 Filed 1-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA Coastal Ocean Data Workshop

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of workshop.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) of the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and the Coastal Services Center (CSC) of the National Ocean Service (NOS) in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO) are co-sponsoring a NOAA Coastal Ocean Data Workshop on March 11-13, 1997. The purpose of the workshop is to enhance NOAA's ability to meet the requirements of its customers in the coastal ocean community regarding data and information management; and to encourage formation of additional partnerships and joint ventures.

DATES: The workshop will take place on March 11-13, 1997. It will begin at 8:30 a.m. on the 11th, and end at 12 noon on the 13th.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held at J. Seward Johnson Marine Education and Conference Center at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution in Fort Pierce, FL. Parties interested in participating in the workshop should contact Roz Cohen (NODC) at 301-713-3267 x146 by close of business on January 30, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roz Cohen (NODC) at 301-713-3267 x146.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the workshop is to enhance NOAA's ability to meet the requirements of its customers in the coastal ocean community by:

—Providing a forum for individuals in the coastal ocean community to present their requirements regarding data and information management, product development, and synthesis;

—Increasing knowledge and awareness of NOAA's activities within the coastal ocean community in the areas of data and information management, synthesis, and product development; —Providing additional opportunities for NOAA to form partnerships and joint ventures with its partners in the coastal ocean community; and —Being responsive to the new Ocean Partnership Program.

The workshop will include about 80 participants from Federal, state, and local government agencies, academia, the private sector, and the general public. It will consist of a series of plenary and smaller working group sessions. The major areas addressed will be (1) identification of data required to address major regional and national coastal ocean issues and scientific research priorities; (2) identification of specific data management requirements: data types, levels of precision, national and international standards, levels of quality control metadata and documentation, formats, accessibility, timeliness, synthesis products, etc.; and (3) potential partnerships, joint ventures, and networking to implement the recommendations.

The National Oceanographic Data Center is one of several environmental data centers managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The headquarters office of NODC is located in Silver Spring, MD. There are five field offices collocated with major government or private oceanographic laboratories in Woods Hole, MA; Miami, FL; La Jolla, CA; Seattle, WA, and Honolulu, Hawaii. NODC houses the world's largest collection of publicly available oceanographic data, including coastal ocean holdings. The primary mission of NODC is to ensure that oceanographic data collected at great cost are maintained in a permanent archive that is easily accessible to the world science community and to other users. NODC does not conduct any data collection programs of its own; it serves solely as a repository and dissemination facility for data collected by others. In this capacity, NODC acquires, processes, archives, analyzes, and disseminates global oceanographic data; and develops analytical and descriptive products to meet user requirements. NODC also operates World Data Center-A for Oceanography and the NOAA Library.

Each year the NODC responds to thousands of requests for oceanographic data and information from national and international customers in Federal, state, and local government agencies, the private sector, non-profit