

proposes to delete the interpretation relating to verbal transfer approvals.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule is consistent with the provisions of section 6(b)(4) of the Act,⁸ in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members, issuers and other persons using its services. In addition, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule is consistent with the provisions of section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁹ which require the rules of an exchange to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating securities transactions.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants or Others

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁰ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4¹¹ thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

The Exchange has requested that the Commission accelerate the operative date. The Commission finds good cause to designate the proposal both effective and operative upon filing with the Commission because such designation is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Acceleration of the operative date will ensure that the benefits of the interpretation to NYSE Rule 345 and the deletion of the provision regarding verbal transfer approvals are not

needlessly delayed. For these reasons, the Commission finds good cause to designate that the proposal is both effective and operative upon filing with the Commission.¹²

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposal is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NYSE. All submissions should refer to file number SR-NYSE-2002-16 and should be submitted by July 5, 2002.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹³

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-14943 Filed 6-12-02; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Federal and State Technology Partnership Program To Provide Outreach and Technical Assistance to Small Technology-Based Businesses Interested in Becoming Involved or Presently Involved in Federal R&D Programs

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Program Announcement No. FAST-02-R-0002.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) plans to issue Program Announcement No. FAST-02-0002 to invite applicants from the 50

¹² For purposes only of accelerating the operative date of this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance services to technology-based small business owners. This program is authorized by Public Law 106-554 §§ 111 & 112 codified at 15 U.S.C. 631 *et seq.* There is a one proposal per state limitation on this competition. Only one proposal from each state may be submitted to SBA for consideration, and this application must have an original signed Letter of Endorsement from the State Governor (Mayor for the District of Columbia). Prospective recipients of SBA funding under this Program Announcement include both new applicants and current FAST Program service providers. Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, state and local Economic Development Agencies, colleges and universities and Small Businesses Development Centers. Funds will be provided to conduct programs for a 12-month budget and performance period. Applications/proposals must be postmarked by 4 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, July 25, 2002. If using a delivery service other than the U.S. Postal Service, the application must be delivered and accepted by the Office of Procurement and Grants Management or mailroom staff by the deadline specified above. SBA will select successful applicants using a competitive process. Applications will be reviewed and awarded simultaneously for new and incumbent applicants under this Announcement. Applicants must plan to target women and minority small businesses as well as those small businesses not traditionally involved in the SBIR/STTR programs. Applicants' technical proposal must contain information about its current status and past performance (incumbent applicant's only), and a plan describing how the effort will be sustained once the grant expires. The FAST Program is authorized through Fiscal Year 2005 and will be competed annually, subject to availability of funds. There is a cascading non-Federal match requirement for this program. The non-Federal match requirement ratios are based on state rankings derived from FY 2000 Phase I SBIR awards. These ratios are 1:1, 2:1 and 3:4. The program announcement will be available at <http://www.sba.gov/sbir>.

DATES: The application period will be from June 10, 2002 until July 25, 2002.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹¹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Cherina Hunter, (202) 205-7344 or Mina
Bookhard (202) 205-7080.

Maurice Swinton,

*Assistant Administrator, SBA Office of
Technology.*

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BILLING CODE 0025-01-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Announcement of the Extension of the SBAExpress Pilot Loan Program

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business
Administration.

ACTION: Notice of pilot extension.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announces extension of the SBAExpress Loan program as a pilot until September 30, 2002. This extension will allow time for the Agency to develop, implement and test significant changes to the program. These changes are the product of discussions with SBA field offices, SBA lenders, and the small business community.

The SBAExpress Pilot Loan program was established in 1995 to streamline and expedite the SBA's loan application, processing and approval procedures for smaller loans and to substantially increase the number of those loans approved by the Agency. While the program has grown to represent 29 percent of the SBA's current loan volume, the Agency has identified a number of changes and enhancements that would make the program more attractive to its lending partners and better meet the needs of small businesses. The extension of SBAExpress as a pilot until September 30, 2005, will allow the Agency to implement those changes and test their implications for the Agency's portfolio. It will also allow SBA to further consult with regulatory and lending institutions, lenders and the small business community about the program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Charles Thomas, Office of Financial Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW, Suite 8300, Washington, DC 20416; telephone (202) 205-6490.

Dated: June 7, 2002.

Jane Palsgrove Butler,

Associate Administrator for Financial Assistance.

[FR Doc. 02-14894 Filed 6-12-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4050]

Request for Proposals

The Office of Crime Programs, Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL/C) is seeking proposals from qualified U.S. Organizations and Institutions with the requisite capability and experience to develop a methodology for assessing the effectiveness of anticorruption policies and actions being taken by national governments. The methodology should include a process to identify deficiencies in such policies and actions for the purpose of providing constructive input and targeting technical assistance to address deficiencies. Organizations will also be asked to test this methodology on four sample countries. Current plans are to award up to a total of \$200,000 to be available to develop this International Anticorruption Assessment Process (IAAP). Applications are due 7/12/02 at 4 p.m. EST. Interested applicants may obtain detailed application instructions from the following website: www.statebuy.gov; click on grant opportunities.

For questions, please contact Linda Gower, Grants Officer, at (202) 776-8774 or gowerlg@state.gov.

Dated: June 6, 2002.

Steve Peterson,

Director, Office of Crime Programs, Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 02-14990 Filed 6-12-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3988]

Notice of Meeting; United States International Telecommunication Advisory Committee Telecommunication Development Sector

The Department of State announces a meeting of the U.S. International Telecommunication Advisory Committee (ITAC-D). The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Department on policy, technical and operational issues with respect to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). This meeting will address preparations for the ITU-D Study Group and Telecommunication Development Advisory Group meetings.

The ITAC-D will meet from 2:30 to 4:30 on June 18, 2002 at the Department of State Room 1406. Admittance of

public members will be limited to the seating available. In this regard, entrance to the Department of State is controlled. People intending to attend the meeting should send a fax to (202) 647-7407 not later than 24 hours before the meeting. On this fax, please include the name of the meeting, your name, social security number, date of birth and organization. One of the following valid photo identifications will be required for admittance: U.S. driver's license with your picture on it, U.S. passport, or U.S. Government identification. Directions to the meeting location and on which entrance to use may be determined by calling the ITAC Secretariat at 202 647-2592 or e-mail to worsleydm@state.gov. Attendees may join in the discussions, subject to the instructions of the Chair. Admission of participants will be limited to seating available.

Dated: May 30, 2002.

Doreen McGirr,

Director, ITU-D Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 02-14991 Filed 6-12-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-45-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. WTO/DS-260]

WTO Consultations Regarding EC Provisional Safeguard Measures Against Imports of Certain Steel Products

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is providing notice that on May 30, 2002, the United States requested consultations with the European Communities (EC) under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), regarding the imposition of provisional safeguard measures against imports of certain steel products. These measures appear to be inconsistent with the EC's obligations under the provisions of the GATT 1994 and of the WTO *Agreement on Safeguards*, and, in particular, Article XIX of the GATT 1994 and Articles 2, 3, 4, 6, and 12 of the *Agreement on Safeguards*. Pursuant to Article 4.3 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU), such consultations are to take place within a period of 30 days from the date of the request, or within a period otherwise mutually agreed between the United States and the EC. USTR invites written