

You may also request a copy from Mr. David W. Robinson. See the section entitled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** for the complete address.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 16, 2004.

Susan J.M. Cabler,

Acting Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Proposed Technical Standard Order (TSO)—C159, Avionics Supporting Next Generation Satellite Systems (NGSS)

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability and requests for public comment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of and requests comments on a proposed Technical Standard Order (TSO) C-159, Avionics Supporting Next Generation Satellite Systems (NGSS). This proposed TSO tells persons seeking a TSO authorization or letter of design approval what minimum performance standards (MPS) their Next Generation Satellite Systems (NGSS) must meet to be identified with the applicable TSO marking.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 23, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments on the proposed technical standard order to: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Aircraft Certification Service, Aircraft Engineering Division, Avionic Systems Branch, AIR-130, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591. ATTN: Ms. Dara Gibson. Or deliver comments to: Federal Aviation Administration, Room 815, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Dara Gibson, AIR-130, Room 815 Federal Aviation Administration, Aircraft Certification Service, Aircraft Engineering Division, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591. Telephone (202) 385-4632, FAX: (202) 385-4651. Or, via e-mail at: dara.gibson@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed TSO listed in

this notice by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they desire to the above specified address.

Comments received on the proposed TSO may be examined, before and after the comment closing date, in Room 815, FAA Headquarters Building, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591, weekdays except Federal holidays, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. All communications received on or before the closing date will be considered by the Director of the Aircraft Certification Service before issuing the final TSO.

Background

This proposed TSO applies to avionics supporting Next Generation Satellite Systems (NGSS) that provide Aeronautical Mobile Satellite (R) Services. Note that the capability of the NGSS includes the support of both data and voice communications between aircraft and ground-based users. To accomplish this task, the MPS contained in the proposed TSO-C159 will assist manufacturers of NGSS equipment in their compliance with the applicable requirements of RTCA Document Number (RTCA/DO) 262, Minimum Operational Performance Standards (MOPS) for Avionics Supporting Next Generation Satellite Systems, dated December 14, 2000.

How To Obtain Copies

You may get a copy of the proposed TSO from the Internet at: <http://av-info.faa.gov/tso/Tsopro/Proposed.htm>. See section entitled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** for the complete address if requesting a copy by mail. You may inspect the RTCA document at the FAA office location listed under **ADDRESSES**. Note however, RTCA documents are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without the written consent of RTCA, Inc. You may purchase copies of RTCA, Inc. documents from: RTCA, Inc., 1828 L Street, NW., Suite 815, Washington, DC 20036, or directly from their Web site: <http://www.rtca.org/>.

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Susan J. M. Cabler,

Assistant Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Cooperative Procurement Pilot Program

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice; request for proposals.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the establishment of a new Cooperative Procurement Pilot Program (CPPP) and solicits proposals for consideration. Section 166 of the Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004 directs the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to establish a pilot program to determine the benefits of encouraging cooperative procurement of major capital equipment. As specified in the Appropriations Act, the program shall consist of three pilot projects. Under the CPPP, competitively selected grantees, consortiums of grantees, or members of the private sector acting as agents of grantees will develop cooperative specifications and conduct joint procurements. For this program, Congress has raised the Federal share to be provided from 80 percent to 90 percent.

DATES: Proposals (2 copies) and/or comments must be received by August 23, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Proposals and/or comments should be submitted to Rita Daguillard, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Suite 9401, Washington, DC 20590 or Rita.Daguillard@fta.dot.gov and shall reference CPPP.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rita Daguillard, Office of Research, Demonstration, and Innovation, Federal Transit Administration, (202) 366-4052, or e-mail: Rita.Daguillard@fta.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Federal Transit Program

The Federal Transit Administration provides grants to State and local government agencies to support public transportation in communities across America. A major portion of these funds is used to purchase major capital equipment (e.g., buses, vans, railcars) used in providing public transit service. FTA's annual budget exceeds \$7 billion, of which more than \$3 billion is distributed by formula to more than 1,000 grantees nationwide. On average, FTA funds more than half of the bus purchases in any given year in the United States.