

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Bureau of Industry and Security****Materials Processing Equipment Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting**

The Materials Processing Equipment Technical Advisory Committee will meet on March 12, 2009, 9 a.m., Room 6087B, in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th Street between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues, NW., Washington, DC. The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration with respect to technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to materials processing equipment and related technology.

Agenda*Open Session*

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions.
2. Presentation of Papers and Comments by the Public.
3. Discussion on 2009 Proposals to Wassenaar.
4. Report on proposed changes to the Export Administration Regulation.
5. Other Business.

Closed Session

6. Discussion of matters determined to be exempt from the provisions relating to public meetings found in 5 U.S.C. app. 2 sections 10(a)(1) and 10(a)(3).

The open session will be accessible via teleconference to 20 participants on a first come, first serve basis. To join the conference, submit inquiries to Ms. Yvette Springer at Yspringer@bis.doc.gov no later than March 5, 2009.

A limited number of seats will be available for the public session. Reservations are not accepted. To the extent that time permits, members of the public may present oral statements to the Committee. The public may submit written statements at any time before or after the meeting. However, to facilitate the distribution of public presentation materials to the Committee members, the Committee suggests that presenters forward the public presentation materials prior to the meeting to Ms. Springer via email.

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the delegate of the General Counsel, formally determined on February 18, 2009, pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. app. 2 sections (10)(d)), that the portion of the meeting

dealing with matters the disclosure of portion of the meeting dealing with matters the disclosure of which would be likely to frustrate significantly implementation of an agency action as described in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B) shall be exempt from the provisions relating to public meetings found in 5 U.S.C. app. 2 section 10(a)1 and 10(a)(3).

The remaining portions of the meeting will be open to the public.

For more information, call Yvette Springer at (202) 482-2813.

Dated: February 19, 2009.

Yvette Springer,

Committee Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-4043 Filed 2-24-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JT-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Bureau of Industry and Security**

[Docket No. 090213182-9184-01]

Reporting on Offsets Agreements in Sales of Weapon Systems or Defense-Related Items to Foreign Countries or Foreign Firms for Calendar Year 2008

AGENCY: Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is to remind the public that U.S. firms are required to report annually to the Department of Commerce (Commerce) on contracts for the sale of defense-related items or defense-related services to foreign countries or foreign firms that are subject to offsets agreements exceeding \$5,000,000 in value. U.S. firms are also required to report annually to Commerce on offsets transactions completed in performance of existing offsets commitments for which offsets credit of \$250,000 or more has been claimed from the foreign representative. Such reports must be submitted to Commerce no later than June 15, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Reports should be addressed to "Offsets Program Manager, U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Strategic Industries and Economic Security, Bureau of Industry and Security, Room 3878, Washington, DC 20230."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronald DeMarines, Office of Strategic Industries and Economic Security, Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce, telephone: 202-482-3755; fax: 202-482-5650; e-mail: rdemarin@bis.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In 1984, the Congress enacted amendments to the Defense Production Act (DPA), including the addition of Section 309, which addresses offsets in defense trade (See 50 U.S.C. app. section 2099). Offsets are compensation practices required as a condition of purchase in either government-to-government or commercial sales of defense articles and/or services, as defined by the Arms Export Control Act and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations.

Section 309(a)(1) requires the President to submit an annual report to the Congress on the impact of offsets on the U.S. defense industrial base. In 1992, section 309 was amended to direct the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to function as the President's executive agent for carrying out the responsibilities set forth in that section. Specifically, section 309 authorizes the Secretary to develop and administer the regulations necessary to collect offsets data from U.S. defense exporters.

The authorities of the Secretary regarding offsets have been redelegated to the Under Secretary of the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS). The regulations associated with offsets reporting are set forth in Part 701 of title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The offsets regulations of Part 701 set forth the obligations of U.S. industry to report to the Bureau of Industry and Security, no later than June 15 of each year, offsets agreement and transaction data for the previous calendar year.

As described in section 701.1 of the regulations, U.S. firms are required to report on contracts for the sale of defense-related items or defense-related services to foreign countries or foreign firms that are subject to offsets agreements exceeding \$5,000,000 in value. U.S. firms are also required to report annually on offsets transactions completed in performance of existing offsets commitments for which offsets credit of \$250,000 or more has been claimed from the foreign representative. The required data elements and filing procedures for such reports are outlined in § 701.4 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

The Department's annual report to Congress includes an aggregated summary of the data reported by industry in accordance with the offsets regulation and the DPA. As provided by section 309(c) of the DPA, BIS will not publicly disclose the information it receives through offsets reporting unless the firm furnishing the information specifically authorizes public disclosure. The information collected is