

instruct CBP to liquidate, without regard to antidumping duties, all entries of subject merchandise during the POR for which the importer-specific assessment rate is zero or *de minimis*. The Department intends to issue assessment instructions to CBP 15 days after the date of publication of the final results of this review.

Cash Deposit Requirements

The following cash deposit requirements will be effective upon publication of these final results of administrative review for all shipments of the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication date, as provided for by section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act: (1) For the exporter listed above, the cash deposit rate will be the rate established in the final results of this review (except, if the rate is zero or *de minimis*, *i.e.*, less than 0.5 percent, no cash deposit will be required for that company); (2) for previously investigated or reviewed PRC and non-PRC exporters not listed above that have separate rates, the cash deposit rate will continue to be the exporter-specific rate published for the most recent period; (3) for all PRC exporters of subject merchandise which have not been found to be entitled to a separate rate, the cash deposit rate will be the PRC-wide rate of 55.21 percent; and (4) for all non-PRC exporters of subject merchandise which have not received their own rate, the cash deposit rate will be the rate applicable to the PRC exporters that supplied that non-PRC exporter. These deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until further notice.

Reimbursement of Duties

This notice also serves as a final reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this POR. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in the Department's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties has occurred and the subsequent assessment of doubled antidumping duties.

Administrative Protective Orders

This notice also serves as a reminder to parties subject to administrative protective order ("APO") of their responsibility concerning the return or destruction of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305, which continues to govern business proprietary

information in this segment of the proceeding. Timely written notification of the return/destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a violation which is subject to sanction.

Disclosure

The Department will disclose the calculations performed in these final results within five days of the date of public announcement of the final results to parties in this proceeding in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

The Department is issuing and publishing this administrative review and notice in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i) of the Act.

Dated: July 14, 2011.

Ronald K. Lorentzen,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

Appendix I—Issues & Decision Memorandum

Issues

Comment 1: The Reported Input Quantity of Steel.

Comment 2: The Reported Scrap Offset.

[FR Doc. 2011-18570 Filed 7-21-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No.: 110620345-1331-02]

Request for Information on How To Structure Proposed New Program: Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia (AMTech)

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

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) invites interested parties to provide input on how to best structure a new public-private partnership program, the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia (AMTech) program, proposed in the NIST fiscal year (FY) 2012 budget (see http://www.osec.doc.gov/bmi/budget/12CJ/2012_NIST_&_NTIS_Cong_Budget.pdf pp. NIST-250 to NIST-254) for a copy of the AMTech budget justification). As envisioned, the AMTech program will provide Federal financial assistance to leverage existing or newly created industry-led consortia to develop precompetitive enabling manufacturing technologies. These

consortia would develop roadmaps of critical long-term industrial manufacturing research needs, and issue subawards to fund research by universities, government laboratories, and U.S. businesses. This initiative will support research and development (R&D) in advanced manufacturing, with the goal of strengthening long-term U.S. leadership in the development of critical technologies that lead to sustainable economic growth and job creation.

DATES: Comments are due on or before 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on September 20, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Comments will be accepted by e-mail only. Comments must be sent to AMTechRFC@nist.gov with the subject line "AMTech Comments."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Barbara Lambis, 301-975-4447, barbara.lambis@nist.gov, or Michael D. Walsh, 301-975-5545, michael.walsh@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

U.S. R&D intensity is lagging that of other nations and the composition of industrial R&D has shifted toward short-term research. These trends leave industry's long-term needs unmet and ultimately undermine our Nation's competitiveness.

As part of the Administration's effort to address this problem, the AMTech program aims to support early stage technology development by incentivizing the formation of and providing resources to industry-led consortia that will support precompetitive and enabling technology development, and create the infrastructure necessary for more efficient transfer of technology.

By convening key players across the entire innovation lifecycle, AMTech consortia will work toward eliminating critical barriers to innovation, increasing the efficiency of domestic innovation efforts and collapsing the time scale to deliver new products and services based on scientific and technological advances. This strategy has the potential to drive economic growth, enhance competitiveness and spur the creation of jobs in high-value sectors of the U.S. economy.

The establishment of industry-led AMTech consortia is expected to create an R&D infrastructure for industry-government partnerships that span the innovation life cycle—from discovery to invention to commercialization. The R&D-efficiency dimensions of these consortia will help accelerate the transition of knowledge and technology among all of the partners and thereby

shorten critical R&D-cycle times. Each consortium will define and prioritize the precompetitive R&D gaps and needs that are most likely to accelerate the development and diffusion of new platform technologies with commercialization potential to industry. Where possible, consortia will utilize existing R&D roadmaps to guide the prioritization of R&D efforts. Where well-defined technology roadmaps are absent, it will be an initial mission of AMTech consortia to facilitate, coordinate, and develop appropriate mechanisms for strategic planning based on the input of the private sector and academia. It is expected that the development of well-defined and articulated industry-led research plans and priorities will provide academia and government partners with valuable insights into a research agenda most likely to achieve high rates of technological innovation.

The goals of AMTech include:

- Promoting collective efforts that enable the development of key technology platforms and technical infrastructures;
- Improving the management of research portfolios in response to industry long-run technology development needs;
- Providing an environment for maximizing the leverage of Federal investment through cost-sharing;
- Increasing industrial R&D investment in enabling technology platforms and infrastructure;
- Collapsing the time scale of technological innovation;
- Fostering a robust U.S. innovation system through broad participation by industry, the Federal government, universities, and state, local and tribal governments; and
- Expanding the domestic value-added from new technologies by encouraging supply-chain integration, thereby encouraging domestic investment in multiple industries that support these technologies.

AMTech expects to achieve these goals through:

1. Coordination and advance planning, by:
 - Partnering with industry, academia, and government to develop a shared vision of an industry sector's research needs via a technology roadmap;
 - Identifying shared technology challenges that are solved with precompetitive technologies; and
 - Forming of industry-led consortia.
2. Research and knowledge transfer, by:
 - Promoting technology and knowledge transfer by connecting

research to industry needs as defined by the consortia;

- Funding precompetitive research directed at meeting industry needs for new technology platforms, derived from consortia roadmaps; and
- Using consortia mechanisms (*e.g.*, cross-company (horizontal) interactions) to facilitate transfer of precompetitive technology platforms.

3. Transition new technology to commercial products, by:

- Providing a framework (*e.g.*, an industry cluster model) that facilitates regional government and venture capital support, enabling a clear path to commercialization for the entire supply chain;
- Developing regional cluster synergies that encourage supply-chain formation and effective integration; and
- Enabling commercial technologies by removing production barriers identified by the consortia.

Request for Information: The objective of this request for information is to assist NIST in the development of the new AMTech program should NIST receive FY 2012 appropriated funds for this purpose. In this connection, the questions below are intended to assist in the formulation of comments, and should not be construed as a limitation on the number of comments that interested persons may submit or as a limitation on the issues that may be addressed in such comments. Comments containing references, studies, research, and other empirical data that are not widely published should include copies of the referenced materials. All comments will be made publicly available. NIST is specifically interested in receiving input pertaining to one or more of the following questions:

1. Should AMTech consortia focus on developments within a single existing or prospective industry, or should its focus be on broader system developments that must be supplied by multiple industries?
2. Who should be eligible to participate as a member of an AMTech consortium? For example, U.S. companies, *i.e.*, large, medium, and/or small; institutions of higher education; Federal agencies; state, local, and tribal governments; and non-profit organizations?
3. Should AMTech place restrictions on or limit consortium membership?
4. Who should be eligible to receive research funding from an AMTech consortium? For example, U.S. companies *i.e.*, large, medium, and/or small; institutions of higher education; Federal agencies; state, local, and tribal

governments; and non-profit organizations?

5. What criteria should be used in evaluating proposals for AMTech funding?
6. What types of activities are suitable for consortia funding?
7. Should conditions be placed on research awards to ensure funded activities are directed toward assisting manufacturing in the U.S.?
8. What are ways to facilitate the involvement of small businesses in AMTech consortia?
9. What are best practices for facilitating the widest dissemination and adoption of knowledge and technology through consortia?
10. While it is expected that the research efforts of AMTech consortia (including participants from the Federal, academic, and private industry sectors) will take place largely at the pre-competitive stage in the development of technologies, the generation of intellectual property is possible, and even likely. What types of intellectual property arrangements would promote active engagement of industry in consortia that include the funding of university-based research and ensure that consortia efforts are realized by U.S. manufacturers?
11. Would planning grants provide sufficient incentive for industry to develop roadmaps and initiate the formation of consortia? If not, what other incentives should be considered?
12. Should each member of an AMTech consortium be required to provide cost sharing? If so, what percentage of cost sharing should be provided?
13. What criteria should be used in evaluating research proposals submitted to an AMTech consortium?
14. What management models are best suited for industry-led consortia?
15. Should the evaluation criteria include the assessment of leadership and managerial skills?
16. Should limitations be placed on the duration of consortia?
17. How should an AMTech consortium's performance and impact be evaluated? What are appropriate measures of success?
18. What are the problems of measuring real-time performance of individual research awards issued by an industry-led consortium? What are appropriate measures of success?
19. How should the NIST AMTech program be evaluated?
20. What are lessons learned from other successful and unsuccessful industry-led consortia?
21. How can AMTech do the most with available resources? Are there

approaches that will best leverage the Federal investment?

22. How should AMTech interact with other Federal programs or agencies?

23. What role can AMTech play in developing, leading, or leveraging consortia involving other Federal agencies?

Dated: July 19, 2011.

Patrick Gallagher,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and Director.

[FR Doc. 2011-18580 Filed 7-21-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XX37

Endangered and Threatened Species; Recovery Plan for the Sei Whale

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the availability for public review of the draft Recovery Plan (Plan) for the sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*). NMFS is soliciting review and comment from the public and all interested parties on the Plan, and will consider all substantive comments received during the review period before submitting the Plan for final approval.

DATES: Comments on the draft Plan must be received by close of business on September 6, 2011.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by [0648-XX37], by any of the following methods:

Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Mail: Angela Somma, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business

Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields, if you wish to remain anonymous). You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shannon Bettridge (301-427-8437), e-mail Shannon.Bettridge@noaa.gov or Larissa Plants (301-427-8471), e-mail Larissa.Plants@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery plans describe actions beneficial to the conservation and recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Section 4(f)(1) of the ESA requires that recovery plans incorporate: (1) Objective, measurable criteria which, when met, would result in a determination that the species is no longer threatened or endangered; (2) site-specific management actions necessary to achieve the Plan's goals; and (3) estimates of the time required and costs to implement recovery actions. The ESA requires the development of recovery plans for each listed species unless such a plan would not promote its recovery.

The sei whale has been listed as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) since its passage in 1973. Sei whales are widely distributed in the world's oceans and most populations were reduced, some of them considerably, by extensive commercial whaling in the 1950s through the early 1970s. They were hunted by modern whalers primarily after the preferred larger (or more easily taken) baleen whale species had been seriously depleted, including the right (*Eubalaena spp.*), humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*), blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), and fin (*Balaenoptera physalus*) whales. International protection for this species only began in the 1970s, but the taking of sei whales continued at relatively low levels by Icelandic and Japanese operations. Of the commercially exploited "great whales," the sei whale is one of the least well studied, and the current status of most sei whale stocks is poorly known. Sei whales have a global distribution and can be found in the North Atlantic Ocean, North Pacific Ocean, and Southern Hemisphere. Currently, the population structure of sei whales has not been adequately defined.

Because the current status of sei whales is unknown, the primary purpose of the draft Recovery Plan is to provide a research strategy to obtain data necessary to estimate population abundance, trends, and structure and to identify factors that may be limiting sei whale recovery. The draft Recovery Plan incorporates an adaptive management strategy that divides recovery actions into three tiers. Tier I includes: (1) Continued international regulation of whaling; (2) determining population size, trends, and structure using opportunistic data collection in conjunction with passive acoustic monitoring, if determined to be feasible; and (3) continued stranding response and associated data collection. After ten years of conducting Tier I actions, NMFS expects to evaluate this approach to determine if the approach is providing sufficient demographic data to assess recovery (or if more efficient data collection methods become available). If the Tier I method proves to be sufficient, NMFS will continue Tier I data collection activities. If Tier I data collection methods are insufficient, NMFS will consider Tier II actions, building upon research conducted during Tier I. Tier II adds more extensive directed demographic survey research and actions that are dependent upon acquiring comprehensive information (*e.g.*, assessment of threats currently ranked as unknown). Tier III recovery actions depend upon data collected in Tiers I and/or II. When sufficient data are obtained, Tier III recovery activities will be undertaken as feasible. Costs have been estimated for Tier I recovery actions only.

Criteria for the reclassification of the sei whale are included in the final Recovery Plan. In summary, the sei whale may be reclassified from endangered to threatened when all of the following have been met: (1) Given current and projected threats and environmental conditions, the sei whale population in each ocean basin in which it occurs (Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and Southern Hemisphere) satisfies the risk analysis standard for threatened status (has no more than a 1 percent chance of extinction in 100 years) and the global population has at least 1,500 mature, reproductive individuals (consisting of at least 250 mature females and at least 250 mature males in each ocean basin). Mature is defined as the number of individuals known, estimated, or inferred to be capable of reproduction. Any factors or circumstances that are thought to substantially contribute to a real risk of extinction that cannot be incorporated