Economic and Social Affairs. The UN Office of Legal Affairs actively engages on judicial management issues. For example, that office recommended that the Pre-Trial Chamber sit on a full-time basis in order to improve the ECCC’s efficiency and to expedite its decision-making, and the ECCC accepted the recommendation.

Embassy Phnom Penh was notified of allegations of financial misconduct at the ECCC in September 2012, but a full UN investigation, including an independent audit, later proved the allegations false. In September, an outside observer approached an Embassy officer alleging that ECCC staff paid kickbacks on salaries and that large-scale financial misconduct occurred with donor money. The source did not offer any evidence and quoted only anonymous sources, but the Embassy assessed that the allegations were serious enough to warrant notification of ECCC officials. Within days of receiving the Embassy’s information, UN Special Expert on the ECCC David Scheffer traveled to Phnom Penh to investigate the allegations. The result of his initial investigation, which he shared with the UN in September 2012, showed small-scale misuse of resources, such as the use of a common television in a private office and the use of a vehicle for a single employee when it should have been designated to the motorpool. These misuses of resources were immediately corrected.

The ECCC subsequently retained the independent accounting firm Ernst & Young to conduct a spot audit of the Victim Support Section, where the anonymous sources had alleged that major misconduct had taken place. The spot audit examined financial assets and expenditures during the April–June 2012 time period and the inventory of physical assets. The results of the audit, made available to the U.S. government in December 2012, revealed that no major irregularities occurred. The spot audit found that “no exceptions were noted” when comparing receipts of funds and disbursements of funds. Some computer equipment did not display correct serial numbers, but there was no evidence that any equipment was misused. While the spot audit was limited, it was sufficient to examine the allegations presented.

The ECCC took additional precautionary steps to help prevent (or reveal) corruption. As of October 2012, the tribunal re instituted weekly office hours for the Independent Counselor at the ECCC itself (rather than at the Independent Counselor’s office) to receive allegations of corruption. The Independent Counselor could also receive allegations outside scheduled office hours. Embassy Phnom Penh is not aware of any reported allegations since that time. In addition, ECCC administrative leadership conducted an all-staff meeting in October to announce the availability of the Independent Counselor and highlight procedures to report corruption confidentially. ECCC section heads were also brought together to examine allegations of staff kickbacks. These efforts have not produced any evidence of corruption. Based on the efforts of the ECCC officials and the independent auditors, no credible evidence of corruption or major mismanagement was discovered.

With the appointment of Mark Harmon as the new international Co-Investigating Judge in 2012, there has been renewed progress in Case 003 and 004 investigations. Since his arrival in October 2012, Judge Harmon has nearly fully staffed an office that had been affected by departures and established a constructive working relationship with his counterpart You Bunleng. While Judge Bunleng has not publicly agreed that the Case 003 and 004 investigations should go forward, he is also not obstructing Judge Harmon’s investigative efforts. The Case 003 and 004 investigations under Judge Harmon are proceeding expeditiously, and ECCC officials expect that they will be completed in the first half of 2014 absent unexpected delays.

The ECCC’s jurisdiction over suspects in the Cases 003/004 has yet to be resolved; therefore the co-investigating judges have not made a final determination on whether these individuals should be indicted. Should the national and international co-investigating judges disagree on an indictment at the conclusion of the investigation, there is a formal process under the governing documents of the ECCC for resolving this disagreement in the Pre-Trial Chamber.

Certification and United States Policy Objectives

This certification recognizes the efforts of the UN and the RGC to address allegations of corruption and mismanagement within the ECCC. It is not an indication, however, that their responsibilities have concluded. Both parties must continue to exercise oversight of the ECCC’s operations, and the donor community and NGOs must continue their vigilant engagement with the UN and the RGC to ensure that the ECCC remains judicially independent, corruption-free and well-managed.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Connected Vehicle Research Program Public Meeting; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: ITS Joint Program Office, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Intelligent Transportation System Joint Program Office (ITS JPO) will host a public meeting seeking stakeholder input and public sector guidance to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) Connected Vehicle Systems. The meeting will take place Thursday, January 16, 2014, from 1:00 p.m. (EST) to 4:00 p.m. (EST) in the Hampton Room at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street, NW in Washington, DC. Remote participation will be available via webinar. Persons planning to attend the meeting or participate in the webinar should register online at www.itsa.org/register online at www.itsa.org.

Vehicle guidance that is expected in 2015 and will also inform the Federal Transit Administration.

For more information, please contact Robert Arnold, FHWA, Director, Office of Transportation Management at robert.arnold@dot.gov or by telephone at 202–366–1285. Agenda items for the meeting are subject to change. Meeting information will be posted to the Web site http://www.its.dot.gov/.

Issued in Washington, DC, on the 19th day of December 2013.

John Augustine,
Managing Director, ITS Joint Program Office.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Office of Commercial Space Transportation; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Open a Public Scoping Period, and Conduct a Public Scoping Meeting

AGENCY: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the lead Federal agency. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service are cooperating agencies.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS, Open a Public Scoping Period, and Conduct a Public Scoping Meeting

SUMMARY: This Notice provides information to Federal, State, and local agencies, Native American tribes, and other interested persons regarding the FAA’s intent to prepare an EIS that will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the issuance of a Launch Site Operator License to Space Florida. Space Florida, an independent special district and a subdivision of the State of Florida, proposes to construct and operate a commercial space launch site (the “Shiloh Launch Complex”) and two off-site operations support areas. The Shiloh Launch Complex would include two vertical launch facilities that would accommodate up to 24 launches per year (12 launches per vertical launch facility), as well as up to 24 static fire engine tests or wet dress rehearsals per year (12 static fire engine tests or wet dress rehearsals per vertical launch facility). The launch vehicles would include liquid fueled, medium-to heavy-lift class orbital and suborbital vehicles. In addition to the 24 launches per year, the first stage of the launch vehicle could return to and land at the Shiloh Launch Complex. The proposed commercial space launch site is located on the west side of Kennedy Parkway North (State Road [SR] 3), which straddles Brevard and Volusia counties, Florida. Space Florida would be required to apply for a Launch Site Operator License to be issued by the FAA. The FAA will prepare the EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA: 42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 1500–1508), and FAA Order 1050.1E, Change 1, Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures, as part of its licensing process. Concurrent with the NEPA process, the FAA is initiating National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consultation to determine the potential effects of the Proposed Action on historic properties. The FAA will also consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act regarding potential impacts to federally-listed threatened and endangered species. Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966, this EIS will comply with the requirements of Section 4(f).

DATES: The FAA invites interested agencies, organizations, Native American tribes, and members of the public to submit comments or suggestions to assist in identifying significant environmental issues and in determining the appropriate scope of the EIS. The public scoping period starts with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register. To ensure sufficient time to consider issues identified during the public scoping period, comments should be submitted to Ms. Stacey M. Zee, FAA Environmental Specialist, by one of the methods listed below no later than February 21, 2014. All comments will receive the same attention and consideration in the preparation of the EIS.

ADDRESSES: Comments, statements, or questions concerning scoping issues or the EIS process should be mailed to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, FAA Environmental Specialist, Shiloh EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc., 2496 Old Ivy Road, Suite 300, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Comments can also be sent by email to faashiloheis@cardnotec.com or by fax to (434) 295–5535.