

property complementing the use of existing rights-of-way or real property use for use by vehicles (not to include significant increases in vehicle loading); electrical, telephone, and other transmission and communication lines; water, wastewater, stormwater, and irrigation pipelines, pumping stations, and facilities; and similar utility and transportation uses.”

[H6.] “Relocation of employees into existing Federally-owned or commercially leased office space within the same metropolitan area not involving a substantial increase in the number of motor or other vehicles at a facility.”

[H7.] “Transferring real property to a non-Federal entity, an agency other than GSA, as well as to States, local agencies and Indian Tribes, including return of public domain lands to the Department of the Interior.”

Dated: January 6, 2017.

**Lois J. Schiffer,**

*General Counsel for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2017-00553 Filed 1-12-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-12-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

[Docket No. 170105023-7023-01]

**RIN 0660-XC033**

#### The Benefits, Challenges, and Potential Roles for the Government in Fostering the Advancement of the Internet of Things

**AGENCY:** National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice, request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** Recognizing the vital importance of the Internet to U.S. innovation, prosperity, education, and civic and cultural life, the Department of Commerce (Department) has made it a top priority to encourage growth of the digital economy and ensure that the Internet remains an open platform for innovation. Thus, as part of the Department's Digital Economy Agenda, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) issued a green paper “Fostering the Advancement of the Internet of Things” that lays out an approach and areas of engagement for the Department's possible future work on the Internet of Things (IoT). Through this Notice, NTIA seeks broad input from all interested

stakeholders—including the private industry, researchers, academia, and civil society—on the issues and proposed approach, current initiatives, and next steps laid out in this paper. These comments will help inform Department leadership on possible future Department action regarding IoT.

**DATES:** Comments are due on or before 5 p.m. Eastern Time on February 27, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be submitted by email to [iotrffc2017@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:iotrffc2017@ntia.doc.gov). Comments submitted by email should be machine-readable and should not be copy-protected. Written comments also may be submitted by mail to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Room 4725, Attn: IOT RFC 2017, Washington, DC 20230. Responders should include the name of the person or organization filing the comment, as well as a page number on each page of their submissions. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted on the NTIA Web site, <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/>, without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NTIA will accept anonymous comments.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Travis Hall, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Room 4725, Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482-3522; email [thall@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:thall@ntia.doc.gov). Please direct media inquiries to NTIA's Office of Public Affairs, (202) 482-7002, or at [press@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:press@ntia.doc.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Background:** As part of the Department's Digital Economy Agenda, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is requesting comment on the benefits, challenges, and potential roles for the government in fostering the advancement of the Internet of Things (IoT).

The Internet of Things—in which connected devices are proliferating at an unprecedented rate—is transforming the way we live and do business. IoT continues the decades-long trend of increasing connectivity among devices and the Internet, bringing online

everything from refrigerators to automobiles to factory inventory systems. At the same time, IoT encompasses a widening scope of industries and activities and a vastly increasing scale and number of devices being connected, thus raising the stakes and impacts of broad connectivity. Due to its expertise and experience with the issues raised by IoT, as well as its economy-wide perspective, the Department is well placed to meet the challenges of IoT and to champion the development of a robust IoT environment that benefits consumers, the economy, and society as a whole.

With an April 2016 Request for Comment, “The Benefits, Challenges, and Potential Roles for the Government in Fostering the Advancement of the Internet of Things,” the Department sought to review the current technological and policy landscape relating to IoT.<sup>1</sup> A broad array of stakeholders—from the private sector, academia, government, and civil society—offered perspectives in response to the request.<sup>2</sup> In September 2016, the Department hosted a workshop to delve deeper into the questions raised by the Request for Comment, and to explore some of the related issues arising from the public comments.<sup>3</sup> The Department issued a green paper entitled “Fostering the Advancement of the Internet of Things,” which represents the Department's analysis of those comments.<sup>4</sup> The green paper also identifies key issues that can impact the deployment of IoT technologies, highlights potential benefits and challenges, and discusses what role, if any, the U.S. Government, particularly the Department, should play in this evolving landscape. With this Request for Comment, the Department is asking for a response to the issues raised by the green paper, as well as the proposed approach, current initiatives, and next steps.

<sup>1</sup> Request for Comments on the Benefits, Challenges, and Potential Roles for the Government in Fostering the Advancement of the Internet of Things, 81 FR 19956 (April 16, 2016), available at <https://ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/2016/rfc-potential-roles-government-fostering-advancement-internet-of-things>.

<sup>2</sup> All comments are publicly available at: <https://ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/2016/comments-potential-roles-government-fostering-advancement-internet-of-things>.

<sup>3</sup> “Fostering the Advancement of the Internet of Things Workshop Webcast,” September 1, 2016, available at <https://ntia.doc.gov/other-publication/2016/09012016-fostering-advancement-internet-things-workshop-webcast> (In addition to the webcast, also available are the Workshop agenda, transcript, and various presentations).

<sup>4</sup> The IOT green paper is available at: <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/other-publication/2017/green-paper-fostering-advancement-internet-things>.

**Request for Comment**

*Instructions for Commenters:* The Department invites comment on the full range of issues that may be presented by this inquiry, including issues that are not specifically raised in the following questions. Commenters are encouraged to address any or all of the following questions. Comments that contain references to studies, research, and other empirical data that are not widely published should include copies of the referenced materials with the submitted comments.

(1) *Is our discussion of IoT presented in the green paper regarding the challenges, benefits, and potential role of government accurate and/or complete? Are there issues that we missed, or that we need to reconsider?*

(2) *Is the approach for Departmental action to advance the Internet of Things comprehensive in the areas of engagement? Where does the approach need improvement?*

(3) *Are there specific tasks that the Department should engage in that are not covered by the approach?*

(4) *What should the next steps be for the Department in fostering the advancement of IoT?*

For any response, commenters may wish to consider describing specific goals or actions that the Department, or the U.S. Government in general, might take (on its own or in conjunction with the private sector) to achieve those goals; the benefits and costs associated with the action; whether the proposal is agency-specific or interagency; the rationale and evidence to support it; and the roles of other stakeholders.

Dated: January 10, 2017.

**Kathy D. Smith,**

*Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2017-00720 Filed 1-12-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-60-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

[Docket No. PTO-P-2016-0046]

**Reopening of the Period for Comments on a Preliminary Draft Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Currently Being Negotiated at The Hague Conference on Private International Law**

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Reopening of the comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office is publishing this notice to reopen the comment period provided in its notice of November 18, 2016, entitled Request for Comments and Notice of Public Meeting on a Preliminary Draft Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Currently Being Negotiated at the Hague Conference on Private International Law. The new deadline for public comments is January 18, 2017.

**DATES:** *Written Comments:* Written comments must be received on or before January 18, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** *Written Comments:* Interested parties are encouraged to file written comments electronically by email to [judgmentsproject@uspto.gov](mailto:judgmentsproject@uspto.gov). Comments submitted by email should be machine-searchable and should not be copy-protected. Written comments also may be submitted by mail to the Office of Policy and International Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop International Affairs, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. Responders should include the name of the person or organization filing the comment, as well as a page number, on each page of their submissions. Paper submissions should also include a CD or DVD containing the submission in MS Word®, WordPerfect®, or pdf format. CDs or DVDs should be labeled with the name and organizational affiliation of the filer, and the name of the word processing program used to create the document. All personally identifiable 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. The USPTO will accept anonymous written comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

All comments received are part of the public record and will be available for public inspection without charge via the USPTO's Web site at [www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/ip-policy/hague-conference-private-international-law](http://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/ip-policy/hague-conference-private-international-law) and at the Office of the Director, Policy and International Affairs, located in Madison West, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, upon request. Because comments will be available for public inspection, information that is not desired to be made public, such as name, an address or phone number, etc., should not be included in the written comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Michael Shapiro, Senior Counsel, Office of Policy and International Affairs, USPTO, by telephone at 571-272-9300, or by email to [judgmentsproject@uspto.gov](mailto:judgmentsproject@uspto.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

The Hague Conference on Private International Law ("The Hague Conference"), an international organization in the Netherlands, is sponsoring negotiations for a convention on the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments in civil and commercial matters. In February 2016, the Council on General Affairs and Policy of The Hague Conference created a Special Commission on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments ("the Special Commission") to prepare a preliminary draft text of the convention, which is subject to a formal diplomatic negotiation open to member States of The Hague Conference. At its first session in June 2016, the Special Commission produced a Preliminary Draft Convention that includes general and specific provisions that would apply to the recognition and enforcement of judgments arising from transnational intellectual property disputes.

On November 18, 2016, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) requested public comments on the June 2016 Preliminary Draft Convention (the "Preliminary Draft") as it relates to intellectual property matters (81 FR 81741 (Nov. 18, 2016)), with the comment period ending on January 9, 2017. The USPTO is now reopening the comment period to ensure that all stakeholders have sufficient opportunity to submit comments. The new deadline for submitting public comments is January 18, 2017. Any comments received between the close of the previous deadline of January 9, 2017, and January 13, 2017 will be treated as timely and given full consideration.

Further information about the Preliminary Draft, as well as questions about the draft that the USPTO presented for consideration, are set forth in the earlier notice requesting comments (81 FR 81741 (Nov. 18, 2016)).