

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Application(s) for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments**

Pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, as amended by Pub. L. 106-36; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be postmarked on or before May 1, 2019. Address written comments to Statutory Import Programs Staff, Room 3720, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Room 3720.

Docket Number: 18-010. Applicant: University of Connecticut, 91 North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06269. Instrument: STED Confocal Microscope. Manufacturer: Abberior Instruments GmbH, Germany. Intended Use: The instrument will be used to study a variety of biological material related to medical research. Scientists at the University of Connecticut will be able to reveal the protein nano-structure of: mouse/rat brain tissue and cells, mouse colon tissue, fruit fly chromosomes, mouse spinal cord tissue, and mammalian or invertebrate cultured cells. The experiments to be conducted involve taking the material and examining it with various wavelengths of light to obtain fluorescent images of cellular structures with high levels of detail. The objectives pursued by research with this equipment are understanding of the normal and pathological mechanisms of cellular function relating to human health and disease. The techniques used by employing this equipment include using the method of stimulated emission depletion (STED), which enables the visualization of high resolution, microscopic structure of biological specimens. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: There are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: November 28, 2018.

Dated: April 5, 2019.

Gregory W. Campbell,
Director, Subsidies Enforcement, Enforcement and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2019-07199 Filed 4-10-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Institute of Standards and Technology****Alternative Personnel Management System (APMS) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology**

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces changes to the existing provisions of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Alternative Personnel Management System (APMS) published October 21, 1997 (62 FR 54604), and August 13, 2012 (77 FR 48128). NIST is modifying its current APMS direct-hire authority to include positions in the General Engineering, 801 series; General Physical Science, 1301 series; and Information Technology Management, 2210 series at the Pay Band III and above.

DATES: This notice is applicable on April 11, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susanne Porch at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, (301) 975-2487 or Susanne.Porch@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with Public Law 99-574, the National Bureau of Standards Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1987, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) approved a demonstration project plan, "Alternative Personnel Management System (APMS) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)," and published the plan in the **Federal Register** on October 2, 1987 (52 FR 37082). The published demonstration project plan was modified twice, once to clarify certain NIST authorities (54 FR 21331, May 17, 1989) and once to revise the performance appraisal system and the pay administration system in order to better link pay with performance (55 FR 39220, September 25, 1990). The APMS was made permanent in Section 10 of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995, Public Law 104-113, 110 Stat. 775 (Mar. 7, 1996) (codified at 15 U.S.C. 275 note), and the project plan and subsequent amendments were consolidated in the

final APMS plan, which was published in the **Federal Register** on October 21, 1997 (62 FR 54604). NIST published eight subsequent amendments to the final APMS plan: one on May 6, 2005 (70 FR 23996), which became effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**; one on July 15, 2008 (73 FR 40500), which became effective on October 1, 2008; one on July 21, 2009 (74 FR 35841), which became effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**; one on January 5, 2011 (76 FR 539), which became effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**; one on June 19, 2012 (77 FR 36485), which became effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**; one on August 13, 2012 (77 FR 48128), which became effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**; one on August 24, 2012 (77 FR 51518), which became effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**; and one on September 24, 2015 (80 FR 57580), which became effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**. NIST also published a correction to the final APMS plan on July 21, 2009 (74 FR 35843), which became effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

On March 20, 2018, the Office of Management and Budget unveiled the fiscal year 2019 Presidential Management Agenda (PMA) outlining a long-term vision for modernizing the Federal government in key areas that would improve the ability of agencies to deliver mission outcomes, provide excellent service, and effectively steward taxpayer dollars on behalf of the American people. One aspect of the PMA highlights the government need to develop and manage the workforce of the 21st century by simplifying and expediting the hiring process for top talent.

The APMS plan provides for modifications to be made as experience is gained, results are analyzed, and conclusions are reached on how the system is working. This notice formally modifies the current APMS direct-hire authority to include positions in the General Engineering, 801 series; General Physical Science, 1301 series; and Information Technology Management, 2210 series at the Pay Band III and above. The expanded direct-hire authority will allow NIST to simplify and expedite hiring for managers in mission critical occupations, and, in accordance with the PMA, take a step

towards building the workforce of the 21st century.

Kevin A. Kimball,
Chief of Staff.

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I. Executive Summary

NIST is expanding its current APMS direct-hire authority to simplify and expedite hiring in mission critical occupations.

This amendment modifies the August 13, 2012 (77 FR 48128) amendment. Positions in the General Engineering, 801 series; General Physical Science, 1301 series; and Information Technology Management, 2210 series at the Pay Band III and above will be covered under the current NIST APMS direct-hire authority.

NIST will continually monitor the effectiveness of this amendment.

II. Basis for APMS Plan Modification

In August 2012, NIST published a **Federal Register** notice (77 FR 48128) which implemented direct-hire authority under 5 U.S.C. 3304(a)(3) on a permanent basis for the Nuclear Reactor Operation position in NIST's Scientific and Engineering Technician (ZT) career path at the Pay Band III and above, and for all positions in NIST's Scientific and Engineering (ZP) career path at the Pay Band III and above except for the Information Technology Management, 2210 series; the General Engineer, 801 series; and the General Physical Science, 1301 series. The modification in 2012 enabled NIST to hire, after public notice is given, any qualified applicant without regard to 5 U.S.C. 3309–3318, 5 CFR part 211, or 5 CFR part 337, subpart A. Based upon NIST's hiring needs and the PMA objective of simplifying and expediting hiring, NIST is expanding its current APMS direct-hire authority to include all positions in the Scientific and Engineering (ZP) career path at the Pay Band III and above.

NIST's APMS allows the NIST Director to modify procedures if no new waiver from law or regulation is added. Given this modification is in accordance with existing law and regulation, the NIST Director is authorized to make the changes described in this notice. The modification to our final **Federal Register** notice, dated October 21, 1997 (62 FR 54604), with respect to our Staffing authorities is provided below.

III. Changes in the APMS Plan

The APMS at NIST, published in the **Federal Register** on October 21, 1997 (62 FR 54604) is amended as follows:

The information under the subsection titled: "Direct Hire: Critical Shortage Occupations" is replaced with:

NIST uses direct-hire procedures for categories of occupations which require skills that are in short supply. All Nuclear Reactor Operator positions at the Pay Band III and above in the ZT Career Path constitute a shortage category, and all occupations at the Pay Band III and above in the ZP Career Path constitute a shortage category. Any positions in these categories may be filled through direct-hire procedures in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 3304(a)(3). NIST advertises the availability of job opportunities in direct-hire occupations by posting on the OPM USAJOBS website. NIST will follow internal direct-hire procedures for accepting applications and continue to provide consideration to eligible veteran preference applicants.

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BoV@westpoint.edu; or by telephone at (845) 938-4200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee meeting is being held under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended), the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended), and 41 CFR 102-3.150. The USMA BoV provides independent advice and recommendations to the President of the United States on matters related to morale, discipline, curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, fiscal affairs, academic methods, and any other matters relating to the Academy that the Board decides to consider.

Purpose of the Meeting: This is the 2019 Spring/Organizational Meeting of the USMA BoV. Members of the Board will be provided updates on Academy issues. Agenda: Introduction; Board Business; Superintendent Topics: Events since last BOV/Semester Highlights; Campaign Plan: Leaders of Character & Culture of Character, Stand Down Day; Diverse and Effective Team: Class of 2023 Update; Modernize, Secure and Reform: Strengthen Partnerships; Upcoming events

Public's Accessibility to the Meeting: Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b and 41 CFR 102-3.140 through 102-3.165 and subject to the availability of space, this meeting is open to the public. Seating is on a first to arrive basis. Attendees are requested to submit their name, affiliation, and daytime phone number seven business days prior to the meeting to Mrs. Ghostlaw, via electronic mail, the preferred mode of submission, at the address listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

INFORMATION CONTACT section. Pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.140d, the committee is not obligated to allow a member of the public to speak or otherwise address the committee during the meeting, and members of the public attending the committee meeting will not be permitted to present questions from the floor or speak to any issue under consideration by the committee. Because the committee meeting will be held in a Federal Government facility on a military post, security screening is required. A government photo ID is required to enter post. In order to enter the installation, members of the public must first go to the Visitor Control Center in the Visitor Center and go through a background check before being allowed access to the installation. Members of the public then need to park in Buffalo Soldier Field parking lot and ride the north-bound Central Post Area (CPA) shuttle bus to Thayer Road, get off at the Thayer Road Extension and