DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Cornell University, et al.; 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 February 16, 2021. Address written comments to Statutory Import Programs Staff, Room 3720, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Please also email an identical copy of any written comments to Dianne.Hanshaw@trade.gov. Similarly, requests by the public to examine applications should be emailed to Dianne.Hanshaw@trade.gov.

Docket Number: 20–011. Applicant: Cornell University, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Carpenter Hall, 313 Campus Road, Ithaca, NY 14853. Instrument: X-ray diffractometer. Manufacturer: Rigaku, USA. Intended Use: According to the applicant, the instrument will be used to fabricate on site new material and to study their electronic properties with several experimental techniques. Angle resolved photoemission (ARPES) will be the main one, as it conveys directly most information needed on the electronic structure of the material, e.g., whether it is conducting/insulating/superconducting anisotropic, close to an electronic instability, likely to undergo an electronic transition, etc. According to the applicant, this is of great importance for fundamental physics, but in a longer-term perspective, also in order to identify the potential of materials for applications, in particular, in energy production, conversion and storage. The excitation source is a helium (He) gas discharge lamp, which excites He atoms and emits light caused by the de-excitation process. It is widely used in many laboratories and sold by a few companies in the world. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: August 10, 2020.

Docket Number: 20–012. Applicant: University of Minnesota, Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, 421 Washington Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Instrument: Spark Plasma Sintering Systems. Manufacturer: SUGA Co., Ltd., Japan. Intended Use: According to the applicant, the instrument will be used to study a variety of structural ceramic and metal materials including refractory alloys (e.g., containing combinations of Nb, Ta, W, Mo, Zr, Hf, etc.), oxide ceramics such as Gd2Zr2O7, (Y2Al2O7), and Y2Si2O7, and non-oxide ceramics such as SiC and Si3N4. The instrument will also be used to study the sintering or consolidation behavior of these materials and will be used to prepare dense specimens to be analyzed using other instruments. The research focuses on the development or materials with improved performance in extreme environments. The instrument will be used to generate dense specimens of the materials described above, which will subsequently be tested using other methods to determine their performance in oxidizing or corrosive environments. A key aspect of the investigations involved rapid consolidation in order to achieve high density while limiting grain growth associated with longer exposures to high temperature used in other sintering techniques. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: August 11, 2020.


Richard Herring,
Director, Subsidies Enforcement, Enforcement and Compliance

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jaclyn Sellers, Counsel, at (202) 435–7449. If you require this document in an alternative electronic format, please contact CFPB_Accessibility@cfpb.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: