DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request. iEdison System.

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

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before October 25, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by mail to Elizabeth Reinhart, Management Analyst, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, elizabeth.reinhart@nist.gov, or PRAcomments@doc.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0693-xxxx in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Bethany Loftin, Interagency and iEdison Specialist, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, 301–975–0496, bethany.loftin@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Bayh-Dole Act (35 U.S.C. 18) and its implementing regulations (37 CFR 401) allow for recipients of federal research funding (Contractors) to retain ownership of inventions developed under federal funding agreements. In exchange, the government retains certain rights to the invention, including a world-wide right to use by or on behalf of the U.S. government. The law also requires the Contractor to obtain permission for certain actions and fulfill reporting requirements including:

a. Initial reporting of invention.

b. Decision to retain title to invention.

c. Filing of patent protection.

e. Evidence of government support clause within patents.

f. Submission of a license confirming the government’s rights.

II. Method of Collection

Information will be electronically collected through the online system iEdison.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0693–XXXX. Form Number(s): None. Type of Review: Regular submission, new information collection.

AFFECTED PUBLIC: Business or other for-profit organizations; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3063.


Patent Records: 10,720 hours. Utilization Records: 13,783 hours. Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0.

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas, Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Robot Workcell Degradation Technology Exploration With the Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Network Consortium

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

ACTION: Notice of research consortium.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), an agency of the United States Department of Commerce, in support of efforts to verify and validate robot workcell health monitoring methods for use in the manufacturing industry, is establishing the Robot Workcell Degradation Technology Exploration with the Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Network Consortium (“Consortium”). In addition to supporting verification and validation of robot workcell health monitoring methods, the consortium intends to provide NIST with the opportunity to transfer technology to the U.S. manufacturing sector through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) National NetworkTM.

DATES: The Consortium’s activities will commence on July 23rd, 2021 (“Commencement Date”). NIST will accept letters of interest from MEP Center teams to participate in this Consortium from prospective participants until December 1, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Completed letters of interest or requests for additional information about the Consortium can be directed via electronic mail to RobotCRADA@nist.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: J’aime Maynard, CRADA Administrator, National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Technology Partnerships Office, by mail to 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 2200, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, by electronic mail to Jaime.maynard@nist.gov, or by telephone at (301) 975–8408.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Consortium efforts are expected to yield practical lessons learned and guidance on the deployment and usage of the NIST-developed test methodology and companion sensor along with producing quantitative data from the test method and the host robot workcells. This will enhance NIST’s research verifying and validating methods to assess robot workcell health degradation in addition to accelerating technology transfer into the manufacturing industry.

NIST’s Engineering Laboratory has developed a test method—Identification and Isolation of Robot Workcell Degradation—that has the potential to efficiently assess the change in accuracy within a robot workcell, including those used in manufacturing operations. The test method is paired with the NIST-developed Position Verification Sensor (PVS—patent pending) to yield pass/fail output when the test method is executed with the PVS in a robot workcell. The test method and PVS are designed such that the change in accuracy of the key insertion can be measured to desired tolerances. This capability addresses the challenge that it can be costly to determine if the health of a robot workcell has degraded before quality and/or productivity are impacted. The test method and sensor require verification and validation from industrial partners. The Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) National NetworkTM, a public-private partnership with Centers in every U.S. state and Puerto Rico dedicated to serving small and medium-sized manufacturers, is uniquely positioned to enable this activity.

Each pilot study will be performed at a MEP Center-selected manufacturing facility. Proof of concept studies, prior to individual pilot studies, may be conducted at an MEP Center or at a chosen technology integrator/builder facility.

This CRADA Consortium involves the use of U.S. Government IP. NIST Invention entitled “POSITION VERIFICATION SENSOR WITH DISCRETE OUTPUT”, US Patent Application 16/572,847, filed on September 17, 2019, will be the IP that is used in this collaboration.

This Consortium has specific objectives including:

(1) Pilot the test method and PVS in manufacturing facilities through guided deployments by state-based MEP Center teams to obtain practical feedback, including quantitative performance data, lessons learned, and deployment guidance, regarding the viability of the test method and sensor in robot workcells;

(2) During each pilot study, obtain information regarding the manufacturing operations, test method, and sensor performance including (a) data from the test method and sensor during its usage in a robot workcell health testing, (b) component-level data from the robot(s) that are interacting with the sensor, (c) process-level data captured from the overall workcell(s) that include the test method/sensor, (d) operational configuration information of the robot workcell including use case variants (e.g., robot picks up boxes weighing 5 kg and 10 kg as opposed to picking up boxes of the same weight), (e) maintenance logs and activities that document faults and failures of the workcell along with specific maintenance that is performed, and (f) feedback from manufacturing personnel (e.g., operators, maintenance personnel, plant managers, etc.);

(3) Enable MEP Center teams to explore the development of a service of the NIST test method and/or the commercialization of the new sensor technology to ultimately promote transfer to the manufacturing industry; and

(4) Enable MEP Center teams to promote a capability for manufacturers/