

pricing power in the execution of order flow. Moreover, the Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market share among the exchanges from month to month demonstrates that market participants can shift order flow or discontinue to reduce use of certain categories of products, in response to new or different pricing structures being introduced into the market.

Accordingly, competitive forces constrain the Exchange's transaction fees and rebates and market participants can readily choose to send their orders to other exchange and off-exchange venues if they deem fee levels at those other venues to be more favorable. As described above, the proposed changes represent a competitive proposal through which the Exchange is seeking to generate additional revenue with respect to its transaction pricing and to encourage the submission of additional order flow to the Exchange through volume-based tiers, which have been widely adopted by exchanges, including the Exchange. Accordingly, the Exchange believes the proposal would not burden, but rather promote, intermarket competition by enabling it to better compete with other exchanges that offer similar pricing incentives to market participants.

Additionally, the Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. Specifically, in Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."²⁷ The fact that this market is competitive has also long been recognized by the courts. In *NetCoalition v. SEC*, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' . . . As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'. . . ."²⁸ Accordingly, the

Exchange does not believe its proposed pricing changes impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act²⁹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)³⁰ thereunder.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-MEMX-2024-16 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR-MEMX-2024-16. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use

only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-MEMX-2024-16 and should be submitted on or before June 7, 2024.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.³¹

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024-10821 Filed 5-16-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 12409]

Proposed Establishment of Federally Funded Research and Development Centers—First Notice

SUMMARY: The United States Department of State (DoS), Bureau of Administration, intends to sponsor Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) to facilitate public-private collaboration for numerous activities related to diplomacy and modernization. This is the first of three notices which must be published over a 90-day period in order to advise the public of the agency's intention to sponsor an FFRDC.

DATES: Written comments must be received by 5 p.m. eastern time on August 15, 2024.

³¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *NetCoalition v. SEC*, 615 F.3d 525, 539 (D.C. Cir. 2010) (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release

No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSE-2006-21)).

²⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

³⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

ADDRESSES: Please send any comments by email to Jessalyn Lord at *LordJM@state.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jessalyn Lord, *LordJM@state.gov* at 771-204-1366.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of State leads U.S. engagement around the world building alliances and partnerships; facing up to aggression; aiding and supporting emerging democracies; and preserving U.S. interests abroad. In a rapidly changing world with shifting politics, accelerated economic developments, global challenges such as climate change, and the increasing role digitization plays for both opportunity and threats, the Department is committed to leading through both policy and operational engagement on behalf of the Nation and our Government.

In a letter introducing the Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development Joint Strategic Plan for 2022–2026, Secretary Blinken stated, “we are working to modernize and equip the Department and USAID to lead on 21st-Century challenges and deliver for the American people.”

Achieving U.S. goals for global leadership over the next decade will require the following:

- A diplomatic corps to use data in new ways to develop more foresight and insight, to inform policy options, to take actions and measure their effectiveness;
- New cross-sector partnerships and coalitions;
- Intergovernmental partnerships with the Department of Defense, the intelligence agencies, the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services, and cross-government Councils (e.g., National Economic Council, National Security Council);
- New capabilities to plan, manage and execute initiatives and programs;
- A workforce that uses digital technology as tools to advance democracy and protect our interests and counter the use of these same technologies as a threat; and
- An organization and operation that is agile and adaptive to a changing environment; attractive to new talent; and fosters long-term commitment between the organization and its people.

The Department requires long-term partnerships with organizations that can bring research, development, innovation, and support needed to guide the leadership and employees through this transformative period in our history. This will allow the

Department to focus on the mission at hand, while adopting and integrating changes necessary to make consistent progress on these goals and surge, when needed, to address urgent issues that require data, partnerships, technology and insights applied in near-term operational situations.

To meet this need, the Department seeks to establish and sponsor three (3) FFRDCs. The FFRDCs will be established under the authority of 48 CFR 35.017.

The FFRDCs will be available to provide a wide range of support including, but not limited to the activities listed below. The FFRDCs will be separated into 3 areas:

Operational Support

- Acquisition Planning and Development
 - Developing comprehensive acquisition policies and implementation guidance that promote innovation by integrating new technologies, methodologies, and best practices to enhance efficiency and outcomes.
 - Developing and implementing integrated frameworks that synchronize the acquisition priorities and budgeting lifecycle using advanced data driven methodologies to ensure that acquisition strategies and resource allocation align with strategic objectives.
 - Executing detailed assessments to analyze and document acquisition requirements, facilitating joint requirements through collaborative tools, and developing detailed requirements through alternative solution analysis, trade-off studies and formal validation processes.
 - Providing technical expertise and reviewing critical acquisition documents.
 - Advising on the cost, schedule, and performance aspects of the acquisition program.
- Operational Analysis and Organizational Innovation
 - Designing, developing, and executing comprehensive assessments to map existing operational capabilities, identify gaps, and develop actionable plans to bridge the gap between current and desired capabilities, including recommendations for resource allocation, training, and technological upgrades.
 - Designing, developing and establishing innovative organizational structures and business models that can better support strategic and operational goals using best practices from both public and private sectors to drive innovation.
 - Providing expert guidance on implementing strategic plans and Key

Performance Indicator systems, including scenario planning and the use of contingency strategies to handle potential future challenges.

- Designing, evaluating, and refining human resources management frameworks to align with Federal regulations, improve organizational culture, and integrate best practices in workforce analytics.

Emerging Threats, Concept Exploration, Experimentation and Evaluation

- Developing concepts, models, simulations (for purposes of conceptual experimentation and evaluation, not for operational training), tools and metrics to evaluate system tradeoffs, integration strategies, and support critical decision making.
- Applying statistical analysis and evaluation techniques.
- Developing prototypes and proof-of-concept demonstrations.
- Designing, developing and establishing unique test-beds, laboratories, and other experimentation environments.
- Evaluating of alternative technologies and capabilities.

Information Technology (IT) and Cyber Operations

- IT and Communications
 - Developing and evaluating—
 - (i) Data processing methodologies including data transmission, storage, retrieval and manipulation
 - (ii) Computational algorithms, search engine technologies, semantical relationships and non-structured data analytics
 - (iii) Networking, telecommunications and communications technology
 - (iv) Computer technologies, cloud services and enterprise applications resource planning
 - Cyber Operations, Assessment, and Solutions
 - Leveraging big data analytics and using machine learning to develop comprehensive threat intelligence capabilities that aggregate and analyze threat data from multiple sources to enable the identification of emerging threats and vulnerabilities, facilitating timely and informed decision-making.
 - Developing of continuous monitoring systems that provide real-time visibility into networks and devices and utilize advanced forensic tools to conduct in-depth investigations into incidents.
 - Development of data security and risk assessment protocols to safeguard Federal data within Federal systems and in external environments where Federal data is process or stored.
- Systems Engineering, System Architecture and Integration

- Developing and reviewing systems design optimization and trade-space considerations.

- Designing and developing of integrating architectures and frameworks for existing and emerging systems and applications.

- Applying enterprise systems engineering principles to overall systems integration and aggregation considerations.

The FFRDCs will partner with the Department of State in the design and pursuit of mission goals; provide rapid responsiveness to changing requirements for personnel in all aspects of strategic, technical and program management; recognize Government objectives as its own objectives, partner in pursuit of excellence in public service; and allow for use of the FFRDC by non-sponsors.

The Department is publishing this notice in accordance with 48 CFR 5.205(b) of the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) to enable interested members of the public to provide comments on this proposed action. This is the first of three notices issued under the authority of 48 CFR 5.205(b).

In particular, we are interested in feedback regarding the proposed scope of the work to be performed by the FFRDCs, and the presence of any existing private- or public-sector capabilities in these areas that the Department should be considering.

It is anticipated that the corresponding Request(s) for Proposal (RFP) will be posted on *sam.gov* in the Summer of 2024.

Alternatively, a copy of the RFP can be obtained by contacting the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section above once the RFP is posted.

Michael W. Derrios,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, & Senior Procurement Executive, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2024-10842 Filed 5-16-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-24-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Submission Deadline for Schedule Information for Chicago O'Hare International Airport, John F. Kennedy International Airport, Los Angeles International Airport, Newark Liberty International Airport, and San Francisco International Airport for the Winter 2024/25 Scheduling Season

AGENCY: Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

ACTION: Notice of submission deadline.

SUMMARY: Under this notice, the FAA announces the submission deadline of May 17, 2024, for Winter 2024/25 flight schedules at Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), and San Francisco International Airport (SFO).

DATES: Schedules should be submitted by May 17, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Schedules may be submitted to the Slot Administration Office by email to: 7-AWA-slotadmin@faa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Al Meilus, Manager, Slot Administration and Capacity Analysis, AJR-G, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-2822; email Al.Meilus@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides routine notice to carriers serving capacity-constrained airports in the United States, including ORD, JFK, LAX, EWR, and SFO. In particular, this notice announces the deadline for carriers to submit schedules for the Winter 2024/2025 scheduling season.

General Information for All Airports

The FAA has designated JFK as an IATA Level 3 airport consistent with the Worldwide Slot Guidelines (WSG).¹ The FAA currently limits scheduled operations at JFK by order that expires on October 24, 2026.²

The FAA has designated EWR, LAX, ORD, and SFO as IATA Level 2 airports³ subject to a schedule review process premised upon voluntary cooperation. The Winter 2024/2025 scheduling season is from October 27, 2024, through March 29, 2025, in

¹ The FAA generally applies the WSG to the extent there is no conflict with U.S. law or regulation. The FAA recognizes the WSG has been replaced by the Worldwide Airports Slot Guidelines (WASG) edition 1, effective June 1, 2020, and subsequently WASG edition 2, effective July 1, 2022. The WASG is published jointly by Airports Council International-World, IATA, and the Worldwide Airport Coordinators Group (WWACG). While the FAA is considering whether to implement certain changes to the Guidelines in the United States, it will continue to apply WSG edition 9.

² Operating Limitations at John F. Kennedy International Airport, 73 FR 3510 (Jan. 18, 2008), as most recently extended 89 FR 41486 (May 13, 2024). The slot coordination parameters for JFK are set forth in this Order.

³ These designations remain effective until the FAA announces a change in the **Federal Register**.

recognition of the IATA Winter scheduling period.

The FAA is primarily concerned about scheduled and other regularly conducted commercial operations during designated hours, but carriers may submit schedule plans for the entire day. The designated hours for the Winter 2024/2025 scheduling season are: at EWR and JFK from 0600 to 2300 Eastern Time (1000 to 0300 UTC), at LAX and SFO from 0600 to 2300 Pacific Time (1300 to 0600 UTC), and at ORD from 0600 to 2100 Central Time (1100 to 0200 UTC). These hours are unchanged from previous scheduling seasons.

Carriers should submit schedule information in sufficient detail including, at minimum, the marketing or operating carrier, flight number, scheduled time of operation, frequency, aircraft equipment, and effective dates. IATA standard schedule information format and data elements for communications at Level 2 and Level 3 airports in the IATA Standard Schedules Information Manual (SSIM) Chapter 6 may be used. The WSG provides additional information on schedule submissions at Level 2 and Level 3 airports. Some carriers at JFK manage and track slots through FAA-assigned Slot ID numbers corresponding to an arrival or departure slot in a particular half-hour on a particular day of week and date. The FAA has a similar voluntary process for tracking schedules at EWR with Reference IDs, and certain carriers are managing their schedules accordingly. The primary users of IDs are United States and Canadian carriers that have the highest frequencies and considerable schedule changes throughout the season and can benefit from a simplified exchange of information not dependent on full flight details. Carriers are encouraged to submit schedule requests at those airports using Slot or Reference IDs.

As stated in the WSG, schedule facilitation at a Level 2 airport is based on the following: (1) Schedule adjustments are mutually agreed upon between the carriers and the facilitator; (2) the intent is to avoid exceeding the airport's coordination parameters; (3) the concepts of historic precedence and series of slots do not apply at Level 2 airports, although WSG recommends giving priority to approved services that plan to operate unchanged from the previous equivalent season at Level 2 airports; and (4) the facilitator should adjust the smallest number of flights by the least amount of time necessary to avoid exceeding the airport's coordination parameters. Consistent with the WSG, the success of Level 2 in