

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3466

To award grants to establish Advanced Multidisciplinary Computing Software Centers, which shall conduct outreach, technology transfer, development, and utilization programs in specific industries and geographic regions for the benefit of small and medium-sized manufacturers and businesses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 4, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To award grants to establish Advanced Multidisciplinary Computing Software Centers, which shall conduct outreach, technology transfer, development, and utilization programs in specific industries and geographic regions for the benefit of small and medium-sized manufacturers and businesses.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Blue Collar Computing
5 and Business Assistance Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADVANCED MULTIDISCIPLINARY COMPUTING SOFT-**
2 **WARE CENTERS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ADVANCED MULTIDISCIPLINARY COMPUTING
5 SOFTWARE CENTER; CENTER.—The terms “Ad-
6 vanced Multidisciplinary Computing Software Cen-
7 ter” and “Center” mean a center created by an eli-
8 gible entity with a grant awarded under subsection
9 (b).

10 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
11 ty” means any—

12 (A) nonprofit organization;

13 (B) consortium of nonprofit organizations;

14 or

15 (C) partnership between a for-profit and a
16 nonprofit organization.

17 (3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
18 “nonprofit organization” means any organization
19 that—

20 (A) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the
21 Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

22 (B) is exempt from taxation under section
23 501(a) of such Code.

24 (4) SMALL BUSINESS OR MANUFACTURER.—
25 The terms “small business or manufacturer” and
26 “small business and manufacturer” have the mean-

1 ing given the term “small business concern” in sec-
2 tion 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
3 632(a)), including a small manufacturing concern.

4 (5) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under
5 Secretary” means the Under Secretary for Tech-
6 nology of the Department of Commerce.

7 (b) GRANTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary shall
9 award grants to eligible entities to establish up to 5
10 Advanced Multidisciplinary Computing Software
11 Centers throughout the United States.

12 (2) PURPOSES.—Each Center established with
13 grant funds awarded under paragraph (1) shall—

14 (A) conduct general outreach to small busi-
15 nesses and manufacturers in all industry sec-
16 tors within the geographic region assigned to
17 the Center by the Under Secretary; and

18 (B) conduct technology transfer, develop-
19 ment, and utilization programs for businesses
20 throughout the United States in the specific in-
21 dustry sector assigned to the Center by the
22 Under Secretary.

23 (3) APPLICATION.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity de-
25 siring a grant under this subsection shall sub-

1 mit an application to the Under Secretary at
2 such time, in such manner, and accompanied by
3 such additional information as the Under Sec-
4 retary may reasonably require.

5 (B) PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REG-
6 ISTER.—Not later than 6 months after the date
7 of enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary
8 shall publish the application requirements re-
9 ferred to in subparagraph (A) in the Federal
10 Register.

11 (C) CONTENTS.—Each application sub-
12 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall—

13 (i) conform to the requirements pre-
14 scribed by the Under Secretary under this
15 paragraph; and

16 (ii) contain a proposal for the alloca-
17 tion of the legal rights associated with any
18 invention that may result from the activi-
19 ties of the proposed Center.

20 (D) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In evaluating
21 each application submitted under subparagraph
22 (A) on the basis of merit, the Under Secretary
23 shall consider—

24 (i) the extent to which the eligible en-
25 tity—

1 (I) has a partnership with non-
2 profit organizations, businesses, soft-
3 ware vendors, and academia recog-
4 nized for relevant expertise in its se-
5 lected industry sector;

6 (II) uses State-funded academic
7 supercomputing centers and univer-
8 sities or colleges with expertise in the
9 computational needs of the industry
10 assigned to the eligible entity under
11 paragraph (2)(B);

12 (III) has a history of working
13 with small businesses and manufac-
14 turers;

15 (IV) has experience providing
16 educational programs aimed at help-
17 ing organizations adopt the use of
18 high-performance computing and com-
19 putational science;

20 (V) has partnerships with edu-
21 cation or training organizations that
22 can help educate future workers on
23 the application of computational
24 science to industry needs;

1 (VI) is accessible to businesses,
2 academia, incubators, or other eco-
3 nomic development organizations via
4 high-speed networks; and

5 (VII) is capable of partnering
6 with small businesses and manufac-
7 turers to enhance the ability of such
8 entities to compete in the global mar-
9 ketplace;

10 (ii) the ability of the eligible entity to
11 enter successfully into collaborative agree-
12 ments with small businesses and manufac-
13 turers to experiment with new high per-
14 formance computing and computational
15 science technologies; and

16 (iii) such other factors as the Under
17 Secretary considers relevant.

18 (4) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Under Secretary
19 may not award a grant under this subsection in an
20 amount which exceeds \$5,000,000 for any year of
21 the grant period.

22 (5) DURATION.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
24 under subparagraph (B), a grant may not be

1 awarded under this subsection for a period ex-
2 ceeding 5 years.

3 (B) RENEWAL.—The Under Secretary may
4 renew any grant awarded under this subsection.

5 (6) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary
7 may not award a grant under this subsection
8 unless the eligible entity receiving such grant
9 agrees to provide not less than 50 percent of
10 the capital and annual operating and mainte-
11 nance funds required to create and maintain
12 the Center established with such grant funds.

13 (B) FUNDING FROM OTHER FEDERAL,
14 STATE, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.—
15 The funds provided by the eligible entity under
16 subparagraph (A) may include amounts re-
17 ceived by the eligible entity from the Federal
18 Government (other than the Department of
19 Commerce), a State, or a unit of local govern-
20 ment.

21 (7) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EX-
22 PENSES.—The Under Secretary may establish a rea-
23 sonable limitation on the portion of each grant
24 awarded under this subsection that may be used for
25 administrative expenses or other overhead costs.

1 (8) FEES AND ALTERNATIVE FUNDING
2 SOURCES AUTHORIZED.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—A Center established
4 with a grant awarded under this subsection
5 may, in accordance with regulations established
6 by the Under Secretary—

7 (i) collect a nominal fee from a small
8 business or manufacturer for a service pro-
9 vided under this section, if such fee is uti-
10 lized for the budget and operation of the
11 Center; and

12 (ii) accept financial assistance from
13 the Federal Government (other than the
14 Department of Commerce) for capital costs
15 and operating budget expenses.

16 (B) CONDITION.—Any Center receiving fi-
17 nancial assistance from the Federal Govern-
18 ment (other than the Department of Com-
19 merce) may be selected, and if selected shall be
20 operated, in accordance with this section.

21 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds received under
22 subsection (b) shall be used for the benefit of businesses
23 in the industry sector designated by the Under Secretary
24 under subsection (b)(2)(B) to—

1 (1) create a repository of nonclassified, non-
2 proprietary new and existing federally funded soft-
3 ware and algorithms;

4 (2) test and validate software in the repository;

5 (3) determine when and how the industry sector
6 it serves could benefit from resources in the reposi-
7 tory;

8 (4) work with software vendors to commer-
9 cialize repository software and algorithms from the
10 repository;

11 (5) make software available to small businesses
12 and manufacturers where it has not been commer-
13 cialized by a software vendor;

14 (6) help software vendors, small businesses, and
15 manufacturers test or utilize the software on high-
16 performance computing systems; and

17 (7) maintain a research and outreach team that
18 will work with small businesses and manufacturers
19 to aid in the identification of software or computa-
20 tional science techniques which can be used to solve
21 challenging problems, or meet contemporary busi-
22 ness needs of such organizations.

23 (d) REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS.—

24 (1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each eligible entity that
25 receives a grant under subsection (b) shall submit an

1 annual report to the Under Secretary that de-
2 scribes—

3 (A) the goals of the Center established by
4 the eligible entity; and

5 (B) the progress made by the eligible enti-
6 ty in achieving the purposes described in sub-
7 section (b)(2).

8 (2) EVALUATION.—The Under Secretary shall
9 establish a peer review committee, composed of rep-
10 resentatives from industry and academia, to review
11 the goals and progress made by each Center during
12 the grant period.

13 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
15 appropriated \$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal
16 years 2008 through 2012 to carry out this section.

17 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated pursu-
18 ant to paragraph (1) shall remain available until ex-
19 pended.

○