

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

None.

Non-MDE: Included are Infrared Search and Track (IRST) systems; integration and test support and equipment; aircraft and munitions support and support equipment; software delivery and support; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (TW-D-QBF).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TW-D-SAD.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: August 23, 2023.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—F-16 IRST Systems

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy F-16 Infrared Search and Track (IRST) systems; integration and test support and equipment; aircraft and munitions support and support equipment; software delivery and support; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. There is no Major Defense Equipment (MDE). The estimated total cost is \$500 million.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will improve the recipient's capability to meet current and future threats by contributing to the recipient's abilities to defend its airspace, provide regional security, and increase interoperability with the United States through its F-16 program. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin Corporation, St. Louis, MO. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement would be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-25

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Infrared Search and Track System (IRST) is a high resolution, passive, infrared sensor system that searches for, detects, and tracks threats with infrared signatures at long ranges within its field of regard. It functions without emitting any radiation of its own and enables aircrews to detect adversaries before those adversaries see or sense them.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the recipient can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the recipient.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, on Thursday, July 27, due to the sudden hospitalization of my mother, it was necessary for me to leave Washington before the Senate concluded voting on the National Defense Authorization Act. My CONGRESSIONAL RECORD statement explaining my absence that afternoon is included below.

While I was present for the vast majority of votes on the National Defense Authorization Act, I was forced to miss four due to my unexpected and sudden departure. The outcomes of these votes were unaffected by my absence, but I wish for the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted had I not left to be with my mother in Pennsylvania: yea on Schatz amendment 1078, vote No. 209; yea on Rubio amendment 523, vote No. 210; yea on Reed amendment 1087, vote No. 211; and yea on passage of the bill, the National Defense Authorization Act, vote No. 212.

My mother, Ellen Harding Casey, died peacefully at Regional Hospital, Scranton on August 11. I was grateful to have the chance to be with her during her final illness.

JULY 27, 2023.

#### MISSED VOTES FOR FAMILY MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Mr. CASEY. Due to my mother's sudden hospitalization for a serious illness, I need to leave Washington unexpectedly and immediately. As a result, I will miss the vote on final passage of the National Defense Authorization Act, as well as any remaining amendment votes. I would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that I support final passage of this legislation. When I return to Washington following the August work pe-

riod, I will submit another statement to the RECORD detailing how I would have cast my vote on each of the amendment votes I was forced to miss.

#### TRIBUTE TO NANCY CROWELL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on September 10, the people of Scarborough, ME, will gather to thank Nancy Crowell for her 45 years of outstanding contributions as Director of the Scarborough Public Library. It is a pleasure to join them in celebrating Ms. Crowell's exceptional service.

She began the job in 1977 when the library was a small wooden building on Black Point Road with a budget of \$35,000. Today, she leaves behind a modern library with a budget of more than \$1 million that reflects the value the townspeople have placed on her efforts.

Ms. Crowell bought the library's first electric typewriter and, as she noted when announcing her retirement, "I started at a time when books were checked out with rubber stamps and the new technologies were VHS and Betamax tapes and our new equipment was a used 16mm projector to show films."

In paying tribute to Ms. Crowell, Bill Donovan, president of the library's board of trustees, said that, "Under her leadership and direction, the library has grown to become an integral part of the town fabric, becoming a center for children, adults, and retirees to not just browse and read, but also to gather and take advantage of the library's many resources—much more than the humble beginnings Nancy found when she joined 45 years ago."

The Scarborough Public Library is a beacon in the community, where everyone receives a warm welcome and the power of knowledge is accessible to all. It is not just a repository for books, but also a place that inspires imagination, provides entertainment, spurs innovation, and fosters lifelong learning and community engagement.

The Roman philosopher Cicero said, "To add a library to a house is to give that house a soul." In the same vein, to build a community library is to reveal that community's spirit. Nancy Crowell has done just that with expertise and dedication, and I wish her all the best in the years to come.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANFORD-SPRINGVALE ROTARY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on September 16, Rotarians in Sanford and Springvale, ME, will gather to celebrate their 100th year of membership in a global network of neighbors, friends, and leaders working together for positive change in their communities and around the world. It is a pleasure to congratulate the Sanford/Springvale Rotary Club on a century of service.

It is remarkable that what began as a small group of civic leaders in Chicago in 1905 has grown to a service organization of 1.4 million dedicated

members in more than 200 countries and territories around the world. In any language, Rotarians live up to their motto of "Service Above Self."

There are more than 46,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide. Chartered in 1923, the Sanford-Springvale Club was part of the first great wave of expansion that took the Rotary movement from major American cities to smaller communities, to Canada and Europe, and then on to Asia and Africa.

Rotary International is a powerful force for good around the world. The global effort to eradicate polio is considered to be the most successful public health campaign in human history, one that would not have been possible without Rotary's commitment. When Rotary launched its PolioPlus program back in 1985, it was described as a "gift from the 20th century to the 21st." It has been just that.

In addition to its strong and ongoing support for PolioPlus, the Sanford-Springvale Club is part of a Rotary International effort to make affordable and safe water more widely available in developing countries. On one mission to a small village in India, club members combined the two initiatives by helping with a childhood immunization effort and carrying out a safe drinking water project.

The Sanford-Springvale Club is a powerful force for good at home. From its "January Thaw" fundraiser to a summertime golf tournament, the club generously supports a wide range of charitable endeavors, including scholarships, literacy programs, food pantries, and nutrition programs for schoolchildren. Members collect winter clothes for those in need, participate in beach cleanups, and join together to complete community projects, like building a healing garden at the Cancer Care Center in Sanford.

When Paul Harris led the way in founding Rotary International 118 years ago, he said this: "Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves." The results are inspiring, and the world is grateful. The Rotary Club of Sanford and Springvale, ME, is part of that effort, and I congratulate its members for their accomplishments and contributions.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING AMERICAN FARM COMPANY

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize American Farm Company of Hospers, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded by 29-year-old Rachel Granstra in 2021, American Farm Com-

pany is a clothing line specially designed to represent farmers, ranchers, farm wives, and farm families. As part of a multigenerational farm family, Rachel takes pride in her agricultural roots and strives to use her direct-to-consumer online apparel business to promote farming and agriculture in a way that reaches the next generation. American Farm Company first grew out of a blog that Rachel started in 2018 called "Little House on the Feedlot." She would share recipes and anecdotes about her life on a family farm as she and her husband Brennan raise cattle and grow corn and soybeans. After developing a large following, Rachel began to sell original farmer-themed t-shirt designs. Her business soon took off as many people sought out her creative and authentic designs.

In 2021, Rachel rebranded her business as American Farm Company and expanded into a large warehouse in Hospers. American Farm Company sells a variety of products such as crewneck sweaters, t-shirts, headwear, backpacks, and flags. She even sells a flagship light beer in collaboration with West O'Beer in Milford, which she brands as "Farmer's Water." Rachel now employs 20 women who help her fulfill orders for her growing online retail business. Rachel is proud to use her business to advocate for the American farming industry, and she recently launched a new product, the Co-Op Box, which directly connects consumers with high-quality products from small American farms.

The American Farm Company's commitment to providing quality apparel products in Hospers, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate Rachel Granstra and the entire team at American Farm Company for their continued dedication to our ag communities. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

##### RECOGNIZING BLUE-9 PET PRODUCTS

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize Blue-9 Pet Products of Maquoketa, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Blue-9 Pet Products was founded by David Blake in 2014, specializing in creating high-quality dog training accessories for canines and their owners. David and the Blue-9 Pet Products team gathered input from respected trainers, veterinarians, and animal behaviorists before designing The KLIMB, Blue-9 Pet Products' flagship product for training. To develop his first product, The KLIMB, David collaborated with Iowa State University, the University of Iowa, and the Iowa Economic Development Authority. The KLIMB is a training platform used to

give dogs an elevated surface to learn commands faster, exercise, and gain obedience skills. Since it hit the market, The KLIMB has quickly become one of the most popular tools for dog trainers around the country, being named the 2015 Editor's Choice by Pet Product News. Another one of Blue-9 Pet Products' best-selling products is the Balance Harness, which is an adjustable harness that is flexible for dogs that ease their use for both canines and their owners. These premium solution-based features were important in the Balance Harness receiving a top-rated feature by Whole Dog Journal in 2017.

Blue-9 Pet Products proudly manufactures all of its dog training accessories in the United States. Additionally, David passionately advocates to make Iowa a more dog-friendly place. He hosts an annual canine athlete competition at the Jackson County Fairgrounds to fundraise for the Jackson County Humane Society. He also supports the Association of Professional Dog Trainers Foundation. David is active in his local business community through the Jackson County Economic Alliance, volunteering to share his experience in entrepreneurship and building a new business.

Blue-9 Pet Products' commitment to providing quality pet-training products in Maquoketa, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate David Blake and the entire team at Blue-9 Pet Products for their continued dedication to providing dog training products to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

##### RECOGNIZING BLURRY BIGFOOT COFFEE COMPANY

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize Blurry Bigfoot Coffee Company of Lake Park, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded by Shelley and Paige Morris in 2021, Blurry Bigfoot Coffee Company is a specialty coffeehouse serving espresso drinks, non-coffee drinks, breakfast, and lunch to the Dickinson County community in northwestern Iowa. Blurry Bigfoot Coffee Company maintains a wide-ranging menu from house specials like the cinnamon roll latte, coffee classics like a cappuccino, and non-caffinated options such as a lemonade or milkshake. For food options, Blurry Bigfoot Coffee Company offers sandwiches, paninis, and all-day breakfast items. The business operates the area's only wood-fired bread oven, embracing old world artisan style cooking with present day dining options.

Unlike most artisanal coffee shops, Blurry Bigfoot Coffee Company operates both a dine-in service as well as a drive-thru for customers on the go. In