

effective for Board fiscal year 1996, *i.e.*, that it become effective as of October 1, 1995, for reasons discussed above. The Board is requesting that the proposed change to rule A-13 on fee assessments, and the corollary change to rule G-14 on reports of sales and purchases, be made effective on January 1, 1996, also for reasons discussed above.

#### IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549. Copies of the submissions, 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 inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of the filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the Board's principal offices. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-MSRB-95-13 and should be submitted by December 18, 1995.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority, 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Margaret H. McFarland,

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 95-28868 Filed 11-24-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

#### SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

##### Minneapolis/St. Paul Advisory Council Meeting; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration, Minneapolis/St. Paul District Advisory Council will hold a public meeting on Friday, December 8, 1995 at 11:30 am at the Decathlon Club, 1700 East 79th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota, to discuss matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present.

For further information, write or call Mr. Edward A. Daum, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 610-C Butler Square, 100 North Sixth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403 (612) 370-2306.

Dated: November 20, 1995.

Art DeCoursey,

*Director, Office of Advisory Council.*

[FR Doc. 95-28870 Filed 11-24-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

##### Bureau of Intelligence and Research

[Public Notice No. 2287]

##### Discretionary Grant Programs: Application Notice Establishing Closing Date for Transmittal of Certain Fiscal Year 1996 Applications

**AGENCY:** The Department of State invites applications from national organizations with interest and expertise in conducting research and training to serve as intermediaries administering national competitive programs concerning the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union. The grants will be awarded through an open, national competition among applicant organizations.

Authority for this Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union is contained in the Soviet-Eastern European Research and Training Act of 1983 (22 U.S.C. 4501-4508, as amended).

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this application notice is to inform potential applicant organizations of fiscal and programmatic information and closing dates for transmittal of applications for awards in Fiscal Year 1996 under a program administered by the Department of State.

**ORGANIZATION OF NOTICE:** This notice contains three parts. Part I lists the closing date covered by this notice. Part II consists of a statement of purpose and priorities of the program Part III provides the fiscal data for the program.

##### Part I

##### *Closing Date for Transmittal of Applications*

An application for an award must be mailed or hand-delivered by January 19, 1996.

##### *Applications Delivered by Mail*

An application sent by mail must be addressed to Kenneth E. Roberts, Executive Director, Advisory Committee for Studies of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union, INR/RES, Room 6841, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520-6510.

An applicant must show proof of mailing consisting of *one* of the following:

(1) a legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.

(2) a legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.

(3) a dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial center.

(4) any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Department of State.

If any application is sent through the U.S. Postal Service, the Department of State does not accept either of the following as proof of mailing: (1) a private metered postmark, or (2) a mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

An applicant should note that the U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, an applicant should check with the local post office.

An applicant is encouraged to use registered or at least first class mail. Late applications will not be considered and will be returned to the applicant.

##### *Applications Delivered by Hand*

An application that is hand delivered must be taken to Kenneth E. Roberts, Executive Director, Advisory Committee for Studies of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union, INR/RES, Room 6841, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Please phone first (202) 736-4572 to ensure access to the building.

The Advisory Committee staff will accept hand-delivered applications between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. EST daily, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

An application that is hand delivered will not be accepted after 4:00 p.m. on the closing date.

##### Part II

##### *Program Information*

In the Soviet-Eastern European Research and Training Act of 1983 the Congress declared that independently verified factual knowledge about the countries of that area is "of utmost importance for the national security of the United States, for the furtherance of our national interests in the conduct of foreign relations, and for the prudent management of our domestic affairs." Congress also declared that the development and maintenance of such knowledge and expertise "depends upon the national capability for advanced research by highly trained and experienced specialists, available for service in and out of Government." The program provides financial support for

advanced research, training and other related functions on the countries of the region. By strengthening and sustaining in the United States a cadre of experts on Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union, the program contributes to the overall objectives of the FREEDOM Support and SEED programs.

The full purpose of the Act and the eligibility requirements are set forth in Pub. L. 98-164, 97 Stat. 1047-50, as amended. The countries include Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. (No funds may actually be spent in Serbia.)

The Act establishes an Advisory Committee to recommend grant policies and recipients. The Secretary of State, after consultation with the Advisory Committee, approves policies and makes final determination on awards.

Applications for funding under the Act are invited from U.S. organizations prepared to conduct competitive programs on the independent states of the former Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe and related fields. Applying organizations or institutions should have the capability to conduct competitive award programs that are national in scope. Programs of this nature are those that make awards which are based upon an open, nationwide competition, incorporating peer group review mechanisms. Individual end-users of these funds—those to whom the applicant organizations or institutions propose to make awards—must be at the graduate or post-doctoral levels, and must have demonstrated a likely career commitment to the study of Eastern Europe and/or the independent states of the former Soviet Union.

Applications sought in this competition among organizations or institutions are those that would contribute to the development of a stable, long-term, national program of unclassified, advanced research and training on the countries of Eastern Europe and/or the independent states of the former Soviet Union by proposing:

(1) *National programs* which award contracts or grants to American institutions of higher education or not-for-profit corporations in support of post-doctoral or equivalent level research projects, such contracts or grants to contain shared-cost provisions;

(2) *National programs* which offer graduate, post-doctoral and teaching fellowships for advanced training on the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union, and in related studies, including training in the languages of the region, with such training to be conducted on a shared-cost basis, at American institutions of higher education;

(3) *National programs* which provide fellowships and other support for American specialists enabling them to conduct advanced research on the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union, and in related studies; and those which facilitate research collaboration between Government and private specialists in these areas;

(4) *National programs* which provide advanced training and research on a reciprocal basis in the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union by facilitating access for American specialists to research facilities and resources in those countries;

(5) *National programs* which facilitate the public dissemination of research methods, data and findings; and those which propose to strengthen the national capability for advanced research or training on the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union in ways not specified above.

Note: The Advisory Committee will not consider applications from individuals to further their own training or research, or from institutions or organizations whose proposals are not for competitive award programs that are national in scope as defined above. Support for specific activities will be guided by the following policies:

—*Publications.* Funds awarded in this competition should not be used to subsidize journals, newsletters and other periodical publications except in special circumstances, in which cases the funds should be supplied through peer-review organizations with national competitive programs.

—*Conferences.* Proposals for conferences, like those for research projects and training programs, should be assessed according to their relative contribution to the advancement of knowledge and to the professional development of cadres in the fields. Therefore, requests for conference funding should be directed to one or more of the national peer-review organizations receiving program funds, with proposed conferences being evaluated competitively against research,

fellowship or other proposals for achieving the purposes of the grant.

—*Library Activities.* Funds may be used for certain library activities which clearly strengthen research and training on the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union and benefit the fields as a whole. Such programs must make awards based upon open, nationwide competition, incorporating peer group review mechanisms. Funds may not be used for activities such as modernization, acquisition, or preservation. Modest, cost-effective proposals to facilitate research, by eliminating serious cataloging backlogs or otherwise improving access to research materials, will be considered.

—*Language Support.* The Advisory Committee encourages attention to the non-Russian languages of the independent states of the former Soviet Union and the less commonly taught languages of the East European countries. Support provided for Russian Language instruction/study normally will be only for advanced level. Applicants proposing to offer language instruction are encouraged to apply to a national program as described above which has appropriate peer group review mechanisms.

—*Support for Non-Americans.* The purpose of the program is to build and sustain U.S. expertise on the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union. Therefore, the Advisory Committee has determined that highest priority for support always should go to American specialists (i.e., U.S. citizens or permanent residents). Support for such activities as long-term research fellowships, i.e., nine months or longer, should be restricted solely to American scholars. Support for short-term activities also should be restricted to Americans, except in special instances where the participation of a non-American scholar has clear and demonstrable benefits to the American scholarly community. In such special instances, the applicant must justify the expenditure.

—*Support for Transitions.* The Advisory Committee encourages support for activities which, while building expertise among U.S. specialists on the region, also may promote fundamental goals of U.S. assistance programs such as helping establish market economies and promoting democratic governance and civil societies.

In making its recommendations, the Committee will seek to encourage a coherent, long-term, and stable effort directed toward developing and maintaining a national capability on the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union. Program proposals can be for the conduct of any of the functions enumerated, but in making its recommendations, the Committee will be concerned to develop a balanced national effort which will ensure attention to all the countries of the area. Legislation requires and this announcement indicates under *Program Information* of this section that in certain cases grantee organizations must include shared-cost provisions in their arrangements with end-users. Cost-sharing is encouraged, whenever feasible, in all programs.

### Part III

#### *Available Funds*

Awards are contingent upon the availability of funds. Funding may be available at a level up to \$7.5 million. The precise level of funding will not be known until legislative action is complete. In Fiscal Year 1995, the Congress appropriated to the program \$7.5 million from the Agency for International Development budget.

The Department legally cannot commit funds that may be appropriated in subsequent fiscal years. Thus multi-year projects cannot receive assured funding unless such funding is supplied out of a single year's appropriation. Grant agreements may permit the expenditure from a particular year's grant to be made up to three years from the grant's effective date, depending upon the source of the appropriation.

#### *Applications*

Applications must be prepared and submitted in 20 copies in the form of a statement, the narrative part of which should not exceed 20 double-spaced pages. This must be accompanied by a one-page executive summary, a budget, and vitae of key professional staff. Proposers may append other information they consider essential, although bulky submissions are discouraged and run the risk of not being reviewed fully. The one-page summary and budget should precede the narrative in the proposal.

Proposed programs should be described fully, including benefits for the fields. All applicants should provide detailed information about their plans for peer evaluation and review procedures and estimates of the types and amount of anticipated awards.

Applicants who have received a grant from this program in the previous competition should provide detailed information on the peer evaluation and review procedures followed, and awards made, including, where applicable, names/affiliations of recipients, and amounts and types of awards. If an applicant received support prior to the last competition, a summary of those awards also should be included.

Descriptions of all competitive award programs should specify both past and anticipated applicant-to-award ratios.

Proposals from national organizations involving language instruction programs should provide for those programs supported in the past year information on the criteria for evaluation, including levels of instruction, degrees of intensiveness, facilities, methods for measuring language proficiency (including pre- and post-testing), instructors' qualifications, and budget information showing estimated costs per student.

A description of affirmative action policies and practices must be included in the application.

Applications should include certifications of compliance with the provisions of:

(1) the Drug-Free Workplace Act (Pub. L. 100-690), in accordance with Appendix C of 22 CFR 137, Subpart F; and

(2) Section 319 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 101-121), in accordance with Appendix A of 22 CFR 138, New Restrictions on Lobbying Activities.

#### *Budget*

Since funds provided by AID would come separately from its East Europe (including the Baltic states) and New Independent States programs, proposals must indicate how the requested funds will be distributed by region, country (to the extent possible), and activity. Subsequently, grant recipients must report expenditures by region, country, and activity.

Applicants should familiarize themselves with Department of State grant regulations contained in 22 CFR 145, "Grants and Cooperative Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations," OMB Circular A-110, "Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education . . . Uniform Administrative Requirements," and OMB Circular A-133, "Audits of Institutions of Higher Learning and Other Non-Profit Institutions" and indicate or provide the following information:

(1) whether the organization falls under OMB Circular No. A-21, "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions," or OMB Circular No. A-122, "Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations;"

(2) a detailed program budget indicating direct expenses by program element, by region (the independent states of the former Soviet Union or Eastern Europe), indirect costs, and the total amount requested. NB: Indirect costs are limited to 10 percent of total direct program costs. Applicants requesting funds to supplement a program having other sources of support should submit a current budget for the total program and an estimated future budget for it showing how specific lines in the budget would be affected by the allocation of requested grant funds. Other funding sources and amounts, when known, should be identified.

(3) the applicant's cost-sharing proposal, if applicable, containing appropriate details and cross references to the requested budget;

(4) the organization's most recent audit report (the most recent U.S. Government audit report if available) and the name, address, and point of contact of the audit agency.

All payments will be made to grant recipients through the Department of State.

#### *Technical Review*

The Advisory Committee for Studies of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union will evaluate applications on the basis of the following criteria:

(1) responsiveness to the substantive provisions set forth above in *Part II, Program Information* (45 points);

(2) the professional qualifications of the applicant's key personnel and their experience conducting national competitive award programs of the type the applicant proposes on the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union (35 points); and

(3) budget presentation of cost effectiveness (20 points).

#### *Further Information*

For further information, contact Kenneth E. Roberts, Executive Director, Advisory Committee for Studies of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union, INR/RES, Room 6841, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520. Telephone: (202) 736-4573 or 736-4386, fax: (202) 736-4851.

Dated: November 8, 1995.

Kenneth E. Roberts,

*Executive Director, Advisory Committee for Studies of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union.*

[FR Doc. 95-28775 Filed 11-24-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-32-M

**[Public Notice No. 2289]**

**Notice of Briefing**

The Department of State announces that Under Secretary for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs Joan Spero will host the first of what are anticipated to be quarterly briefings on U.S. foreign policy economic sanctions programs. The briefing will be held on Monday, December 18, 1995, from 2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m., in State Department conference room 1912, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, D.C.

This briefing will cover the sanctions regimes overseen by the State Department's Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, with a focus on Iran, Cuba, and narcotics-related programs. Country and regional desk officers will be on hand to address inquiries regarding programs operating in other countries as well.

Please Note: Persons intending to attend the December 18 briefing must announce this not later than 48 hours before the briefing, and preferably further in advance, to the Department of State by sending a fax to 202-647-3953 (Office of the Coordinator for Business Affairs). The announcement must include name, company or association name, Social Security number and date of birth. The above includes government and non-government attendees. One of the following valid photo ID's will be required for admittance: U.S. driver's license with picture, U.S. passport, U.S. government ID (company ID's are no longer accepted by Diplomatic Security). Enter from the C Street Main Lobby.

Dated: November 13, 1995.

David A. Ruth,

*Senior Coordinator for Business Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 95-28777 Filed 11-24-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-M

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Office of Commercial Space Transportation**

**[Docket OST-95-852]**

**Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; Commercial Expendable Launch Vehicle Operations**

**AGENCY:** Office of Commercial Space Transportation (OCST), Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Commercial Space Transportation (OCST) intends to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) to address the environmental impact of commercial expendable launch vehicle operations. This action is necessary to update an environmental assessment the Office prepared in 1986. An EIS will encompass topics not previously addressed.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted no later than December 27, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to Docket Clerk, Docket OST-95-852, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street SW., Room PL-401, Washington DC 20590.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Nikos Himaras, Office of Commercial Space Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. (202) 366-2929.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Commercial Space Launch Act of 1984, as recodified at 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IX—Commercial Space Transportation, ch. 701, Commercial Space Launch Activities, 49 U.S.C. §§ 70101-70119 (1994) (the Act) grants the Secretary of Transportation the authority to license and regulate commercial launches of launch vehicles and the operation of launch sites within the United States or as carried out by its citizens. The Secretary has delegated this authority to the Office of Commercial Space Transportation (OCST).

Because licensing constitutes a major Federal action, section 415.31 of OCST's licensing regulations (14 CFR ch III) states that the potential environmental impacts of licensing commercial launch activities must be considered by the Office in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq. (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, 40 C.F.R. §§ 1500-1508, and Department of Transportation Procedures for Considering

Environmental Impacts, DOT Order 5610.1C.

A programmatic environmental assessment (EA) of commercial expendable launch vehicle programs (Programmatic EA) was prepared by OCST in February 1986, and has served as a basis for licensing determinations for commercial launches to date. Commercial expendable launch vehicle operations encompass a variety of launch vehicle technologies and a number of launch sites and systems. Expendable launch vehicles are one-use launch systems utilized to carry payloads to orbit or to suborbital trajectories. They include such launch vehicles as the Black Brant, Atlas, Delta, Pegasus, and Taurus families of rockets. They employ liquid fueled engines and solid rocket motors as booster stages. They also utilize on-board guidance systems which rely on chemical batteries and power cells. Ground-controlled, flight/thrust termination systems containing explosives and powered by batteries, are also integral parts of launch vehicles. These systems are used to protect persons and property on the surface of the earth from errant launch vehicles. Launch vehicle payloads usually contain propulsion and power systems similar to those found on launch vehicles.

Several factors warrant the preparation of a programmatic EIS to replace the 1986 EA. The commercial launch industry has grown significantly since 1986, and this trend is projected to continue. New launch vehicle technologies, propulsion systems, and associated fuels and oxidizers have been introduced and are under development. Additionally, environmental regulations have been issued or amended since the publication of the Programmatic EA in 1986. Lastly, significant research discoveries have been made since 1986 concerning ozone. These developments merit the more expansive review of an EIS. This review will allow OCST to continue to evaluate commercial applications for licenses for launch activities and ensure that the information used as a basis for a license determination is current.

The programmatic EIS for commercial expendable launch vehicle operations will evaluate a broader range of launch vehicle technologies, their propulsion systems, fuels, and oxidizers. Potential environmental impacts to terrestrial, water, and particularly atmospheric environments from launches, combustion by-products, noise, and other effects will be assessed. The programmatic EIS will examine potential environmental impacts from commercial launches broadly, without