

*Reasons:* The foreign instrument provides capability for measurements in a magnetic field up to 6.0 tesla at temperatures down to 0.015° K with field uniformity to 0.15% in a 1.0 cm<sup>3</sup> central region. A domestic manufacturer of similar equipment advised March 14, 2001 that (1) this capability is pertinent to the applicant's intended purpose and (2) it knows of no domestic instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument for the applicant's intended use.

We know of no other instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument which is being manufactured in the United States.

**Gerald A. Zerdy,**

*Program Manager, Statutory Import Programs Staff.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### Government Owned Inventions Available for Licensing

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Government Owned Inventions Available for Licensing.

**SUMMARY:** The inventions listed below are owned in whole or in part by the U.S. Government, as represented by the Department of Commerce. The Department of Commerce's interest in the inventions is available for licensing in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 and 37 CFR part 404 to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally funded research and development.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Technical and licensing information on these inventions may be obtained by writing to: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Office of Technology Partnerships, Building 820, Room 213, Gaithersburg, MD 20899; Fax 301-869-2751. Any request for information should include the NIST Docket No. and Title for the relevant invention as indicated below.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NIST may enter into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement ("CRADA") with the licensee to perform further research on the inventions for purposes of commercialization. The inventions available for licensing are:

*NIST Docket Number:* 98-029US.

*Title:* Method And Apparatus For Bias And Readout Of Bolometers Operated

On A Hysteretic Metal-Insulator Transition.

*Abstract:* This invention consists of a bias and readout scheme for resistive bolometers. It is chiefly intended for use with bolometer materials which exhibit a phase transition that is hysteretic. The most obvious example of such a bolometer material is vanadium dioxide, which has a metal-semiconductor phase transition at 68 degrees Celsius and a hysteresis of typically 5 degrees Celsius depending on material preparation. The existence of hysteresis precludes the use of a conventional DC bias or a conventional pulsed bias in a bolometer operated on the phase transition. In the technique we are disclosing, the bias consists of an AC current. (This is for phase transitions in which the resistance decreases with increasing temperature. For phase transitions in which the resistance increases with temperature, an AC voltage bias would be used.) The waveform of the AC bias consists of a short "reset" segment, in which the peak current is high enough to bring the bolometer completely into its metallic state, followed by a longer "data" segment, in which the bias current and bias power monotonically decrease, so as to sweep the bolometer's physical temperature downward across the phase transition. The frequency of the AC bias is determined by the condition that the slew rate in bias power during the data segment must always exceed the slew rate in signal power, for all signals of interest. The signal is read out by averaging the bolometer voltage over a time window lying entirely within the data segment. With this bias and readout scheme, the full slope of the bolometer R(T) characteristic is reflected in the output from small signals, which would not be the case for a conventional DC or pulsed bias scheme. Since the full slope of the R(T) characteristic is accessible, the bolometer can operate in the extreme electrothermal feedback regime, which provides major improvements in speed 1/f-noise, and sensitivity.

Dated: April 3, 2001.

**Karen H. Brown,**

*Acting Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040301B]

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Advisory Panel and Scallop Plan Development Team (PDT) and Skate Oversight Committee in April 2001 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on April 26 and 27, 2001. See

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Comfort Inn Airport, 1940 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886; telephone: (401) 732-0470.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (978) 465-0492.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Meeting Dates and Agendas

*Thursday, April 26, 2001, 9:30 a.m.—* Skate Oversight Committee Meeting

The committee will finalize Skate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Goals and Objectives. The agenda will include continued development of draft Skate FMP alternatives for public hearings; alternatives may include specifications for a skate permit and catch reporting system, prohibitions on the possession of certain skate species, management measures for the bait and/or wing fishery, limited access provisions, possession limits, minimum size restrictions, and/or any other appropriate measures. The committee will possibly consider a control date for skate fishing.

*Thursday, April 26, 2001, 10:00 a.m. and Friday, April 27, 2001, 8:30 a.m.—* Joint Scallop Advisory Panel and PDT Meeting

The Scallop Industry Advisory Panel will meet jointly with the Scallop PDT to develop management alternatives for