their efforts to enhance natural resource efficiency, minimize waste, and compete in world markets, public and private sector stakeholders require a better collective understanding of these challenges and ways these can be addressed. Thus, there is a need for more in-depth analyses that can educate these stakeholders on where significant challenges and opportunities for enhanced profitability lie.

Next Step: MAS will launch a ''Sustainable Manufacturing Sector Focus Study'' series aimed at informing public and private sector stakeholders about the specific sustainability-related challenges, ongoing efforts, and unrealized opportunities that exist in specific U.S. manufacturing sectors. These studies would be designed to provide clarity on the specific hurdles U.S. firms are facing in their efforts to become more resource efficient, what firms are doing to overcome these hurdles, potential cost-saving and value-adding opportunities that exist in a selected sector, and unexplored areas of public-private collaboration.

Dated: December 18, 2009.

Matthew Howard,

Office of Trade Policy Analysis.

[FR Doc. E9–31188 Filed 12–31–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XS41

Marine Mammals; File No. 87–1851–02

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Daniel P. Costa, Ph.D., University of California at Santa Cruz, Long Marine Laboratory, 100 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz, CA has been issued a major amendment to Permit No. 87–1851–01.

ADDRESSES: The permit amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713–2289; fax (301) 713–0376; and

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213; phone (562) 980–4001; fax (562) 980–4018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Sloan or Tammy Adams, Ph.D., (301) 713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 20, 2009, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 53719) that a request for an amendment to Permit No. 87–1851–01 to conduct research on Antarctic pinnipeds had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit amendment has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Permit No. 87–1851–02 authorizes the permit holder to expand the geographic range where research is conducted in Antarctica to include the Ross Sea, and to increase the number of Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) captured, sedated, tagged, and sampled from 10 animals per year to 40 animals per year. Permit No. 87–1851–02 expires on January 31, 2012.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: December 28, 2009.

P. Michael Payne,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E9–31191 Filed 12–31–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., App.), notice is hereby given that the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology (VCAT), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will meet Tuesday, February 2, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, February 3, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology is composed of fifteen members appointed by the Director of NIST who are eminent in such fields as business, research, new product development, engineering, labor, education, management consulting, environment, and international relations.

The purpose of this meeting is to review and make recommendations regarding general policy for the Institute, its organization, its budget, and its programs within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. The agenda will include an update on NIST, a presentation on the strengthened NIST role in documentary standards, an overview of the NIST organizational structure, a discussion on future VCAT meeting topics, preparation and feedback sessions on draft recommendations for the 2009 VCAT Annual Report, and laboratory tours. The agenda may change to accommodate Committee business. The final agenda will be posted on the NIST Web site at *http://www.nist.gov/director/vcat/agenda.htm*.

DATES: The VCAT will meet on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, February 3, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Portrait Room, Administration Building, at NIST, Gaithersburg, Maryland. Please note admittance instructions under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie Shaw, Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–1060, telephone number (301) 975–2667. Ms. Shaw's e-mail address is *stephanie.shaw@nist.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Individuals and representatives of organizations who would like to offer comments and suggestions related to the Committee's affairs are invited to request a place on the agenda. On February 2, 2010, approximately one-half hour will be reserved in the afternoon for public comments, and speaking times will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. The amount of time per speaker will be determined by the number of requests received, but is likely to be about 3 minutes each. The exact time for public comments will be included in the final agenda that will be posted on the NIST Web site at *http://www.nist.gov/director/vcat/agenda.htm*. Questions from the public will not be considered during this period. Speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, those who had wished to speak but could not be accommodated