

report to Congress. A copy of the draft report will be posted prior to the meeting on the NCST Advisory Committee's Web site at <http://www.nist.gov/el/disasterstudies/ncst/index.cfm>. Interested members of the public will be able to participate in the meeting from remote locations by calling into a central phone number.

DATES: The NCST Advisory Committee will hold a meeting via teleconference on Friday, January 11, 2013, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: Questions regarding the meeting should be sent to the Disaster and Failure Studies Program Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 8604, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8604. For instructions on how to participate in the meeting, please see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Eric Letvin, Disaster and Failure Studies Program Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 8604, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8604. Mr. Letvin's email address is eric.letvin@nist.gov and his phone number is (301) 975-5412.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NCST Advisory Committee was established pursuant to Section 11 of the National Construction Safety Team Act (15 U.S.C. 7301 *et seq.*). The NCST Advisory Committee is comprised of ten members, appointed by the Director of NIST, who were selected for their technical expertise and experience, established records of distinguished professional service, and their knowledge of issues affecting teams established under the NCST Act. The NCST Advisory Committee advises the Director of NIST on the functions and composition of Teams established under the NCST Act and on the exercise of authorities enumerated in the NCST Act and reviews the procedures developed to implement the NCST Act and reports issued under section 8 of the NCST Act. Background information on the NCST Act and information on the NCST Advisory Committee is available at <http://www.nist.gov/el/disasterstudies/ncst>.

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App., notice is hereby given that the NCST Advisory Committee will hold a meeting via teleconference on Friday, January 11, 2013, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Eastern Time. There will be no central meeting location. Interested members of the public will be able to participate in the meeting from remote locations by calling into a central phone

number. The primary purpose of this meeting is to discuss the NCST Advisory Committee's draft annual report to Congress. A copy of the draft report will be posted on the NCST Advisory Committee's Web site at <http://www.nist.gov/el/disasterstudies/ncst/index.cfm>.

Individuals and representatives of organizations who would like to offer comments and suggestions related to the NCST Advisory Committee's affairs are invited to request detailed instructions by contacting Eric Letvin on how to dial in from a remote location to participate in the meeting. Eric Letvin's email address is eric.letvin@nist.gov, and his phone number is 301-975-5412. Approximately fifteen minutes will be reserved from 2:45 p.m.-3 p.m. Eastern Time for public comments; 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. 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 on the agenda, and those who were unable to participate are invited to submit written statements to the National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, MS 8604, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8604, via fax at (301) 975-4032, or electronically by email to ncstac@nist.gov.

All participants in the meeting are required to pre-register. Anyone wishing to participate must register by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, January 10, 2013, in order to be included. Please submit your name, email address, and phone number to Eric Letvin. After registering, participants will be provided with detailed instructions on how to dial in from a remote location in order to participate. Eric Letvin's email address is eric.letvin@nist.gov, and his phone number is (301) 975-5412.

Dated: December 13, 2012.

Willie E. May,

Associate Director for Laboratory Programs.

[FR Doc. 2012-30469 Filed 12-17-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Notice of Public Meeting—Cloud Computing and Big Data Forum and Workshop

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

ACTION: Notice of public forum and workshop.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces a Cloud Computing and Big Data Forum and Workshop to be held on Tuesday, January 15, Wednesday, January 16, and Thursday, January 17, 2013. The format is a two-day forum followed by a one-day hands-on workshop. The NIST Cloud Computing and Big Data Forum and Workshop will bring together leaders and innovators from industry, academia and government in an interactive format that combines keynote presentations, panel discussions, interactive breakout sessions, and open discussion. The forum and workshop are open to the general public. NIST invites organizations to display posters and participate as exhibitors as described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

DATES: The NIST Cloud Computing and Big Data Forum and Workshop will be held 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on Tuesday, January 15, 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. ET on Wednesday, January 16, and 9:00 a.m.-12:40 p.m. ET on Thursday, January 17, 2013.

ADDRESSES: To register, go to: <http://www.nist.gov/itl/cloud/cloudbdworkshop.cfm>. The event will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20899 in the Red Auditorium of the Administration Building (Building 101). Please note admittance instructions in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Romayne Hines by email at romayne.hines@nist.gov or by phone at (301) 975-4090. Additional information may be found at: <http://www.nist.gov/itl/cloud/cloudbdworkshop.cfm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NIST hosted five prior Cloud Computing Forum & Workshop events in May 2010, November 2010, April 2011, November 2011 and June 2012. The purpose of this series of workshops was to respond to the request of the U.S. Chief Information

Officer that NIST lead federal efforts on standards for data portability, cloud interoperability, and security¹. The workshops' goals were to engage with industry to accelerate the development of cloud standards for interoperability, portability, and security, discuss the Federal Government's experience with cloud computing, report on the status of the NIST Cloud Computing efforts, launch and report progress on the NIST-led initiative to collaboratively develop a U.S. Government (USG) Cloud Computing Technology Roadmap among multiple federal and industrial stakeholders, and to advance the dialogue among all of these groups. The series has been expanded to focus on the emerging trend of Big Data in the context of its convergence with and complementary relationship to Cloud Computing.

On the first day, the workshop presenters will provide information on the USG Cloud Computing Technology Roadmap initiative as well as a status update on NIST efforts to help develop open standards in interoperability, portability and security in cloud computing. On the second and third days, the workshop will focus on the intersection of Cloud Computing and Big Data. Fully realizing the power of Big Data depends on meeting the unprecedented demands on storage, integration, and analysis presented by massive data sets—demands that Cloud Computing innovators are working to meet today. The workshop will explore possibilities for harmonizing Cloud Computing and Big Data measurement, benchmarking, and standards in ways that bring the power of these two approaches to bear in driving progress and prosperity.

NIST invites members of the public, especially Cloud Computing and Big Data community stakeholders, to participate in this event with a poster display or as an exhibitor. On Tuesday, January 15 and Wednesday, January 16, 2013, space will be available for 30 academic, industry, and standards developing organizations to exhibit their respective Cloud Computing or Big Data work at a demonstration booth or table. Space will also be available for 16 academic, industry, and standards developing organizations to display posters related to Cloud Computing or Big Data at the event. Interested organizations should contact Romaine Hines at romayne.hines@nist.gov or (301) 975-4090. Requests to exhibit and

to display posters will be granted on a first-come, first-serve basis. The first 30 organizations requesting to exhibit will be accepted for the exhibits. The first 16 organizations requesting to display posters will be accepted for the poster display. Responses must be submitted by an authorized representative of the organization. Logistics information will be provided to accepted exhibitors. NIST will provide the poster and exhibit location space and one work table free of charge. Exhibitors are responsible for the cost of the poster or exhibit, including staffing and materials. NIST reserves the right to exercise its judgment in the placement of posters and exhibits. General building security is supplied; however, exhibitors are responsible for transporting and securing exhibit equipment and materials.

The workshop is open to the general public; however, those wishing to attend must register at <http://www.nist.gov/itl/cloud/cloudbdworkshop.cfm> by 5:00 p.m. ET on Thursday, January 10, 2013. All visitors to the NIST site are required to pre-register to be admitted and have appropriate government-issued photo ID to gain entry to NIST.

Dated: December 13, 2012.

Willie E. May,

Associate Director for Laboratory Programs.

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BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-P-2012-0050]

Request for Comments on a Patent Small Claims Proceeding in the United States

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is seeking comments as to whether the United States should develop a small claims proceeding for patent enforcement. Among the information of interest to the USPTO is whether there is a need and desire for this type of proceeding, in what circumstances is this proceeding needed if such a need exists, and what features this proceeding should possess. In particular the USPTO seeks information about core characteristics of a patent small claims proceeding

including characteristics such as subject matter jurisdiction, venue, case management, appellate review, available remedies, and conformity with the U.S. constitutional framework (e.g. 7th Amendment). Additional details may be found in the supplementary information section of this notice.

DATES: To be ensured of consideration, written comments must be received on or before March 18, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent by email to ip.policy@uspto.gov. Comments may also be submitted by postal mail addressed to: Mail Stop OPEA, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, ATTN: Elizabeth Shaw. Although comments may be submitted by postal mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via email. Written comments should be identified in the subject line of the email or postal mailing as "Patent Small Claims."

Comments will be made publicly available after the comment period via the USPTO Internet Web site (address: <http://www.uspto.gov>). As such, information that is not desired to be made public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Gerk, Office of Policy and External Affairs, by phone 571-272-9300, by email at David.Gerk@uspto.gov or by mail addressed to: Mail Stop OPEA, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, ATTN: David Gerk.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This inquiry correlates to several recent discussions the USPTO has had with Federal judges, academia, private practitioners and various stakeholder groups and bar and industry associations, exploring the desire and need for a patent small claims proceeding in the United States. The idea of a U.S. patent small claims court, however, is not new, having been raised first by industry and patent litigators over 20 years ago. In 1989, a conference hosted by Franklin Pierce Law Center, in cooperation with the Kenneth J. Gernshausen Center for the Law of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of New Hampshire, examined how to streamline patent litigation through a small claims court. After this conference, both the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) and American Bar Association Intellectual Property Section (ABA-IP) further recognized the need for such a small claims solution, and adopted measures to support a patent small claims court. In 1990, the

¹ Office of Management and Budget, U.S. Chief Information Officer, *Federal Cloud Computing Strategy*, Feb. 8, 2011. Online: <https://cio.gov/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/09/Federal-Cloud-Computing-Strategy.pdf>.