

The Committee has met five times since June 1996. This will be the Committee's last meeting. During the meeting in January, the Committee will finalize its recommendations. The Committee will make a presentation to the Access Board at the Board's regular business meeting on January 15th. The Board will meet on January 15th from 1:30–3:30 p.m. at the Marriott at Metro Center hotel, 775 12th Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The Committee will meet on the dates and at the location announced in this notice. The meetings are open to the public. The facility is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening systems and real time transcription will be available.

Lawrence W. Roffee,
Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 97–336 Filed 1–7–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8150–01–P

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE AND TIME: January 14, 1997; 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Cohen Building, Room 3321, 330 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547.

CLOSED MEETING: The members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) will meet in closed session to address internal procedural, budgetary, and personnel issues, as well as sensitive foreign policy issues relating to potential options in the U.S. international broadcasting field. This meeting is closed because if open it likely would either disclose matters that would be properly classified to be kept secret in the interest of foreign policy under the appropriate executive order (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(1)) or would disclose information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action. (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(9)(B)). In addition, part of the discussion will relate solely to the internal personnel issues of the BBG or the International Broadcasting Bureau. (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(2) and (6)).

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Persons interested in obtaining more information should contact Brenda Thomas at (202) 401–3736.

Dated: January 6, 1997.

David W. Burke,
Chairman.

[FR Doc. 97–521 Filed 1–6–97; 1:40 pm]

BILLING CODE 8230–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[Docket No. 950329080–5080–01]

Special American Business Internship Training Program (SABIT)

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces availability of funds for the Special American Business Internship Training Program (SABIT), for training business executives and scientists (also referred to as “interns”) from the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union. The Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration (ITA) established the SABIT program in September 1990 to assist the former Soviet Union's transition to a market economy. Since that time, SABIT has been matching business executives and scientists from the NIS with U.S. firms which provide them with three to six months of hands-on training in a U.S. market economy.

Under the SABIT program, qualified U.S. firms will receive funds through a cooperative agreement with ITA to help defray the cost of hosting interns. ITA will interview and recommend eligible interns to participating companies. Interns may be from any of the following Independent States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The U.S. firms will be expected to provide the interns with a hands-on, non-academic, executive training program designed to maximize their exposure to management or commercially-oriented scientific operations. At the end of the training program, interns must return to the NIS.

DATES: The closing date for applications is March 31, 1997. An original and two copies of the application (Standard Form 424 (Rev. 4–92) and supplemental material) are to be sent to the address designated in the Application Kit and postmarked by the closing date.

Applications will be considered on a “rolling” basis as they are received, subject to the availability of funds. If available funds are depleted prior to the closing date, a notice to that effect will be published in the Federal Register. Processing of complete applications takes approximately two to three months.

ADDRESSES: Request for Applications: Competitive Application kits will be available from ITA starting on the day

this notice is published. To obtain a copy of the Application Kit please E-mail: sabitapply@usita.gov (please signify which format, e.g. WordPerfect© 6.1), telephone (202) 482–0073, facsimile (202) 482–2443 (these are not toll free numbers), or send a written request with two self-addressed mailing labels to: Application Request, The SABIT Program, HCHB Room 3319, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The SABIT Program, U.S. Department of Commerce, phone—(202) 482–0073, facsimile—(202) 482–2443. These are not toll free numbers. Only one copy of the Application Kit will be provided to each organization requesting it, but it may be reproduced by the requester.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: SABIT exposes NIS business managers and scientists to a completely new way of thinking in which demand, consumer satisfaction, and profits drive production. Senior-level interns visiting the U.S. for internship programs with public or private sector companies will be exposed to an environment which will provide them with practical knowledge for transforming their countries' enterprises and economies to the free market. The program provides first-hand, eye-opening experience to managers and scientists which cannot be duplicated by American managers traveling to their territories.

Business Executives

SABIT assists economic restructuring in the NIS by providing top-level business managers with practical training in American methods of innovation and management in such areas as strategic planning, financing, production, distribution, marketing, accounting, wholesaling, and labor relations. This first-hand experience in the U.S. economy enables interns to become leaders in establishing and operating a market economy in the NIS, and creates a unique opportunity for U.S. firms to familiarize key executives from the NIS with their products and services.

Scientists

SABIT provides opportunities for gifted scientists to apply their skills to peaceful research and development in the civilian sector, in areas such as defense conversion, medical research, and the environment, and exposes them to the role of scientific research in a market economy where applicability of research relates to business success. Sponsoring firms in the U.S. scientific

community also benefit from exchanging information and ideas, and different approaches to new technologies.

All internships are for three to six months; however, ITA reserves the right to allow an intern to stay for a shorter period if the U.S. company agrees and the intern demonstrates a need for a shorter internship based on his or her management responsibilities.

Funding Availability

Pursuant to section 632(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Act") funding for the program will be provided by the United States Agency for International Development (A.I.D.). ITA will award financial assistance and administer the program pursuant to the authority contained in section 635(b) of the Act. The estimated amount of financial assistance available for the program is \$1 million. Additional funding may become available at a future date.

Funding Instrument and Project Duration

Federal assistance will be awarded pursuant to a cooperative agreement between ITA and the recipient firm. ITA will reimburse companies for the round trip international travel of each intern from the intern's home city in the NIS to the U.S. internship site, upon submission to ITA of the paid travel invoice, payment receipt, or other evidence of payment and the form SF-270, "Request for Advance or Reimbursement." Travel under the program is subject to the Fly America Act. Recipient firms provide \$30 per day directly to interns; ITA will reimburse recipient firms for this stipend of \$30 per day per intern for up to six months, upon submission by company of an end-of-internship report and form SF-270. In general, each award will have a cap of \$7,500 per intern for total cost of airline travel and stipend. ITA reserves the right to allow an award to exceed this amount in cases of unusually high costs, such as airfare from remote regions of the NIS. However, the total payment cannot exceed the award amount. There are no specific matching requirements for the awards. Host firms, however, are expected to bear the costs beyond those covered by the award, including: visa fees, housing, insurance, any food and incidentals costs beyond \$30 per day, any training-related travel within the U.S., and provision of the hands-on training for the interns.

U.S. firms wishing to utilize SABIT in order to be matched with an intern without applying for financial

assistance may do so. Such firms will be responsible for all costs, including travel expenses, related to sponsoring the intern. However, prior to acceptance as a SABIT intern, work plans and candidates must be approved by the SABIT Program. Furthermore, program training will be monitored by SABIT staff and evaluated upon completion of training.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants for the SABIT program will be any for profit or non-profit U.S. corporation, association, organization or other public or private entity. Agencies or divisions of the federal government are not eligible.

Evaluation Criteria

Consideration for financial assistance will be given to those SABIT proposals which:

(1). Demonstrate a commitment to the intent and goals of the program to provide practical, on-the-job, non-academic, non-classroom training; in the case of manager interns, an appropriate management training experience, or, in the case of scientist interns, a practical, commercially-oriented scientific training experience.

(2). Respond to the priority needs of senior business managers and scientists in the NIS, as determined by ITA.

(3). Host firms must be solidly committed to interns' return to their own countries upon completion of the internships.

(4). Present a realistic work plan describing in detail the training program to be provided to the SABIT intern(s). Work plans must include the following:

(a). whether Applicant is applying to host managers or scientists, or both (and the number of each); (b). the duration of the internship (at least three but not more than six months.) As noted above, ITA reserves the right to allow an intern with very senior management responsibilities to stay for a shorter period (minimum of one month) if the U.S. company agrees and the intern demonstrates a compelling need for a shorter internship based on his or her management responsibilities; (c). the location(s) of the internship; (d). the name, address, and telephone number of the designated internship coordinator; (e). name(s) of division(s) in which the intern(s) will be placed; (f). the individual(s) in the U.S. company under whose supervision the intern will train; (g). the proposed internship training activities. The components of the training activities must be described in as much detail as possible, preferably on a week-by-week basis. The description of the training activities should include

an accounting of what the intern's(s') duties and responsibilities will be during the training; (h). the anticipated housing arrangements to be provided for the intern(s). Note that housing arrangements should be suitable for mid- and senior-level professionals, and that each intern must be provided with a private room.

(5). Include a brief objectives section indicating why the Applicant wishes to provide an internship to a manager(s) or scientist(s) from the NIS, and how the proposed internship would further the purpose of the SABIT program as described above. If Applicant is nominating a specific individual for training, this objectives section must describe any existing relationship between the Applicant and the individual.

(6). Provide a general description of the profile of the intern(s) the Applicant would like to host, including: educational background; occupational/professional background (including number of years and areas of experience); size and nature of organization at which the intern(s) is/are presently employed; preference for the region of the NIS where the intern(s) is/are employed; and whether Applicant is open to sponsoring interns from a variety of NIS countries.

(7). Indicate whether Applicant organization operates in one or more of the following business sectors: (a). Agribusiness (including food processing and distribution, and agricultural equipment), (b). Defense conversion, (c). Energy, (d). Environment (including environmental clean-up), (e). Financial services (including banking and accounting), (f). Housing, construction and infrastructure, (g). Medical equipment, supplies, pharmaceuticals, and health care management, (h). Product standards and quality control, (i). Telecommunications, and (j). Transportation. Applicant proposal must provide an explanation including description and extent of involvement in the sector(s). While Applicants involved in any industry sector may apply to the program, priority consideration is given to those operating in the above sectors.

Evaluation criteria 1-6 will be weighted equally. ITA does not guarantee that it will match Applicant with the profile provided to SABIT.

Selection Procedures

Each application will receive an independent, objective review by one or more three or four-member ITA review panels qualified to evaluate applications submitted under the program. Applications will be evaluated on a

competitive, "rolling" basis as they are received in accordance with the selection evaluation set forth above. Awards will be made to those applications which successfully meet the selection criteria. If funds are not available for all those applications which successfully meet the criteria, awards will be made to the first applications received which successfully do so. ITA review panel(s) reserve(s) the right to reject any application; to limit the number of interns per applicant; to waive informalities and minor irregularities in applications received; and to consider other than competitive procedures to distribute assistance under this program and in accordance with the law. ITA review panel(s) reserve(s) the right to make awards based on U.S. geographic and organization size diversity among applicants. Recipients may be eligible, pursuant to approval of an amendment of an active award, to host additional interns under the program.

Additional Information

Applicants must submit: (1). Evidence of adequate financial resources of Applicant organization to cover the costs involved in providing an internship(s). As evidence of such resources, Applicant should submit financial statements audited by an outside organization or an annual report including such statements. If these are not available, a letter should be provided from the Applicant's bank or outside accountant attesting to the financial capability of the firm to undertake the scope of work involved in training an intern under the SABIT program. (2). Evidence of a satisfactory record of performance in grants, contracts and/or cooperative agreements with the Federal Government, if applicable. (Applicants who are or have been deficient in current or recent performance in their grants, contracts, and/or cooperative agreements with the Federal Government shall be presumed to be unable to meet this requirement). (3). A statement that the Applicant will provide medical insurance coverage for interns during their internships. Recipients will be required to submit proof of the interns' medical insurance coverage to the Federal Program Officer, before the interns' arrivals. The insurance coverage must include an accident and comprehensive medical insurance program as well as coverage for accidental death, emergency medical evacuation, and repatriation.

Other Requirements

All applicants are advised of the following:

1. No award of Federal funds shall be made to an Applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either the delinquent account is paid in full, a negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or other arrangements satisfactory to the Department of Commerce (DOC) are made.

2. A false statement on the application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

3. Recipients and subrecipients are subject to all Federal laws and Federal and Departmental regulations, policies and procedures applicable to financial assistance awards.

4. Participating companies will be required to comply with all relevant U.S. tax and export regulations. Export controls may relate not only to licensing of products for export, but also to technical data transfer.

5. Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

6. If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal or written assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation on the part of DoC to cover pre-award costs.

7. Past performance: Unsatisfactory performance by an applicant under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

8. No obligation for future funding: If an application is selected for funding, DOC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of DoC.

9. Primary Applicant Certifications: All primary applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying," and the following explanations are hereby provided:

(a) Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension: Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 105) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies.

(b) Drug Free Workplace: Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F, "Government wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies.

(c) Anti-Lobbying: Funds provided under the SABIT program may not be used for lobbying activities. Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Section 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000, or the single family maximum mortgage limit for affected programs, whichever is greater.

(d) Anti-Lobbying Disclosures: Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying in connection with this award using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required under 15 CFR Part 28, Appendix B.

10. Lower Tier Certifications: Recipients shall require applicants/bidders for subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or other lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form, SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to DOC. SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or subrecipient should be submitted to DOC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

11. Indirect Costs: Indirect costs are not allowed under the SABIT program.

12. Applicants are hereby notified that any equipment or products authorized to be purchased with funding provided under this program must be American-made to the maximum extent feasible.

13. The following statutes apply to this program: Restriction on Assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan (Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, Public Law 102-511); Chapter 11 of Part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, including section 498A (b), regarding ineligibility for assistance; provisions in annual Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act,

including the following provisions contained in Public Law 103-87: Use of American Resources (Section 559 of the Foreign Operation, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1995, Public Law 103-87); Impact on Jobs in the United States (Section 545 of the Foreign Operation, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1995, Public Law 103-87); Bumpers Amendment (Section 513(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1994, Public Law 103-87); Lautenberg Amendment (Section 513(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1994, Public Law 103-87); and Section 660(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

14. *Audit Requirements:* The Grants Officer has the discretion to require by the terms and conditions of SABIT awards that recipients have an audit conducted in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. In addition, the DoC Office of Inspector General has authority under the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, to conduct an audit of any DoC award at any time.

15. *Payments.* As required by the Debt Collections Improvement Act of 1996, all Federal payments to award recipients pursuant to this announcement will be made by electronic funds transfer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Special American Business Internship Training, International Trade Administration, at (202)482-0073. This is not a toll free-number.

Dated: January 2, 1997.

Liesel C. Duhon,

Director, SABIT Program.

[FR Doc. 97-398 Filed 1-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-HE-P

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Economic Impact of NIST Thermocouple Program

ACTION: Proposed Data Collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,

Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information on the information collection instruments(s) and instructions should be directed to George Burns, Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory, Building 221 (Physics), Room B-230, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, (301-975-4817) phone; e-mail: george.burns@nist.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

NIST seeks to assess economic impacts of its thermocouple calibration program. The respondents will be U.S. thermocouple manufacturers and their customers as well as the providers of independent thermocouple calibration services. The results will be used by NIST for program evaluation purposes.

II. Method of Collection

Personnel of firms in the U.S. thermocouple industry and their customers, as well as providers of independent thermocouple calibration services, may respond to questionnaires by mail, fax, E-mail, or telephone.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: None.

Affected Public: Personnel of firms in the U.S. thermocouple industry and their customers as well as providers of independent thermocouple calibration services.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50.

Estimated Time Per Response: 0.5 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 25 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$2,500 (25 X \$100 per hour fully burdened cost for a senior level technical manager.) There are no equipment or maintenance costs associated with this collection.

IV. Requests for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have

practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques and other forms of information technology. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection. They will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 2, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 97-417 Filed 1-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

Economic Impact of NIST Alternative Refrigerants Program

ACTION: Proposed data collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information on the information collection instruments(s) and instructions should be directed to Richard Kayser, Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory, Building 221 (Physics), Room B-230, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, (301-975-4817) phone; e-mail: richard.kayser@nist.gov e-mail.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

NIST seeks to assess economic impacts of its alternative refrigerants program. The respondents will be U.S.