

Patent Application No. 201617042607 filed December 14, 2016 (Pending).

*Related Intellectual Property:* HHS Reference Number E-293-2011.

*Licensing Contact:* Dr. Amy Petrik, 240-627-3721; amy.petrik@nih.gov.

*Collaborative Research Opportunity:* The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate or commercialize influenza monoclonal antibody technologies. For collaboration opportunities, please contact Dr. Amy Petrik, 240-627-3721; amy.petrik@nih.gov.

Dated: April 5, 2018.

**Suzanne M. Frisbie,**

*Deputy Director, Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Office, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.*

[FR Doc. 2018-08244 Filed 4-19-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG-2018-0185]

### Cooperative Research and Development Agreement: Safe Parameters for Ice Operations

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard is announcing its intent to enter into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with W.L. GORE and Associates Inc. (GORE) to conduct insulation value testing for the Coast Guard's Maritime Cold Weather Suit System (MCWSS) in the air instead of the water, which the system was designed for. While the Coast Guard is currently considering partnering with GORE, we are soliciting public comment on the possible nature of and participation of other parties in the proposed CRADA. In addition, the Coast Guard also invites other potential non-Federal participants, who have the interest and capability to bring similar contributions to this type of research, to consider submitting proposals for consideration in similar CRADAs.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted to the online docket via <http://www.regulations.gov> on or before May 21, 2018.

Synopses of proposals regarding future CRADAs must reach the Coast Guard (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) on or before May 21, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments online at <http://www.regulations.gov> following website instructions.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions on this notice or wish to submit proposals for future CRADAs, contact LT Ryan Huebner, Project Official, Surface Branch, U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center, 1 Chelsea Street, New London, CT 06320, telephone 860-271-2815, email [Ryan.P.Huebner@uscg.mil](mailto:Ryan.P.Huebner@uscg.mil).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Public Participation and Request for Comments

We request public comments on this notice. Although we do not plan to respond to comments in the **Federal Register** we will respond directly to commenters and may modify our proposal in light of comments.

Comments should be marked with docket number USCG-2018-0185 and should provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. You should provide personal contact information so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your comments; but please note that all comments will be posted to the online docket without change and that any personal information you include can be searchable online (see the **Federal Register** Privacy Act notice regarding our public dockets, 73 FR 3316, Jan. 17, 2008). We also accept anonymous comments.

We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using <http://www.regulations.gov>, contact the Coast Guard (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). Documents mentioned in this notice, and all public comments, are in our online docket at <http://www.regulations.gov> and can be viewed by following that website's instructions. Additionally, if you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts, you will be notified when comments are posted or a final rule is published.

If desired, submit detailed proposals for future CRADAs directly to the Coast Guard (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

#### Discussion

CRADAs are authorized under 15 U.S.C. 3710(a).<sup>1</sup> A CRADA promotes the transfer of technology to the private

sector for commercial use, as well as specified research or development efforts that are consistent with the mission of the Federal parties to the CRADA. The Federal party or parties agree with one or more non-Federal parties to share research resources, but the Federal party does not contribute funding.

CRADAs are not procurement contracts. Care is taken to ensure that CRADAs are not used to circumvent the contracting process. CRADAs have a specific purpose and should not be confused with procurement contracts, grants, and other type of agreements.

Under the proposed CRADA, the R&D Center will collaborate with one non-Federal participant. Together, the R&D Center and the non-Federal participant will conduct thermo conductive tests on the Coast Guard's MWCSS in various environmental scenarios to determine the system's insulation properties to be used to create safe parameters for personnel wearing the MWCSS during Ice Rescue missions.

We anticipate that the Coast Guard's contributions under the proposed CRADA will include the following:

- (1) Provide appropriate staff with pertinent expertise to take the lead in accomplishing the required tasks;
- (2) Provide information regarding the ensemble items and parameters needed for creating the test plan;
- (3) Provide all support resources, including travel, for Coast Guard staff that supports this CRADA;
- (4) Obtain, transport and provide all of the ensemble items to be used during the testing;
- (5) Provide personnel support to non-Federal participant to assist with setting up and execute testing in accordance with the agreed upon test plan;
- (6) Work with non-Federal participant to develop a Final Report, which will document the methodologies, findings, conclusions, and recommendations of this CRADA work.

We anticipate that the non-Federal participants' contributions under the proposed CRADA will include the following:

- (1) Provide appropriate staff with pertinent expertise to support the above mentioned tasks;
- (2) Provide all necessary facility resources needed to conduct insulation value testing;
- (3) Provide technical approach for the test plan;
- (4) Lead the testing runs of the Coast Guard's MWCSS in accordance with the agreed upon test plan;
- (5) Provide test data upon completion of testing.

The Coast Guard reserves the right to select for CRADA participants all, some,

<sup>1</sup> The statute confers this authority on the head of each Federal agency. The Secretary of DHS's authority is delegated to the Coast Guard and other DHS organizational elements by DHS Delegation No. 0160.1, para. II.B.34.

or no proposals submitted for this CRADA. The Coast Guard will provide no funding for reimbursement of proposal development costs. Proposals and any other material submitted in response to this notice will not be returned. Proposals submitted are expected to be unclassified and have not more than five single-sided pages (excluding cover page, DD 1494, JF-12, etc.). The Coast Guard will select proposals at its sole discretion on the basis of:

(1) How well they communicate an understanding, of and ability to meet, the proposed CRADA's goal; and

(2) How well they address the following criteria:

(a) Technical capability to support the non-Federal party contributions described, and

(b) Resources available for supporting the non-Federal party contributions described.

Currently, the Coast Guard is considering GORE for participation in this CRADA. This consideration is based on the fact that GORE has demonstrated its technical ability and availability of appropriate facilities to effectively determine insulation properties of clothing. However, we do not wish to exclude other viable participants from this or future similar CRADAs.

This is a technology assessment effort. The goal of the Coast Guard for this CRADA is to determine the insulation properties of the Coast Guard's MWCSS in the air instead of the water which the system was designed for. Special consideration will be given to small business firms/consortia, and preference will be given to business units located in the U.S. This notice is issued under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 552(a).

Dated: April 10, 2018.

**G.C. Rothrock,**

*Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Commanding Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center.*

[FR Doc. 2018-08311 Filed 4-19-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-04-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### U.S. Customs and Border Protection

#### Renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and Retroactive Application for Certain Liquidations and Reliquidations Under the GSP

**AGENCY:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** General notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a renewable preferential trade program that allows the eligible products of designated beneficiary developing countries to enter the United States free of duty. The GSP program expired on December 31, 2017, but has been renewed through December 31, 2020, effective April 22, 2018, with retroactive effect between January 1, 2018, through April 21, 2018, by a provision in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018.

This document provides notice to importers that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will again accept claims for GSP duty-free treatment for merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption and that CBP will process refunds on duties paid, without interest, on GSP-eligible merchandise that was entered during the period that the GSP program was lapsed. Formal and informal entries that were filed electronically via the Automated Broker Interface (ABI) using Special Program Indicator (SPI) Code "A" as a prefix to the tariff number will be automatically processed by CBP and no further action by the filer is required to initiate the refund process. Non-ABI filers, and ABI filers that did not include SPI Code "A" on the entry, must timely submit a duty refund request to CBP. CBP will continue conducting verifications to ensure that GSP benefits are available to eligible entries only.

**DATES:** As of April 22, 2018, the filing of GSP-eligible entry summaries may be resumed without the payment of estimated duties, and CBP will initiate the automatic liquidation or reliquidation of formal and informal entries of GSP-eligible merchandise that was entered on or after January 1, 2018, through April 21, 2018, and filed via ABI with SPI Code "A" notated on the entry. Requests for refunds of GSP duties paid on eligible non-ABI entries, or eligible ABI entries filed without SPI Code "A," must be filed with CBP no later than September 19, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Instructions for submitting a request to CBP to liquidate or reliquidate entries of GSP-eligible merchandise that was entered on or after January 1, 2018, through April 21, 2018 but without the SPI Code "A" are located at <http://www.cbp.gov/trade/priority-issues/trade-agreements/special-trade-legislation/generalized-system-preferences>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** General questions concerning this notice should be directed to Seth Mazze, Office of Trade, Trade Agreements Branch, 202-863-6567 or at [fta@](mailto:fta@)

[dhs.gov](mailto:dhs.gov). For operational questions regarding: Formal/Informal Entries and Baggage Declarations: Randy Mitchell, 202-863-6532; Mail Entries: Robert Woods, 202-344-1236; Non-ABI Informal Entries: Contact the appropriate Center of Excellence and Expertise. Questions from filers regarding ABI transmissions should be directed to their assigned ABI client representative.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Section 501 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2461), authorizes the President to establish a Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to provide duty-free treatment for eligible articles imported directly from designated beneficiary countries for specific time periods. Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2465, as amended by section 201(a) of Pub. L. 114-27, 129 Stat. 371, duty-free treatment under the GSP program expired on December 31, 2017.

On March 23, 2018, President Donald J. Trump signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Pub. Law 115-141, 132 Stat. 348) (the Act). Section 501 of Title V of the Act pertains to the extension of duty-free treatment and the retroactive application for certain liquidations and reliquidations under the GSP. Section 501(b)(1) provides that GSP duty-free treatment will be applied to eligible articles from designated beneficiary countries that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after April 22, 2018 through December 31, 2020. Section 501(b)(2) provides that for entries made on or after January 1, 2018 through April 21, 2018 (30th day after the date of enactment of the Act), to which duty-free treatment would have applied if GSP had been in effect during that time period ("covered entries"), any duty paid with respect to such entry will be refunded provided that a request for liquidation or reliquidation of that entry, containing sufficient information to enable U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to locate the entry or to reconstruct the entry if it cannot be located, is filed with CBP no later than September 19, 2018 (180 days after enactment of the Act). Section 501(b)(2)(C) provides that any amounts owed by the United States pursuant to section 501(b)(2)(A) will be paid *without* interest.

Field locations will not issue GSP refunds except as instructed to do so by CBP Headquarters. The processing of retroactive GSP duty refunds will be administered by CBP according to the terms set forth below.