

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Technology Administration**

[Docket No. 9805-29139-8139-01]

Cooperation Between the Technology Administration of the United States Department of Commerce and the Industrial Research and Technology Unit of the Northern Ireland Department of Economic Development; Joint Board on Scientific and Technological Cooperation**AGENCY:** Technology Administration, Department of Commerce.**ACTION:** Notice; request for nominations for joint board.

SUMMARY: The Technology Administration invites nominations of individuals to appointment to the Joint Board on scientific and technological cooperation established under a Memorandum of Understanding on technology cooperation between the Technology Administration and the Northern Ireland Industrial Research and Technology Unit. The Technology Administration will consider all nominations received in response to this notice of appointment to the Joint Board.

DATES: Please submit nominations on or before January 8, 1999.**ADDRESSES:** Please submit nominations to Lucy H. Richards, Office of Technology Policy, Technology Administration, Department of Commerce, Room 4411, Washington, D.C. 20230. Nominations may also be submitted by fax to 202-482-4826.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lucy H. Richards, telephone 202-482-6804; fax 202-482-4826; e-mail Lucy_Richards@ta.doc.gov.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Goals of the Memorandum of Understanding**

On December 1, 1995, the Technology Administration of the United States Department of Commerce and the Industrial Research and Technology Unit of the Northern Ireland Department of Economic Development (hereinafter known as the "Participants") entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MOU") concerning technology cooperation. A Joint Board on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "the Joint Board") was established under the MOU.

The Participants recognize that working together to foster enhanced cooperation in technology development,

encouraging technology diffusion arrangements, and seeking opportunities for the collaborative and mutually beneficial use of technology for industrial wealth creation and increased economic competitiveness will provide substantial benefits to Northern Ireland and the United States. The goals of the Participants are to strengthen technological capabilities of the Participants, to broaden and expand relations between their technological communities and to promote technological cooperation in areas of mutual benefit for peaceful purposes.

Cooperative Activities

Cooperative activities under this MOU may include coordinated and joint research and technology projects, studies, and investigations; joint technological courses, workshops, conferences, and symposia; exchanges of science and technology information and documentation in the context of cooperative activities; exchanges of scientists, specialists, and researchers; exchanges or sharing of equipment or materials; and other forms of scientific and technological cooperation as may be approved by the Joint Board.

Information on the Joint Board

For the purposes of implementing this MOU, the Participants have established a Joint Board on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, to consist of six members, three to be designated by and serve at the pleasure of the Industrial Research and Technology Unit, and three to be designated by and serve at the pleasure of the Technology Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Each Participant may also designate alternate members.

The members of the Joint Board will be expected to carry out the following functions:

1. Recommend to the Participants overall policies under the MOU;
2. Identify fields and forms of cooperation in accordance with the goals and objectives of the MOU;
3. Review, assess, and make specific recommendations concerning cooperative activities;
4. Prepare periodic reports concerning the activities of the Joint Board and cooperative activities undertaken under the MOU for submission to the Secretary of Commerce of the United States and the Minister of Economic Development of Northern Ireland; and
5. Undertake such further functions as may appropriately be approved by the Participants.

Meetings of the Joint Board

The Joint Board may meet annually, or at other regular intervals as deemed appropriate, alternately in the United States and Northern Ireland, and additionally as may be determined by the Participants.

Length of Service

The Charter of the Joint Board establishes that members of the Joint Board shall each serve for a three year term, unless removed by the Secretary of Commerce or his/her designee (for the United States members) or the Chief Executive of the Industrial Research and Technology Unit or his/her designee (for the Northern Ireland members). Upon the completion of a member's term, the Department will either announce a request for nominations or extend the member's term as long as the member proves to work effectively on the Joint Board and his/her expertise is still needed.

Membership Criteria and Requirements

The U.S. members of the Joint Board shall be eminent leaders from industry, academia, or government who have experience in technology development, technology diffusion, or international technology collaboration. They should be familiar with the business climate and the status of technology and economic development in Northern Ireland, and with Northern Ireland institutions. They should be U.S. citizens. Members of the Joint Board shall serve without compensation.

The Department of Commerce is committed to equal opportunity in the workplace, and seeks a broad-based and diverse Joint Board membership.

Conflict of Interest

Nominees will be evaluated for their ability to contribute to the goals and objectives of the MOU. Nominees will be vetted in accordance with processes established by the Department of Commerce in February 1997, as soon as possible following tentative selection. The vetting has three components: (1) an internal review for possible appearance of conflict problems; (2) an external review for possible appearance of problems; and (3) a recusal/ethics agreement review.

Dated: November 4, 1998.

Kelly H. Carnes,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy.

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