

End of Certification

Accordingly, the following product is deleted from the Procurement List:

Product

Product/NSN: Cloth, Abrasive.

NSN: 5350-00-187-6296—Cloth, Abrasive.

NPA: Louisiana Association for the Blind, Shreveport, Louisiana.

Contracting Activity: GSA, Southwest Supply Center, Fort Worth, Texas.

G. John Heyer,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. E6-4691 Filed 3-30-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed Deletions from Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to delete a product and services previously furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

Comments Must be Received on or Before: April 30, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia, 22202-3259.

For Further Information or to Submit Comments Contact: Sheryl D. Kennerly, Telephone: (703) 603-7740, Fax: (703) 603-0655, or e-mail SKennerly@jwod.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a) (2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed actions.

Deletions

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. If approved, the action may result in additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities.

2. If approved, the action may result in authorizing small entities to furnish the product and services to the Government.

3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the product and services proposed for deletion from the Procurement List.

End of Certification

The following products and services are proposed for deletion from the Procurement List:

Product

PRODUCT/NSN: Computer Accessories.

NSN: 7045-01-483-7838—Comfort Wrist Mouse Pad.

NPA: Wiscraft Inc.—Wisconsin Enterprises for the Blind, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Contracting Activity: Office Supplies & Paper Products Acquisition Center, New York, NY.

Services

Service Type/Location: Base Supply Center, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

NPA: San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind, San Antonio, Texas.

Contracting Activity: Department of the Air Force.

Service Type/Location: Base Supply Center, Defense Supply Service—Washington, Skyline #3, 5109 Leesburg Pike, Alexandria, Virginia.

NPA: Virginia Industries for the Blind, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Contracting Activity: Defense Supply Service, Washington DC.

Service Type/Location: Food Service, U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer, Wisconsin, Wisconsin Military Academy, 90 S 10th Avenue, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

NPA: Challenge Unlimited, Inc., Alton, Illinois.

Contracting Activity: U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer for Wisconsin, Camp Douglas, Wisconsin.

G. John Heyer,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. E6-4692 Filed 3-30-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Montana Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Montana State Advisory Committee will convene at 6 p.m. (MST) and adjourn at 9 p.m. (MST), Wednesday, April 5, 2006, at the Holiday Inn Parkside, 200 S. Pattee St., Missoula, Montana 59802. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct orientation for new advisory committee members; provide an overview of the USCCR including recent Commission activities and new policies

affecting Advisory Committees; facilitate a briefing on regional project “Confronting Discrimination in Reservation Border Town Communities” in Montana; and planning through December 2006.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact John F. Dulles, Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, (303) 866-1040 (TDD 303-866-1049). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission. It was not possible to publish this notice 15 days in advance of the meeting date because of internal processing delays.

Dated at Washington, DC, March 23, 2006.

Ivy L. Davis,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. E6-4687 Filed 3-30-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No.: 060321082-6082-01]

NIST Electron and Optical Physics Division, Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST) Financial Assistance Program; Availability of Funds

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces that the NIST Electron and Optical Physics Division, Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST) Financial Assistance Program is soliciting applications for financial assistance for FY 2006. The primary program objectives of the financial assistance program in Nanoscale Science and Technology is to develop new measurement methods, instrumentation and standards for nanotechnology and explore new areas of nanoscale science and technology in a variety of areas; to assist and train CNST collaborators and nanofabrication facility users in their research; and to conduct other outreach and educational activities that advance the development

of nanotechnology by U.S. university and industrial scientists.

DATES: Complete applications, paper and electronic, must be received by 5 p.m., eastern standard time on April 24, 2006.

ADDRESSES: One signed original and two paper copies of complete paper applications must be submitted to Barbara Coalmon, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology, Electron and Optical Physics Division, Mail Stop 8412, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8412. Electronic applications must be submitted through Grants.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For complete information about this program and instructions for applying by paper or electronically, read the Federal Funding Opportunity Notice (FFO) at <http://www.grants.gov>. A paper copy of the FFO may be obtained by calling (301) 975-6328. Technical questions should be addressed to Dr. Robert Celotta at National Institute of Standards and Technology, Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology, Electron and Optical Physics Division, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8412, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8412, Tel: (301) 975-3710, E-mail: Robert.Celotta@nist.gov. The CNST Web site is: <http://www.physics.nist.gov/cnst>. All grants related administration questions concerning this program should be directed to Joyce Brigham, NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division at (301) 975-6328 or joyce.brigham@nist.gov. For assistance with using *Grants.gov* contact support@grants.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Name And Number: Measurement and Engineering Research and Standards—11.609

Program Description: The primary program objectives of the financial assistance program in Nanoscale Science and Technology are to develop new measurement methods, instrumentation and standards for nanotechnology and explore new areas of nanoscale science and technology in a variety of areas including nanofabrication, nanomagnetism, theory and modeling, post-complementary metal oxide semiconductor electronics, nano-electro mechanical systems, nanomotion and nanomanipulation, merging length scales, 2-D and 3-D structural and chemical imaging, electrical and magnetic dynamical response of nanostructures, electrical characterization of nanostructures, nanoscale properties of soft matter,

neutron scattering determination of nanoscale properties, nanobiology, and nanomedicine; to assist and train CNST collaborators and nanofabrication facility users in their research; and to conduct other outreach and educational activities that advance the development of nanotechnology by U.S. university and industrial scientists. This will entail collaborative research among the selected financial assistance recipients and CNST staff scientists and visiting scientists to advance these objectives, primarily at CNST's Nanofab, a national user facility for nanoscale science and technology that is described on the Web site cnst.nist.gov.

Applicants and team members must possess the education, experience, and training, to pursue and advance the field of Nanoscale Science and Technology efficiently. In addition, the applicant and team members must possess a demonstrated record of excellence in the development of measurement methods, instrumentation or standards for nanotechnology and in nanotechnology research.

Additional information on the CNST can be found at: <http://www.physics.nist.gov/cnst>.

Funding Availability: Proposals will be considered for cooperative agreements with durations of up to five years, subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory progress, and the continuing relevance to the objectives of the NIST Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology of the Electron and Optical Physics Division. The anticipated level of funding is up to \$1,500,000 per year and one or more awards may be approved. Between one and five awards are likely.

NIST will give preference to full-scope proposals. However applicants may choose to submit proposals that are limited to specific program objectives and request an appropriate portion of the total amount available. NIST will determine whether to fund one award for the full amount; to divide available funds into multiple awards of any size, and negotiate scopes of work and budgets as appropriate; or not to select any proposal for funding, upon completing the selection process described in this notice.

Statutory Authority: 15 U.S.C. 272(b) and (c).

Eligibility: The CNST Financial Assistance Program is open to U.S. institutions of higher education.

Cost Sharing: There is no cost sharing or matching requirement for the program.

Review and Selection Process: All applications received in response to this

announcement will be reviewed to determine whether or not they are complete and responsive to the scope of the stated program objectives. Incomplete or non-responsive applications will not be reviewed for technical merit. The Program will retain one copy of each non-responsive application for three years for record keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Responsive proposals will be reviewed by at least four independent, objective individuals who are knowledgeable about nanoscale science and technology research, nanofabrication, and nanotechnology measurement and instrumentation. These individuals will conduct a technical review of proposals based on the evaluation criteria listed below. If non-Federal reviewers are used, any advice provided will be on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The Physics Laboratory Deputy Director, serving as the Selection Official, will make the award selection. In making the award selection, the Physics Laboratory Deputy Director will take into consideration the reviewers' technical evaluations. The Physics Laboratory Deputy Director, as the selecting official, may choose a proposal out of rank order based upon one or more of the following factors: (1) Availability of funds, (2) Redundancy, (3) Balance/distribution of funds by research areas described above in the Program description of this Notice, (4) Program objectives described above in the Program Description section of this Notice, (5) Logistical concerns, and (6) Preference for full-scope proposals. If an award is made to an applicant that deviates from the scores of the reviewers, the Physics Laboratory Deputy Director shall justify the selection in writing based on selection factors described above. The Physics Laboratory Deputy Director may select all, none, or some of the applications for funding.

The final approval of selected applications and award of financial assistance will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, compliance with Federal policies that best further the objectives of the Department of Commerce, and whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. The award decision of the Grants Officer is final.

Applicants should allow up to 90 days processing time.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing. The Program will retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for three years for record keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Evaluation Criteria: For the Electron and Optical Physics Division—CNST Financial Assistance Program, the technical reviewers will use the following criteria to evaluate the proposals:

1. Qualifications and experience of the Principal Investigator in nanotechnology research, as demonstrated by extensive publications and invited lectures in condensed matter physics, chemistry, material science, macromolecular science or related fields. (25%).

2. Qualifications and experience of the proposed university staff in nanotechnology research or in related scientific or engineering areas that are key to the activities contained in the proposal, as demonstrated by resumes of staff proposed for this program. (10%).

3. Quality of the proposed research and development plan and its potential impact on nanoscale science and technology. (20%).

4. Quality of the plan in terms of providing research assistance to U.S. nanotechnology researchers using the CNST facilities, including related training, education, and outreach. (30%).

5. Quality of the plan to integrate university staff effectively into the activities of the CNST facility, including establishing robust communications between the university and the CNST. (10%).

6. Cost effectiveness of the plan. (5%).

Additional Information:

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements: The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of December 30, 2004 (69 FR 78389). On the form SF-424, the applicant's 9-digit Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number must be entered in the Applicant Identifier block (68 FR 38402).

Collaborations with NIST Employees: All applications should include a description of any work proposed to be performed by an entity other than the applicant, and the cost of such work should ordinarily be included in the budget.

If an applicant proposes collaboration with NIST, the statement of work

should include a statement of this intention, a description of the collaboration, and prominently identify the NIST employee(s) involved, if known. Any collaboration by a NIST employee must be approved by appropriate NIST management and is at the sole discretion of NIST. Prior to beginning the merit review process, NIST will verify the approval of the proposed collaboration. Any unapproved collaboration will be stricken from the proposal prior to the merit review.

Use of NIST Intellectual Property: If the applicant anticipates using any NIST-owned intellectual property to carry out the work proposed, the applicant should identify such intellectual property. This information will be used to ensure that no NIST employee involved in the development of the intellectual property will participate in the review process for that competition. In addition, if the applicant intends to use NIST-owned intellectual property, the applicant must comply with all statutes and regulations governing the licensing of Federal government patents and inventions, described at 35 U.S.C. sec. 200–212, 37 CFR part 401, 15 CFR 14.36, and in section 20 of the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements, published on December 30, 2004 (69 FR 78389). Questions about these requirements may be directed to the Counsel for NIST, 301–975–2803.

Any use of NIST-owned intellectual property by a proposer is at the sole discretion of NIST and will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis if a project is deemed meritorious. The applicant should indicate within the statement of work whether it already has a license to use such intellectual property or whether it intends to seek one.

If any inventions made in whole or in part by a NIST employee arise in the course of an award made pursuant to this notice, the United States government may retain its ownership rights in any such invention. Licensing or other disposition of NIST's rights in such inventions will be determined solely by NIST, and include the possibility of NIST putting the intellectual property into the public domain.

Initial Screening of all Applications: All applications received in response to this announcement will be reviewed to determine whether or not they are complete and responsive to the scope of the stated objectives for each program. Incomplete or non-responsive applications will not be reviewed for technical merit. The Program will retain

one copy of each non-responsive application for three years for record keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Paperwork Reduction Act: The standard forms in the application kit involve a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and CD-346 have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the respective Control Numbers 0348–0043, 0348–0044, 0348–0040, 0348–0046, and 0605–0001.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Research Projects Involving Human Subjects, Human Tissue, Data or Recordings Involving Human Subjects: Any proposal that includes research involving human subjects, human tissue, data or recordings involving human subjects must meet the requirements of the Common Rule for the Protection of Human Subjects, codified for the Department of Commerce at 15 CFR part 27. In addition, any proposal that includes research on these topics must be in compliance with any statutory requirements imposed upon the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and other Federal agencies regarding these topics, all regulatory policies and guidance adopted by DHHS, FDA, and other Federal agencies on these topics, and all Presidential statements of policy on these topics.

NIST will accept the submission of human subjects protocols that have been approved by Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) registered with DHHS and performed by entities possessing a current, valid Federal-wide Assurance (FWA) from DHHS. NIST will not issue a single project assurance (SPA) for any IRB reviewing any human subjects protocol proposed to NIST.

On August 9, 2001, the President announced his decision to allow Federal funds to be used for research on existing human embryonic stem cell lines as long as prior to his announcement (1) the derivation process (which commences with the removal of the inner cell mass from the blastocyst) had already been initiated and (2) the embryo from which the stem cell line was derived no longer had the possibility of development as a human

being. NIST will follow guidance issued by the National Institutes of Health at <http://ohrp.osophs.dhhs.gov/humansubjects/guidance/stemcell.pdf> for funding such research.

Research Projects Involving Vertebrate Animals: Any proposal that includes research involving vertebrate animals must be in compliance with the National Research Council's "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" which can be obtained from National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20055. In addition, such proposals must meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 *et seq.*), 9 CFR parts 1, 2, and 3, and if appropriate, 21 CFR part 58. These regulations do not apply to proposed research using pre-existing images of animals or to research plans that do not include live animals that are being cared for, euthanized, or used by the project participants to accomplish research goals, teaching, or testing. These regulations also do not apply to obtaining animal materials from commercial processors of animal products or to animal cell lines or tissues from tissue banks.

Limitation of Liability: In no event will the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige the agency to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

Executive Order 12866: This funding notice was determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism): It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

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

Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act: Notice and comment are not required under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) or any other law, for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts (5 U.S.C. 553 (a)). Because notice and comment are not required under 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)), a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required and has not been prepared for this notice, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*

Dated: March 23, 2006.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. E6-4723 Filed 3-30-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 050601149-5323-02]

Announcing Approval of Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 200, Minimum Security Requirements for Federal Information and Information Systems

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Secretary of Commerce's approval of Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 200, Minimum Security Requirements for Federal Information and Information Systems. The use of FIPS 200 is compulsory and binding on federal agencies for: (i) All information within the federal government other than that information that has been determined pursuant to Executive Order 12958, as amended by Executive Order 13292, or any predecessor order, or by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to require protection against unauthorized disclosure and is marked to indicate its classified status; and (ii) all federal information systems other than those information systems designated as national security systems as defined in 44 United States Code Section 3542(b)(2). FIPS 200 was developed to complement similar standards for national security systems. **DATES:** This standard is effective March 31, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ron Ross, Computer Security Division, Information Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8930, telephone (301) 975-5390, e-mail: ron.ross@nist.gov.

A copy of FIPS 200 is available electronically from the NIST Web site at: <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) requires all federal agencies to develop, document and implement agency-wide information security programs and to provide information security for the information and information systems that support the operations and assets of

the agency, including those systems provided or managed by another agency, contractor, or other source.

To support agencies conducting their information security program, the FISMA called for NIST to develop federal standards for the security categorization of federal information and information systems according to risk levels, and four minimum security requirements for information and information systems in each security category. FIPS 199, Standards for the Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems, issued in February 2004, was the first standard that was specified by the FISMA. FIPS 199 requires agencies to categorize their information and information systems as low-impact, moderate-impact, or high impact for the security objectives of confidentiality, integrity, and availability.

FIPS 200, which is the second standard that was specified by the FISMA, is an integral part of the risk management framework that NIST has developed to assist federal agencies in providing appropriate levels of information security based on levels of risk. In applying the provisions of FIPS 200, agencies will categorize their systems as required by FIPS 199, and then select an appropriate set of security controls from NIST Special Publication 800-53, Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems, to satisfy their minimum security requirements.

On July 15, 2005, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (Volume 70, Number 135, 40983-40984) announcing proposed FIPS 200 and soliciting comments on the proposed standard from the public, research communities, manufacturers, voluntary standards organizations, and federal, state, and local government organizations. In addition to being published in the **Federal Register**, the notice was posted on the NIST web pages. Information was provided about the submission of electronic comments.

Comments, responses, and questions were received from 13 private sector organizations, groups, or individuals and from 14 federal government organizations.

Most of the comments that were received recommended editorial changes; suggested the addition of references; provided general comments concerning the standard and its implementation; and asked questions concerning the implementation of the standard and the use of waivers. Some of the comments expressed concurrence with the standard as proposed, supported the intent, goals, and