

Dated: June 17, 1997.

James R. Holbein,

U.S. Secretary NAFTA Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 97-16339 Filed 6-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-GT-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Government Owned Inventions Available for Licensing

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of government owned inventions available for licensing.

SUMMARY: The inventions listed below are owned by the U.S. Government, as represented by the Department of Commerce, and are available for licensing in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 and 37 CFR part 404 to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally funded research and development.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Technical and licensing information on these inventions may be obtained by writing to: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Industrial Partnerships Program, Building 820, Room 213, Gaithersburg, MD 20899; Fax 301-869-2751. Any request for information should include the NIST Docket No. and Title for the relevant invention as indicated below.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NIST may enter into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement ("CRADA") with the licensee to perform further research on the invention for purposes of commercialization. The inventions available for licensing are:

NIST Docket Number: 95-050

Title: Fabrication of Embossed Diffractive Optics With Reusable Release Agent

Abstract: By this technique of chemically modifying the surface of a commercial master diffractive grating with a suitable release agent, replica gratings are inexpensively embossed onto float glass, ion diffused, polymer, semiconductor, and other types of optical waveguides.

NIST Docket Number: 96-029

Title: Cryogenic Current Comparator Based on Liquid Nitrogen Temperature Superconductors

Abstract: Electric currents maintained in precise integer ratio by a cryogenic current comparator (CCC) can be used to

measure the ratio of two standard resistors or determine the value of one current by measuring a second of larger or smaller value. This CCC operates at 77 K in a liquid nitrogen bath and uses the magnetic shielding of high-temperature superconductor (HTS) materials. It measures a wide range of resistance and current ratios with an uncertainty of approximately 1 part in 100 million. Nonexclusive, royalty-free licenses are available for this technology.

NIST Docket Number: 96-043

Title: Precision Linear Positioning Post

Abstract: The invention is a positioning post and precision translation mechanism for use in optic experiments and other scientific and engineering research. The positioning post is a translation stage contained within a 12.7 mm diameter cylinder. One end of the cylinder will translate relative to the other with minimal rotation, backlash, and wobble. Several positioning posts may be used in series to provide multi-axis positioning.

Dated: June 17, 1997.

Elaine Buntin-Mines,

Director, Program Office.

[FR Doc. 97-16364 Filed 6-20-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Jointly Owned Invention Available for Licensing

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of a jointly owned invention available for licensing.

SUMMARY: The invention listed below is jointly owned by the U.S. Government, as represented by the Department of Commerce and Morton International, Inc. The Department of Commerce's ownership interest in this invention is available for non-exclusive licensing in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 and 37 CFR part 404 to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally funded research and development.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Technical and licensing information on this invention may be obtained by writing to: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Industrial Partnerships Program, Building 820, Room 213, Gaithersburg, MD 20899; Fax 301-869-2751. Any request for information should include the NIST

Docket No. and Title for the relevant invention as indicated below.

The invention available for non-exclusive licensing is:

NIST Docket No. 95-047

Title: Non-Contact Method and Apparatus for Inspection of Inertia Welds.

Description: An electromagnetic acoustic transducer (EMAT) provides a means of non-contact inspection to detect internal inertia weld defects and web defects in spool-shaped aluminum airbag inflator igniter canisters. The method is non-destructive, efficient, reliable, and readily implemented.

Dated: June 17, 1997.

Elaine Buntin-Mines,

Director, Program Office.

[FR Doc. 97-16369 Filed 6-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Vessel Monitoring and Communications Requirements

ACTION: Proposed 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 August 22, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, 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 or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to James J. Morgan, 562-980-4036.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

NOAA is requesting emergency OMB review of new requirements needed for the implementation of an optional vessel monitoring system (VMS) in the crustacean fishery of the Western Pacific

Region. Action is requested by June 24, 1997. The proposed measures would allow vessels with a VMS to be within 50 nautical miles of the fishing grounds before the season opens and would require those vessels to only be 50 nautical miles away from the grounds when the fishery closes. Without these provisions, vessels must be at least 200 nautical miles away at those times. A VMS allows NOAA to electronically identify the location of a vessel. Because of the accuracy of the systems and the ability they give NOAA to enforce regulations, location restrictions can be relaxed.

NOAA is requesting emergency review of these requirements to allow them to be implemented in time for the beginning of the next fishing year, which starts on July 1. Delayed implementation would deny the benefits of the provisions until the end of the year. Since most vessels involved already have VMSs onboard because of participation in another fishery, implementation of the provisions can be almost immediate.

As emergency approvals under the PRA are for a very limited duration, this notice also requests public comments on a follow-up submission that will be made to OMB under standard review procedures.

Vessels fishing with a VMS will not be required to submit any information apart from activating their VMS, which can then be queried by NOAA.

II. Method of Collection

The vessel monitoring systems will electronically transmit location information to NOAA when queried.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0307.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Emergency Submission.

Affected Public: Businesses (commercial fishermen).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 15.

Estimated Time Per Response: .033 seconds per response for vessels with a VMS already installed. For vessels needing to install a VMS, there would be a one-time 4 hour burden for installation of the equipment by NOAA, and an annual maintenance time of 2 hours per vessel.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 17.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 (NOAA installs the equipment to be used).

IV. Request 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 through the use of automated collection techniques or 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 also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 17, 1997.

Wilson D. Haigler, Jr.,

Chief, Management Control Division, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 97-16311 Filed 6-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061797A]

Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Marine Environmental Health Research Laboratory at Fort Johnson, Charleston, SC

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NOAA, with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as a cooperating agency, announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address construction of the proposed Marine Environmental Health Research Laboratory (MEHRL) at Fort Johnson, Charleston, SC and to conduct a public scoping meeting in conjunction with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

DATES: Written comments on the intent to prepare an EIS will be accepted on or before July 25, 1997. Comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. A scoping meeting is scheduled as follows:

July 23, 1997, 7 p.m., South Carolina Department of Natural Resources,

Marine Resources Division Auditorium, 217 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on suggested alternatives and/or potential impacts, or requests to speak at the public scoping meeting should be submitted to Donna Howard, U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 219 Fort Johnson Rd., Charleston, SC 29412-9110 (803-762-8604).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NOAA will prepare an EIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and NOAA Administrative Order 216-6, and conduct a public scoping meeting in conjunction with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). The EIS will address construction of the proposed Marine Environmental Health Research Laboratory (MEHRL) at Fort Johnson, Charleston, SC. NOAA is preparing this EIS to focus on the potential for significant environmental impacts and to consider reasonable alternatives.

The MEHRL will establish state-of-the-art marine research capabilities for NOAA Fisheries, NIST, SCDNR, the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), and the University of Charleston (UC) at the Fort Johnson Marine Resources Center (FJMRC) at Charleston, SC. Research at MEHRL, will emphasize the multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional linkages focused on understanding the processes promoting coastal ecosystem health and the linking of these processes to fisheries and human health. The facility will promote a campus-like environment for researchers from participating institutions and their collaborators.

MEHRL will be a premier high-technology marine research center with programs that apply new scientific techniques to fisheries and marine resource management. Scientists will use new tools to assess the ecological health of the marine environment and the potential hazards of pollution on marine ecosystems. Scientists will also provide the information that can be used to address environmental problems and the means to evaluate the restoration of natural habitats. Research at MEHRL will emphasize multi-disciplinary approaches that link ecosystems with the health of both marine organisms and humans. The rapidly advancing field of marine