

STATUS: This meeting will be closed to the Public.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Compliance matters pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g.

Audits conducted pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g, § 438(b), and Title 26, U.S.C.

Matters concerning participation in civil actions or proceedings or arbitration.

Internal personnel rules and procedures or matters affecting a particular employee.

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, May 18, 2000 at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, NW, Washington, DC (Ninth Floor).

STATUS: This Meeting will be open to the Public.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Correction and Approval of Minutes.

Draft Advisory Opinion 2000-06—Gerald M. Moan on behalf of the 2000 Convention Committee of the Reform Party U.S.A.

Proposal to initiate a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Political Committee Definition (11 C.F.R. 100.5). Administrative Matters.

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION:

Mr. Ron Harris, Press Officer,
Telephone: (202) 694-1220.

Mary W. Dove,

Acting Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 00-11881 Filed 5-8-00; 3:11 pm]

BILLING CODE 6715-01-M

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Ocean Transportation Intermediary License Applicant

Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have filed with the Federal Maritime Commission an application for licenses as Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier and Ocean Freight Forwarder—Ocean Transportation Intermediary pursuant to section 19 of the Shipping Act of 1984 as amended (46 U.S.C. app. 1718 and 46 CFR 515).

Persons knowing of any reason why the following applicants should not receive a license are requested to contact the Office of Transportation Intermediaries, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573.

Non-Vessel-Operating Common Carrier Ocean Transportation Intermediary Applicants

Universal Consolidated Services, Inc.,
145-32 157th Street, Suite 228,
Jamaica, NY 11434; Officer: Nicholas Kim, Vice President (Qualifying Individual),

Peninsula Cargo, Inc., 11124 Narbel Avenue, Downey, CA 90241; Officers: Modesto M. Pascual, Vice President (Qualifying Individual), Roman Silvestre, President

Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier and Ocean Freight Forwarder Transportation Intermediary Applicants

Global Freight International, Inc. d/b/a, Interfreight Corporation, P.O. Box 6432, 100 Everett Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150; Officers: Bernard A. Wilcken, President (Qualifying Individual), Ian C. Wilcken, Secretary

Dated: May 5, 2000.

Bryant L. VanBrakle,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-11714 Filed 5-9-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Ocean Transportation Intermediary License; Reissuance of License;

Notice is hereby given that the following Ocean Transportation Intermediary license has been reissued by the Federal Maritime Commission pursuant to section 19 of the Shipping Act of 1984, as amended by OSRA 1998 (46 U.S.C. app. 1718) and the regulations of the Commission pertaining to the licensing of Ocean Transportation Intermediaries, 46 CFR 515.

License No.	Name/address	Date re-issued
3706	Chesapeake Bay Shipping and Warehousing, Inc., 3431 Benson Avenue, Suite E, Baltimore, MD 21227.	May 1, 1999.

Sandra L. Kusumoto,

Director, Bureau of Consumer Complaints and Licensing.

[FR Doc. 00-11715 Filed 5-9-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 12:00 noon, Monday, May 15, 2000.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20551.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any matters carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202-452-3204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202-452-3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.federalreserve.gov> for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: May 5, 2000.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 00-11746 Filed 5-5-00; 4:54 pm]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Public Workshop: Competition Policy in the World of B2B Electronic Marketplaces

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice Announcing Workshop.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC" or "Commission") will hold a public workshop on June 29, 2000, to examine issues of competition policy that arise in connection with business-to-business ("B2B") electronic marketplaces.

DATES: The workshop will be held on June 29, 2000, and written presentations may be submitted by that date.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held in Room 432 of the Federal Trade Commission Headquarters Building, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. Any interested person may submit a written presentation that will be considered part of the public record of the workshop. Written presentations should be submitted in both hard copy and electronic form. Six hard copies of each submission should be addressed to Donald S. Clark, Office of the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580. Submissions should be captioned "Comments regarding B2B Electronic Marketplaces." Electronic submissions

may be sent by electronic mail to b2bmarketplaces@ftc.gov. Alternatively, electronic submissions may be filed on a 3½ inch computer disk with a label on the disk stating the name of the submitter and the name and version of the word processing program used to create the document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain information about the workshop, please contact Gail Levine, Assistant Director for Policy Planning, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580, telephone (202) 326-3193, e-mail glevine@ftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

B2B electronic marketplaces are software systems that allow buyers and sellers of similar goods to carry out procurement activities using common, industry-wide computer systems. Recent weeks have brought numerous announcements of plans to develop B2B electronic marketplaces that link competitors with suppliers willing to meet their purchasing needs. One possible model allows firms to place purchase orders using a joint, industry-wide computer system, with competitors potentially able to aggregate their orders.

B2B electronic marketplaces may create significant efficiencies. For example, the marketplaces could reduce transaction costs; generate volume-related scale economies by combining orders from multiple purchasers; improve inventory management; and facilitate bidding by a broad spectrum of potential suppliers. At the same time, the arrangements may raise certain antitrust issues. Forethought in planning may enable B2B electronic marketplaces to achieve their efficiencies without impairing competition.

The FTC plans to convene a workshop on June 29, 2000, that will bring together designers, owners, and operators of B2B electronic marketplaces, and the buyers and sellers who use or wish to use them, in a session designed to accumulate facts about new B2B exchanges and their likely effects on competition. The goal is to enhance understanding of how B2B electronic marketplaces function and the means by which they may generate efficiencies, and to identify any antitrust issues that they raise. A transcript of the discussions will be publicly available. Interested parties are invited to attend or to submit written presentations.

Specific Questions To Be Addressed

The workshop will seek input from designers, owners, and operators of B2B electronic marketplaces; buyers and sellers who use or wish to use them; and antitrust practitioners and others familiar with the competition issues that B2B electronic marketplaces may raise. It will address the following questions, among others:

What Are the Existing and Likely Models for B2B Marketplaces? How Do They Work? What Can They Do?

1. What are the business reasons driving the creation of B2B electronic marketplaces? What new efficiencies can such marketplaces create?

2. What industries have established B2B electronic marketplaces? How are they faring? What characteristics affect the suitability of any given industry for establishing a B2B electronic marketplace? Are B2B electronic marketplaces being established outside the United States?

3. How are prices determined in B2B electronic marketplaces? Through auctions? Other methods? Do methods of determining price vary when products are customized? How are quantities and other competitive terms determined?

4. Who owns such marketplaces—designers, operators, buyers, sellers, and/or others? What are possible ownership structures? What mechanisms are envisioned for their financing? How is membership determined and by whom?

5. How are B2B electronic marketplace rules established? Who establishes the rules? What types of rules are generally necessary? What factors affect which rules are necessary?

6. How and by whom are B2B electronic marketplaces governed and operated? What are alternative models?

7. How are the owners and operators of B2B electronic marketplaces compensated, and for what services are they compensated? Who determines the compensation?

8. What are likely scenarios for how B2B electronic marketplaces will compete with each other? Does it depend on the industry involved? Do buyers or sellers participate in more than one B2B electronic marketplace in a particular industry? Are there situations in which network effects may dictate that a single B2B electronic marketplace dominate a particular industry? Why are some B2B electronic marketplaces consolidating now?

9. In a B2B electronic marketplace, what can participants discover about each other's actions? Who can see

transaction or bid prices or quantities? Who receives information about available capacity?

10. Is there advertising in B2B electronic marketplaces? If so, what type of information is conveyed? Who determines what advertising may be placed?

11. Does the design or operation of B2B marketplaces raise issues relating to intellectual property rights?

Buyer Perspectives

1. What business reasons prompt buyers to be interested in purchasing through B2B electronic marketplaces? For example, what savings do buyers anticipate from the use of such marketplaces? How were purchases made before the availability of such marketplaces? Are buyers based outside the United States participating in such marketplaces?

2. What are the sources of the expected savings? Are savings expected to come from reductions in transaction costs? From volume-related scale economies? From inventory reductions? From the ability to do business more readily with distant sellers? From the ability to compare prices more easily? From other sources?

3. What factors affect the desirability of purchasing through a B2B electronic marketplace and the extent of likely electronic marketplace usage? Does it matter whether the product at issue is homogeneous or differentiated?

4. Does it make a difference to buyers who owns or operates the B2B electronic marketplace? If so, why? How do buyers decide in which marketplaces to participate? What factors affect participation decisions?

5. Are there any factors other than price and other competitive terms that will affect buying decisions in B2B electronic marketplaces? For example, how important is a seller's reputation in such a setting?

6. What role do computer programs play in comparing prices or other competitive terms or in authorizing purchases in B2B electronic marketplaces?

7. What information, if any, can buyers receive about each other's purchases? Does complexity of the product affect the answer?

8. What rules do buyers typically want to govern B2B electronic marketplace solicitations? Are there circumstances when buyers wish to limit the number or identity of bidders or otherwise structure auction procedures?

9. Do B2B electronic marketplaces require participants to purchase minimum quantities or minimum

percentages of their needs through the exchange? Are there circumstances when it is likely to make business sense for a buyer to participate solely in one B2B electronic marketplace? What factors are relevant to whether a buyer participates in multiple B2B electronic marketplaces selling similar products?

10. What consequences can be expected to follow from a decision to join, or not to join, a B2B electronic marketplace? Do B2B electronic marketplaces have implications for wholesalers or other middlemen? For long-term contracting?

Seller Perspectives

1. What business reasons prompt sellers to be interested in selling through B2B electronic marketplaces? For example, what savings do sellers expect to gain through such marketplaces? How were sales made before the availability of such marketplaces? Are sellers based outside the United States participating in such marketplaces?

2. What are the sources of the expected savings? Are savings expected to come from reductions in transactions costs? From volume-related scale economies? From inventory reductions? From the ability to do business more readily with distant buyers? From other sources?

3. What factors affect the desirability of transacting business through B2B electronic marketplaces and the extent of likely electronic marketplace usage? Does it matter whether the product at issue is homogeneous or differentiated?

4. Does it make a difference to sellers who owns or operates the B2B electronic marketplace? If so, why? How do sellers decide in which marketplaces to participate? What factors affect participation decisions?

5. Are there any increased costs to sellers of doing business in B2B electronic marketplaces? Are any distribution costs increased? What effects will B2B electronic marketplaces likely have on sellers' profit margins?

6. Do sellers see competitors' prices posted on B2B electronic marketplaces? If so, how do sellers respond? What role do computer programs play?

7. What other information, if any, do B2B electronic marketplaces make available to sellers about competing sellers? For example, can sellers receive information about competitors' available capacity?

8. What rules do sellers typically want to govern B2B electronic marketplace solicitations? Are there circumstances when sellers may wish to limit the number or identity of possible

purchasers or otherwise structure auction procedures?

9. Must a minimum level or percentage of sales be made through a B2B electronic marketplace in which a seller participates? Do B2B electronic marketplaces impose any other requirements affecting participants' outside sales?

10. What consequences can be expected to follow from a decision to join, or not to join, a B2B electronic marketplace? Do B2B electronic marketplaces have implications for wholesalers or other middlemen? For long-term contracting?

Public Policy Perspectives

1. What competition issues may be raised by B2B electronic marketplaces? What are likely procompetitive benefits, and what are possible anticompetitive concerns?

2. Under what circumstances are B2B electronic marketplaces likely to increase or diminish competition? What has the experience been so far?

3. How do B2B electronic marketplaces affect entry at the buyer or seller level? How does entry occur in the market for B2B electronic marketplaces?

4. What issues are relevant to structuring and implementing B2B electronic marketplaces so as to both realize efficiencies and avoid competition problems? For example, what mechanisms might be included to prevent inappropriate sharing of competitive, confidential information? Are any of these mechanisms likely to be impractical or undesirable from a business perspective?

5. Does the development of competition within and among B2B electronic marketplaces depend in part on any intellectual property rights relating to the design or operation of such marketplaces?

6. What implications, if any, do B2B electronic marketplaces have for market structure and market concentration?

The Commission welcomes suggestions for other questions that also should be addressed. Proposed questions, identified as such, may be sent by electronic mail to b2bmarketplaces@ftc.gov.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-11604 Filed 5-9-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-P

HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Notice of Intent To Extend an Information Collection

AGENCY: Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation [Foundation] will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects.

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 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 the forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by July 10, 2000 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact Louis H. Blair, Executive Secretary, Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, 712 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20006; telephone 202-395-4831; or send e-mail to lblair@truman.gov. You also may obtain a copy of the data collection instrument and instructions from Mr. Blair.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Truman Scholar Payment Request Form.

OMB Approval Number: 3200-0005.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 1997.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to extend an information collection for three years.

Proposed Project: The Foundation has been providing scholarships since 1977 in compliance with PL 93-642. This data collection instrument is used to collect essential information to enable the Truman Scholarship Foundation to determine the amount of financial support to which each Truman Scholar is eligible and then to make the payment. A total response rate of 100% was provided by the 273 Truman