

BACKGROUND: The Commission has prepared and published annual reports on production-sharing operations since 1986 under this series; notice of initial institution was published in the **Federal Register** of September 4, 1986 (51 FR 31729). In this report series, the Commission has used data on imports under Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) provisions 9802.00.60-.90 as a tool to assess the use of foreign assembly plants as a strategy by U.S. companies to reduce production costs and improve global competitiveness. Because tariffs on many of the products entered under these provisions have been either significantly reduced or eliminated under trade agreements and trade preference programs, many importers no longer enter goods assembled from U.S.-made components under the duty-reducing provisions of HTS chapter 98. Consequently, data on imports entered under these provisions now significantly understate the use of U.S. components in foreign assembly operations. These reporting limitations will become more pronounced for 1999 data since most apparel from Mexico became duty and quota free under NAFTA on January 1, 1999, and the customs user fee applicable to imports from Mexico under NAFTA was eliminated on July 1, 1999. These developments have led the Commission to discontinue the report series in subsequent years, while maintaining continued informal monitoring and reporting through other publications as appropriate.

Data reported under HTS provision 9802.00.60-.90 will continue to provide a meaningful measure of the use of U.S.-made components in imported articles that remain dutiable. For example, such data are an important tool in monitoring the use of U.S.-formed-and-cut fabric in Caribbean garment factories. The Commission plans to report annual data on imports under these production-sharing tariff provisions in its quarterly ITTR publication. Articles assessing developments in the cross-border integration of manufacturing and related topics will be published separately as staff issue papers or as articles for the ITTR report. Parties that are currently on the Commission's mailing list for the Production Sharing report will receive copies of ITTR publications and staff issue papers that cover production-sharing topics, such as cross-border integration of manufacturing, international manufacturing networks, the use of foreign assembly plants and foreign trade zones, and foreign direct investment in manufacturing sectors.

Information on imports under production-sharing provisions (HTS

9802.00.60-.90) is accessible to the public on the Commission's "Interactive Tariff and Trade DataWeb" (<http://dataweb.usitc.gov>). The "DataWeb" currently enables parties to access U.S. imports under these tariff provisions, providing total imports by country of origin and the top 20 products from each supplier. The DataWeb will be expanded by late spring to include more timely access for annual production-sharing data by HS Chapter, country, and region, as well as by commodity groups which correspond to appendix B statistical tables contained in the former annual report. Parties also can access a table (updated monthly) from the Commission's Web site (<http://www.usitc.gov/miscell.htm>) showing U.S.-Mexico trade from 1994 to year-to-date, including imports under NAFTA and HTS 9802.00.60-.90.

The final report in the Production Sharing series assesses (1) the use of foreign assembly operations as a means that companies use to reduce costs and gain improved access to foreign markets; (2) the integration of such operations in North America into international manufacturing networks in the apparel, motor vehicles and parts, and television receiver sectors; and (3) the implications of these developments for the competitiveness of these U.S. industries. The latest report covering 1998 data (USITC Publication 3265, December 1999) may be obtained at the ITC Web site (<http://www.usitc.gov/332s/332index.htm>). A printed report may be requested by contacting the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000 or by fax at 202-205-2104.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ralph Watkins (202) 205-3492; Minerals, Metals, Machinery, and Miscellaneous Manufactures Division; Office of Industries; U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436.

Hearing-impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting our TDD terminal on (202) 205-1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>).

Issued: January 28, 2000.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-2328 Filed 2-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Inv. No. 337-TA-414]

Certain Semiconductor Memory Devices and Products Containing Same; Notice of Decision To Extend the Deadline for Determining Whether To Review an Initial Determination Finding No Violation of Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. International Trade Commission has determined to extend by three (3) business days, or until February 1, 2000, the deadline for determining whether to review an initial determination (ID) finding no violation of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended in the above-captioned investigation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clara Kuehn, Esq., Office of the General Counsel, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20436, telephone (202) 205-3012. Hearing-impaired persons are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission ordered the institution of this investigation on September 18, 1998, based on a complaint filed on behalf of Micron Technology, Inc., 8000 South Federal Way, Boise, Idaho 83707-0006 ("complainant"). The notice of investigation was published in the **Federal Register** on September 25, 1998. 63 FR 51372 (1998).

The presiding administrative law judge (ALJ) issued his final ID on November 29, 1999, concluding that there was no violation of section 337. He found that: (a) Complainant failed to establish the requisite domestic industry showing for any of the three patents at issue; (b) all asserted claims of the patents are invalid; (c) none of the asserted claims of the patents are infringed; and (d) all of the patents are unenforceable for inequitable conduct.

The authority for the Commission's determination is contained in section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. § 1337), and in section 210.42(h)(2) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 C.F.R. 210.42(h)(2)).

Copies of the public version of the ALJ's ID and all other nonconfidential documents filed in connection with this investigation are or will be available for inspection during official business hours (8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.) in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20436, telephone 202-205-2000.

Issued: January 27, 2000.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-2326 Filed 2-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: United States International Trade Commission

TIME AND DATE: February 9, 2000 at 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Room 101, 500 E Street S.W. Washington, DC 20436 Telephone: (202) 205-2000

STATUS: Open to the public

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: 1. Agenda for future meeting; none

2. Minutes
3. Ratification List
4. Inv. No. 731-TA-459

(Review)(Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Film from Korea)—briefing and vote. (The Commission will transmit its determination to the Secretary of Commerce on February 16, 2000.)

5. Inv. Nos. 731-TA-465-466 and 468 (Review)(Sodium Thiosulfate from China, Germany, and the United Kingdom)—briefing and vote. (The Commission will transmit its determination to the Secretary of Commerce on February 17, 2000.)

6. Inv. Nos. 731-TA-376 and 563-564 (Review)(Stainless Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Japan, Korea, and Taiwan)—briefing and vote. (The Commission will transmit its determination to the Secretary of Commerce on February 22, 2000.)

7. Outstanding action jackets; none

In accordance with Commission policy, subject matter listed above, not disposed of at the scheduled meeting, may be carried over to the agenda of the following meeting.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: January 31, 2000.

Donna R. Koehnke,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-02489 Filed 2-1-00; 12:25 pm]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-M

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 00-015]

NASA Advisory Council (NAC), Space Science Advisory Committee (SScAC), Solar System Exploration Subcommittee

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a meeting of the NASA Advisory Council, Space Science Advisory Committee, Solar System Exploration Subcommittee.

DATES: Tuesday, February 15, 2000, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Wednesday, February 16, 2000, 8:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Conference Room 7H46, 300 E Street, SW, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carl Pilcher, Code S, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358-2470.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public up to the capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Outer Planets Program Status
- Roadmap Status
- Lunar Survey Tapes
- Technology Readiness for Future Missions

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register.

Dated: January 27, 2000.

Matthew M. Crouch,

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,
National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

[FR Doc. 00-2318 Filed 2-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510-01-P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Meeting of Humanities Panel

AGENCY: The National Endowment for the Humanities.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), notice is

hereby given that the following meetings of the Humanities Panel will be held at the Old Post Office, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20506.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura S. Nelson, Advisory Committee Management Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC 20506; telephone (202) 606-8322. Hearing-impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter may be obtained by contacting the Endowment's TDD terminal on (202) 606-8282.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed meetings are for the purpose of panel review, discussion, evaluation and recommendation on applications for financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including discussion of information given in confidence to the agency by the grant applicants. Because the proposed meetings will consider information that is likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential and/or information of a personal nature the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, pursuant to authority granted me by the Chairman's Delegation of Authority to Close Advisory Committee meetings, dated July 19, 1933, I have determined that these meetings will be closed to the public pursuant to subsections (c) (4), and (6) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

Date: February 14, 2000.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Room: 415.

Program: This meeting will review applications for Humanities Projects in Media, submitted to the Division of Public Programs at the January 10, 2000 deadline.

Laura S. Nelson,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-2358 Filed 2-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7536-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permits Issued Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation of 1978, Public Law 95-541.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish notice of permits issued under the