

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**United States Patent and Trademark Office****Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Title: Required and Optional Search Criteria for Computer Implemented Business Method Patent Applications in Class 705.

Form Numbers: No Forms Associated.

Agency Approval Number: 0651-00XX.

Type of Request: New Information Collection.

Burden: 150 hours.

Number of Respondents: 100 responses.

Avg. Hours Per Response: Based on estimates from surveys, the USPTO estimates that it will take the public one and a half hours (1.5 hours) to gather, prepare, and submit comments recommending a database to the USPTO for evaluation.

Needs and Uses: There are no specific statutes or regulations requiring the USPTO to collect the database recommendations solicited in the Notice. The USPTO is collecting the information as part of its continuing efforts to improve customer service, to improve the quality of patent examination, and to decrease the amount of time that it takes to examine a patent application and issue it as a patent. The USPTO is soliciting comments from the public on various aspects of the database, such as the type and amount of information that it contains, the search interface, cost, and accessibility so that they can evaluate the resources that are currently in use, and evaluate possible new resources to add to the existing ones in use. The public will use this information collection to recommend databases to the USPTO for evaluation and to provide information that the USPTO needs to effectively evaluate the items such as database content, database identification, accessibility, technical support, continuity, and mode of access. In addition to evaluating the databases, the USPTO also uses this information to determine whether the database qualifies as a mandatory or supplemental search tool.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, businesses or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, farms, Federal government, and state, local or tribal government.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Susan K. Brown, Records Officer, Data Administration Division, Office of Data Management, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Crystal Park 3, 3rd Floor, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20231, by phone at (703) 308-7400, or via the Internet at susan.brown@uspto.gov.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before February 1, 2001 to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: December 22, 2000.

Susan K. Brown,

Records Officer, Data Administration Division, Office of Data Management.

[FR Doc. 00-33375 Filed 12-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before February 1, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Lauren Wittenberg, Acting Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address Lauren_Wittenberg@omb.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information

collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: December 26, 2000.

John Tressler,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Type of Review: Extension

Title: Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grant Information Collections

Frequency: Annually

Affected Public: Individuals or household; Businesses or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 1

Burden Hours: 1

Abstract: The information collection plan provides the U.S. Department of Education with the option of submitting its discretionary grant information collections through a streamlined Paperwork Reduction Act clearance process. This streamlined clearance process will begin when the Department submits the information collection to the OMB and, at the same time, publishes a 30-day public comment period notice in the **Federal Register**. OMB will then have 60 days after the start of the public comment period to reach a decision on the information collection.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional

Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_IMG_Issues@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request. Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Jacqueline Montague at (202) 708-5359 or via her internet address Jackie_Montague@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 00-33406 Filed 12-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science; Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 01-09; Scientific Discovery Through Advanced Computing: Climate Change Prediction Program

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice inviting grant and cooperative agreement applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving applications to support the development of simulation models for decadal to multi-century climate prediction in conjunction with the Climate Change Prediction Program (CCPP), a part of the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

DATES: Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to submit a brief preapplication for programmatic review. There is no deadline for the preapplication, but early submission of preapplications is encouraged to allow time for meaningful discussions.

Formal applications submitted in response to this notice must be received by 4:30 p.m., E.S.T., March 15, 2001, to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in Fiscal Year 2001.

ADDRESSES: Preapplications referencing Program Notice 01-09 may be sent to the program contact, Dr. David C. Bader, via electronic mail at dave.bader@science.doe.gov or by U. S. Postal Service Mail at the following address: Office of Biological and Environmental Research, Environmental Sciences Division, SC-74, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901

Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290.

Formal applications referencing Program Notice 01-09 should be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Grants and Contract Division, SC-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 01-09. This address also must be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail, any commercial mail delivery service, or when hand-carried by the applicant. An original and seven copies of the application must be submitted; however, applicants are requested not to submit multiple application copies using more than one delivery or mail service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. David C. Bader, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, Environmental Sciences Division, SC-74, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, telephone (301) 903-5329, fax (301) 903-8519, Internet e-mail address: dave.bader@science.doe.gov. Program information is available on the DOE/OBER WWW site using the URL: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/OBER/GC/model.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: Scientific Discovery Through Advanced Computing and the Climate Change Prediction Program

Accurate prediction of climate change on decadal and longer time scales remains a major scientific objective of the Environmental Sciences Division (ESD). The Climate Change Prediction Program (CCPP) is the current phase in the evolution of DOE's long-standing climate modeling and simulation research agenda. The program is focused on developing, testing and applying climate simulation and prediction models that stay at the leading edge of scientific knowledge and computational technology. The program will continue the development of models based on more definitive theoretical foundations and improved computational methods that will run efficiently on current and future generations of high-performance scientific supercomputers. The intent is to increase dramatically both the accuracy and throughput of computer model-based predictions of future climate system response to the increased atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. Concurrently, to meet the challenge posed by the new generation of terascale computers with peak speeds of 10 to 100 trillion Operations Per Second (teraOPS), SC

will fund a set of coordinated investments in scientific computing, through its Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing (SciDAC) Program. It will create a scientific computing software infrastructure that bridges the gap between the advanced computing technologies being developed by the computer industry and the scientific research programs sponsored by the Office of Science. The CCPP portion of SciDAC, has been labeled the Accelerated Climate Prediction Initiative.

To ensure that the program meets the broadest needs of the research community and the specific needs of ESD, the successful applicants will participate as members of the Climate Change Prediction Program Science Team along with selected scientists from related ESD and SC programs. Costs for the participation in Science Team meetings and workshops should be included in the respondent's application. Yearly estimates for Science Team travel should be based on one trip of five days to Washington, DC, one trip of five days to San Francisco, CA, and one trip of five days to Denver, CO.

Request for Cooperative Agreement Applications

This notice requests applications for cooperative agreements in the following area:

The development of prototype climate models of the future including new formulations, numerical methods, algorithms and computational techniques, that will underpin the construction of production-quality climate GCMs in the five to ten year time frame.

Successful applicants for cooperative agreements to develop models of the future will devise a multi-disciplinary research strategy that addresses both climate science and computational science challenges facing the development of production-quality climate GCMs in the five to ten year time frame. These challenges include, but are not limited to, model formulations that accurately simulate critical climate processes and efficient algorithms that will execute on future high-end computer architectures such as multi-threaded and processor-in-memory designs that are anticipated to have theoretical peak speeds over 100 TeraOPS. Successful applications will convey a strong emphasis on multi-disciplinary graduate training. Cooperative agreements differ from grants in that there is continuing substantial involvement by DOE in the conduct of the research.