

www.grants.gov and through such other vehicles as may be appropriate for the particular agency making the solicitation announcement. Examples would be the **Federal Register** or the particular agencies' Web sites. Application requirements may vary by partner agency and will be specified in the relevant solicitations.

Section 11. Environmental Compliance and Safety

It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain all necessary Federal, state, and local government permits and approvals for the proposed work. Applicants are expected to design their projects so that they minimize the potential for adverse impacts to the environment. NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applications that seek NOAA funding and which are subject to NOAA control and discretion. Proposals should provide enough detail for NOAA to make a NEPA determination. Successful applications cannot be forwarded to the NOAA Grants Management Division with recommendations for funding until NOAA completes necessary NEPA documentation or determines it does not apply.

Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under the description of proposed activities, applicants will be required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, such as site locations, species and habitat(s) to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use of and/or disposal of hazardous or toxic substances, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, impacts to coral reef systems). For partnerships, where project-specific details may not be available at the time an award is made, partners must meet the same environmental compliance requirements on subsequent sub-awards.

In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be required to assist NOAA in the drafting of an environmental assessment if NOAA determines an assessment is necessary and that one does not already exist for the activities proposed in the application. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The selecting

official may decide, at the time of proposal review, to recommend funding a project in phases to enable an applicant to provide information needed for an environmental assessment, feasibility analysis or similar activity if a NEPA determination cannot be made for all activities in a particular application. The selecting official may also impose special award conditions that limit the use of funds for activities that have outstanding environmental compliance requirements. Special award conditions may also be imposed, for example, to ensure that grantees consider and plan for the safety of volunteers, and provide appropriate credit for NOAA and other contributors.

Activities that address marine debris, particularly removal actions, can be dangerous and may require additional safety consideration. The applicant may be requested to submit safety information for activities being considered, to ensure full review and understanding. The selecting official may also impose special award conditions that limit the use of funds for activities that have outstanding safety issues.

Section 12. Funding Ranges

The funding opportunities, number of awards, and funding ranges to be made in future years will depend on the amount of funds appropriated to the MDP annually by Congress. Such information will be published in the NOFA and FFO for each funding opportunity.

Statutory Authority: Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act (33 U.S.C. 1951 *et seq.*)

Dated: December 10, 2009.

John H. Dunnigan,

Assistant Administrator, NOAA's National Ocean Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Mission Statement; Agricultural Equipment and Technology Mission, May 25-26, 2010

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Amendment.

Mission Description

The United States Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, U.S. and Foreign

Commercial Service (CS) is organizing an Agricultural Equipment and Technology Trade Mission to Abuja, Nigeria, May 25-26, 2010.

The Agricultural Equipment and Technology Mission is intended to include representatives from a variety of U.S. agricultural industry manufacturers and service providers. The mission will introduce the U.S. suppliers to end-users and prospective partners whose needs and capabilities are targeted to each U.S. participant's strengths. The mission will include one-on-one appointments and briefings in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, which is centrally located with respect to the country's agricultural regions. Trade mission participants will have the opportunity to interact extensively with private and public sector organizations in the agricultural industry to discuss industry developments, opportunities, and partnerships.

Commercial Setting

Nigeria is the United States' largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa, and the 17th largest trading partner in the world. With over \$US4.2 billion in U.S. exports to Nigeria in 2008, the country ranks as the 50th-largest export market for U.S. goods. The United States is the largest foreign investor in Nigeria, with the bulk of investment concentrated in the petroleum sector, but also in consumer goods manufacturing.

Once the leading agricultural exporter in western and central Africa, Nigeria's agricultural sector suffered from neglect as the country's petroleum sector came to dominate economic activity and investment in recent decades. While oil revenues grew, local agricultural production dwindled, giving rise to a reliance on massive food imports. In 2008 alone, Nigeria imported an estimated \$4 billion worth of food, including \$US930 million in grain from the United States. Food imports likely will increase in the future in order to sustain Nigeria's population of over 140 million, which is growing at more than 2.5% per annum.

Faced with increasing food costs and potential food shortages, the Nigerian federal government initiated a program intended to revitalize its agricultural sector and encourage large scale commercial farming to create food security and employment. To this end, it set goals that include the rehabilitation of existing grain silos, construction of new grain silos to upgrade national strategic grain storage capacity to one million tons; procurement of over 10,000 new farm tractors; rehabilitation and installation

of irrigation systems; supply of over 400,000 metric tons of agricultural fertilizers; and the earmarking of a 200 billion naira (about \$1.4 billion) in agricultural development funds for farmers to support these procurements. Many states in Nigeria have also started various agricultural projects that stand to boost demand for agricultural inputs and farm equipment to support mechanized farming. Many of Nigeria's farming activities take place in the country's northern region. Abuja has been selected to host the trade mission due to its close proximity to the northern states and the fact that all of the nation's federal departments and ministries are situated there. The city ranks among the country's safest and most organized in terms of infrastructure, and it is a major center of national and international trade.

Mission Goals

The goal of the Agricultural Equipment and Technology Mission is to (1) introduce U.S. companies to buyers, joint-venture partners and industry representatives; and (2) introduce U.S. companies to industry leaders and government officials in Nigeria to learn about various agricultural program opportunities.

Mission Scenario

In Abuja, the U.S. mission members will meet with officials of federal and state government agricultural agencies and ministries, and take part in business matchmaking appointments with end-users, commercial farmers, and private-sector organizations. In addition, they will attend a briefing with the U.S. Embassy staff in Nigeria. All Nigerian attendees participating in the matchmaking meetings will be pre-screened to determine their validity as

well as to identify their business objectives for meeting with mission members. U.S. participants will be counseled before and after the mission by U.S. Export Assistance Center trade specialists. Participation in the mission will include the following:

- Pre-travel briefings/webinar on subjects ranging from business practices in Nigeria to security;
- Scheduled meetings with potential partners, distributors, end users, or local industry contacts in Nigeria;
- Transportation to and from the Abuja airport;
- US&FCS, industry and Nigerian government briefing;
- Networking reception and briefing.

Proposed Mission Timetable

Mission participants will be encouraged to arrive latest on Monday, May 24, since the mission program begins on Tuesday, May 25.

Tuesday, May 25	—Market briefing. —One-on-one business matchmaking appointments. —Evening networking reception.
Wednesday, May 26	—One-on-one business matchmaking appointments. —Evening reception with the U.S. Ambassador or representative.

Participation Requirements

All parties interested in participating in the Agricultural Equipment & Technology Trade Mission to Nigeria must complete and submit an application for consideration by the Department of Commerce. All applicants will be evaluated on their ability to meet certain conditions and best satisfy the selection criteria as outlined below. The mission is open on a first come first served basis to 15 qualified U.S. companies.

Fees and Expenses

After a company has been selected to participate on the mission, a payment to the Department of Commerce in the form of a participation fee is required. The participation fee will be \$2,200 for large firms and \$1,800 for a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME),¹ which includes one principal representative. The fee for each additional firm representative (large firm or SME) is \$500. Expenses for lodging, some meals,

incidentals, and travel (except for transportation to and from airports in-country, previously noted) will be the responsibility of each mission participant.

Conditions for Participation

- An applicant must submit a completed and signed mission application and supplemental application materials, including adequate information on the company's products and/or services, primary market objectives, and goals for participation.
- Each applicant must also certify that the products and services it seeks to export through the mission are either produced in the United States, or, if not, marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have at least fifty-one percent U.S. content.

Selection Criteria

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Suitability of a company's products or services to the mission's goals.
- Applicant's potential for business in Nigeria, including likelihood of exports resulting from the trade mission.
- Consistency of the applicant's goals and objectives with the stated scope of the trade mission.

Any partisan political activities (including political contributions) of an

applicant are irrelevant to the selection process.

Timeframe for Recruitment and Applications

Mission recruitment will be conducted in an open and public manner, including publication in the **Federal Register**, posting on the Commerce Department trade mission calendar (<http://www.ita.doc.gov/doctm/tmcal.html>) and other Internet Web sites, press releases to general and trade media, direct mail, notices by industry trade associations and other multiplier groups, and publicity at industry meetings, symposia, conferences, and trade shows. Recruitment for the mission will begin immediately and conclude no later than March 31, 2010. Applications received after that date will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit.

Contacts

Project Officer for the U.S.

Timothy Cannon, U.S. Commercial Officer, U.S. Commercial Service—North Dakota, United States Department of Commerce, 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102, Ph: (701) 239-5082/Fax (701) 237-9734. E-mail: Timothy.cannon@mail.doc.gov <http://>

¹ An SME is defined as a firm with 500 or fewer employees or that otherwise qualifies as a small business under SBA regulations (see <http://www.sba.gov/services/contractingopportunities/sizestandardstoc/index.html>). Parent companies, affiliates, and subsidiaries will be considered when determining business size. The dual pricing schedule reflects the Commercial Service's user fee schedule that became effective May 1, 2008 (for additional information see <http://www.export.gov/newsletter/march2008/initiatives.html>).

www.export.gov.
<http://www.buyusa.gov/northdakota>

Project Officer for Nigeria

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Alternate Contacts for Nigeria

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Global Trade Programs, Commercial Service Trade Missions Program.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XS24

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Antioch Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project, California

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

ACTION: Notice; proposed incidental harassment authorization; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received an application from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to the Antioch Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an IHA to Caltrans to incidentally harass, by Level B Harassment only, 10 harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and 10 California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) during the specified activity.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than January 20, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to Michael Payne, Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225. The mailbox address for providing email comments is PR1.0648-XS24@noaa.gov. NMFS is not responsible for e-mail comments sent to addresses other than the one provided here. Comments sent via e-mail, including all attachments, must not exceed a 10-megabyte file size.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

A copy of the application containing a list of the references used in this document may be obtained by writing to the address specified above, telephoning the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), or visiting the internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm>. Documents cited in this notice may also be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours, at the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jaclyn Daly, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2289, ext 151.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and

requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as "...an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival."

Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA established an expedited process by which citizens of the United States can apply for an authorization to incidentally take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment. Section 101(a)(5)(D) establishes a 45-day time limit for NMFS review of an application followed by a 30-day public notice and comment period on any proposed authorizations for the incidental harassment of marine mammals. Within 45 days of the close of the comment period, NMFS must either issue or deny the authorization.

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines "harassment" as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild [Level A harassment]; or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering [Level B harassment].

Summary of Request

On May 5, 2009, NMFS received an application from Caltrans for the taking, by Level B harassment, of marine mammals incidental to retrofitting the Antioch Bridge, located 5.4 miles east of the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. To access shallow water piers, a temporary support trestle would be installed using a pile driver hammer. Because pile driving has the potential to result in behavioral harassment to marine mammals located in the action area, an authorization under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA is warranted.

Description of the Specified Activity

The Antioch Bridge, completed in 1978, was designed based on seismic standards that the Caltrans established in 1971. After the Loma Prieta in 1989, Caltrans implemented the Seismic Retrofit Program. After the Northridge Earthquake of 1994, Caltrans implemented Phase Two of the Program, which required seven state-owned toll bridges, including the Antioch Bridge, to be retrofitted. The Antioch Seismic