Dated: May 11, 2007.

**David M. Spooner,**

*Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

[FR Doc. E7–9638 Filed 5–17–07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–DS–S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

**[Docket No. 070510110–7111–01**

### Market Development Cooperator Program (MDCP)

**AGENCY:** International Trade Administration (ITA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for applications.

**SUMMARY:** ITA is soliciting projects to strengthen U.S. competitiveness to be conducted by eligible entities for periods of up to three years. Project award periods normally begin between October 1, 2007 and January 1, 2008, but may begin as late as April 1, 2008. MDCP awards help to underwrite the start-up costs of new competitiveness-strengthening ventures that industry groups are often reluctant to undertake without federal support. MDCP aims to develop, maintain, and expand foreign markets for non-agricultural goods and services produced in the United States.

**DATES:** Proposals must be received by ITA no later than 5 p.m. EDT, July 13, 2007. A public meeting to discuss the competition will be held on June 6, 2007, at 10 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Proposals must be submitted to ITA, U.S. Department of Commerce, HCHB Rm. 3215; Washington, DC 20230, or via e-mail to *Brad.Hess@mail.doc.gov*. The full funding opportunity announcement and the application kit for this request for application are available at *http://www.trade.gov/mdcp*, or by contacting Brad Hess at 202–482–2969. The public meeting will be held at the U.S. Department of Commerce, HCHB, 14th & Constitution, NW., Washington, DC in Room 1412.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Interested parties who are unable to access information via Internet or who have questions may contact Mr. Brad Hess by mail (see **ADDRESSES**, by phone at 202–482–2969, by fax at 202–482–4462, or via Internet at *Brad.Hess@mail.doc.gov.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Electronic Access*: the full funding opportunity announcement for MDCP is available at *http://www.trade.gov/mdcp*.

*Funding Availability*: Approximately $500,000 will be available through this announcement for fiscal year 2007. Awards are limited to $175,000 each. ITA anticipates making a minimum of three awards. Additional awards might be made depending on the amounts requested and the availability of funds.

**Statutory Authority:** 15 USC 4723.

*CFDA*: 11.112, Market Development Cooperator Program.

*Eligibility:* Trade associations, state departments of trade and their regional associations, and non-profit industry organizations, including export multiplier organizations such as World Trade Centers, centers for international trade development and small business development centers are eligible to apply for an MDCP award.

*Cost Sharing Requirements:* Applicants must contribute two dollars for every federal dollar received. At least 50% of the applicant's cost share must be cash. The remaining percentage of the applicant's cost share may be cash or in kind.

*Intergovernmental Review:* Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, ''Intergovernmental Review of federal programs.''

*Limitation of Liability:* In no event will the Department of Commerce or ITA be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not obligate the Department of Commerce or ITA to award funds for any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

*Evaluation and Selection Procedures:* After receiving the applications, ITA will screen each one to determine the applicant's eligibility to receive an award. After receiving all applications, a selection panel composed of at least three ITA managers will review the applications using the evaluation criteria below, score them, and forward a ranked funding recommendation to the Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing and Services. The evaluation criteria scores assigned by the panel determine which applications are recommended for funding. The Assistant Secretary makes the final selection of award winners, justifying any deviation from the selection panel's ranked recommendations by application of the selection factors listed below.

*Evaluation Criteria:* The selection panel reviews each eligible application based on five evaluation criteria. The evaluation criteria are listed below.

(1) Potential to Strengthen Competitiveness (20%). This is the likelihood of a positive immediate or longer-term effect of the project on competitiveness as quantified in exports and foreign market share.

(2) Performance Measures (20%). Applicants must provide quantifiable estimates of how the project will increase or enhance the U.S. industry's competitiveness in the foreign market(s).

(3) Partnership and Priorities (20%). This criterion indicates the degree to which the project initiates or enhances partnership with ITA and the degree to which the proposal furthers or is compatible with ITA's priorities.

(4) Creativity and Capacity (20%). Applicants demonstrate creativity, innovation, and realism in the project work plan as well as their institutional capacity to carry out the work plan.

(5) Budget and Sustainability (20%). This criterion indicates the reasonableness and effectiveness of the itemized budget for project activities, the amount of the cash match that is readily available, and the probability that the project can be continued on a self-sustained basis after the completion of the award.

The five criteria together constitute the application score. At 20 points per criterion, the total possible score is 100.

*Selection Factors:* The Assistant Secretary may deviate from the selection panel's ranked recommendation only based on the following factors: (1) The selection panel's written assessments, (2) Degree to which applications satisfy ITA priorities, (3) Geographic distribution of the proposed awards, (4) Diversity of industry sectors and overseas markets covered by the proposed awards, (5) Diversity of project activities represented by the proposed awards, (6) Avoidance of redundancy and conflicts with the initiatives of other federal agencies, and (7) Availability of funds.

The ITA priorities referred to under Evaluation Criteria (3) and Selection Factor (2) are listed below. ITA is interested in receiving proposals to promote U.S. exports that include, but are not limited to, projects that: (1) Improve the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing and service industries by addressing impediments to innovation and reducing the cost of doing business in foreign countries; (2) Increase competitiveness of U.S. industries in large markets like China, India, and Brazil by addressing non-tariff barriers, especially those related to standards and intellectual property rights; (3) Help U.S. industry to capitalize on effective global supply chain management strategies; (4) Advance market-based approaches to energy, clean development, and commercialization of nuclear and alternative energy technologies; (5) Facilitate ease of travel to the United States and promote U.S. higher education and training opportunities to non-U.S. entities; (6) Capitalize on trade opportunities resulting from trade agreements; (7) Increase overall export awareness and awareness of ITA programs and services among U.S. companies, by making small- and medium-size enterprises export-ready or by facilitating deal-making; and (8) Support the Administration's broader foreign policy objectives through competitiveness-related initiatives.

**The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements**

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of December 30, 2004 (69 FR 78389) are applicable to this solicitation.

**Paperwork Reduction Art**

This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms 424 and 424A, 424B, SF–LLL, and CD–436 has been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348–0043, 0348–0044, 0348–0040, 0348–0046, and 0605–0001. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Executive Order 12866**

This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

**Executive Order 13132 (Federalism)**

It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

**Administrative Procedure Act/ Regulatory Flexibility Act**

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act for rules concerning public property, grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. section 553(a)(2)). Because notice and opportunity for comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq*) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required and has not been prepared.

Dated: May 14, 2007.

**Robert W. Pearson,**

*Director, Office of Planning, Coordination and Management, Manufacturing and Services, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.*

[FR Doc. 07–2484 Filed 5–17–07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–DR–M**

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

### The President's Export Council: Meeting of the President's Export Council

**AGENCY:** International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of an open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The President's Export Council (PEC) will hold a full Council meeting to discuss topics related to export expansion. The meeting will include discussion of trade priorities and initiatives, PEC subcommittee activity, and proposed letters of recommendation to the President. The PEC was established on December 20, 1973, and reconstituted May 4, 1979, to advise the President on matters relating to U.S. trade. It was most recently renewed by Executive Order 13316.

**DATES:** June 7, 2007.

*Time:* 3 p.m. (EDT).

*Location:* Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 628, First and C Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20510. Because of building security, all non-government attendees must pre-register. Please RSVP to the PEC Executive Secretariat no later than June 1, 2007, to J. Marc Chittum, President's Export Council, Room 4043, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, telephone (202) 482–1124, or e-mail *Marc.Chittum@mail.doc.gov.*

This program will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Seating is limited and will be on a first come, first served basis. Requests for sign language interpretation, other auxiliary aids, or pre-registration, should be submitted no later than June 1, 2007, to J. Marc Chittum, President's Export Council, Room 4043, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, telephone (202) 482–1124, or e-mail *Marc.Chittum@mail.doc.gov.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The President's Export Council Executive Secretariat, Room 4043, Washington, DC 20230 (Phone: 202–482–1124), or visit the PEC Web site, *http://www.trade.gov/pec.*

Dated: May 14, 2007.

**J. Marc Chittum,**

*Executive Secretary, President's Export Council.*

[FR Doc. E7–9578 Filed 5–17–07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–DR–P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### Availability of Seats for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) is seeking applicants for the following vacant seats on its Sanctuary Advisory Council (council): Research Alternate. Applicants are chosen based upon their particular expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying; community and professional affiliations; philosophy regarding the protection and management of marine resources; and possibly the length of residence in the area affected by the sanctuary. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve 2–3 year terms, pursuant to the council's Charter.

**DATES:** Applications are due by July 15, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Application kits may be obtained from *http://www.farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html,* or Kelley Higgason, 991 Marine Dr., The Presidio, San Francisco, CA 94129. Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kelley Higgason, 991 Marine Dr., The Presidio, San Francisco, CA 94129, 415–561–6622 ext. 202, *kelley.higgason@noaa.gov.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Sanctuary Advisory Council provides the Sanctuary Superintendent with advice on the management of the Sanctuary. Members provide advice to the Superintendent on issues affecting resource protection, the Sanctuary's primary purpose. The Council, through its members, serve as liaisons to the community regarding Sanctuary issues