

All visitors to the Berkeley University campus are required to pre-register to be admitted. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting must register by close of business Wednesday, December 10, 2008, in order to attend. Please submit your name, time of arrival, e-mail address and phone number to Tina Faecke. Non-U.S. citizens must also submit their country of citizenship, title, employer/sponsor, and address. Ms. Faecke's e-mail address is [tina.faecke@nist.gov](mailto:tina.faecke@nist.gov) and her phone number is (301) 975-5911.

Dated: November 20, 2008.

**Patrick Gallagher,**

*Deputy Director.*

[FR Doc. E8-28311 Filed 11-26-08; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Board of Overseers

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology; Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Board of Overseers of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award on December 11, 2008. The Board of Overseers is composed of eleven members prominent in the fields of quality, innovation, and performance management and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, assembled to advise the Secretary of Commerce on the conduct of the Baldrige Award. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and review information received from the National Institute of Standards and Technology and from the Chair of the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The agenda will include: Report from the Judges' Panel, Baldrige Program (BNQP) Update, BNQP Strategic Plan, Potential STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Education Program, Use of the Consumer Price Index as an Inflation for the Baldrige Award Application fees, and Recommendations for the NIST Director.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene December 11, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 3 p.m. on December 11, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and

Technology, Administration Building, Lecture Room B, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899. All visitors to the National Institute of Standards and Technology site will have to pre-register to be admitted. Please submit your name, time of arrival, email address and phone number to Diane Harrison no later than Monday, December 8, 2008, and she will provide you with instructions for admittance. Ms. Harrison's e-mail address is [diane.harrison@nist.gov](mailto:diane.harrison@nist.gov) and her phone number is (301) 975-2361.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, Baldrige National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

Dated: November 20, 2008.

**Patrick Gallagher,**

*Deputy Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No.: 080122071-81377-02]

#### Announcement of the Establishment of a Laboratory Accreditation Program (LAP) for Laboratories Performing Interoperability, Performance, and Conformance Biometrics Testing Under the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program and Technical Requirements for Such a LAP

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Under the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces the establishment of a laboratory accreditation program and the availability of applications for accreditation of laboratories that perform biometric testing including interoperability, performance, and conformance testing using internationally recognized standards developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), NIST, and by the International Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS). Additional standards may be identified throughout the development of the accreditation program technical requirements.

**ADDRESSES:** Laboratories may obtain NIST Handbook 150, *NVLAP Procedures and General Requirements*, NIST Handbook 150-25, *Biometrics*, and an application for this program by calling (301) 975-4016, by writing to NVLAP Biometrics Testing Manager, National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program, 100 Bureau Drive/MS 2140, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2140, or by sending e-mail to [nvlap@nist.gov](mailto:nvlap@nist.gov). All applications for accreditation must be submitted to: NVLAP/Accounts, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 101, Room A800, 100 Bureau Drive/MS 1624, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1624.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brad Moore, Program Manager, NIST/NVLAP, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2140, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2140, Phone: (301) 975-5740 or e-mail: [brad.moore@nist.gov](mailto:brad.moore@nist.gov).

Information regarding National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) and the accreditation process can be obtained from <http://www.nist.gov/nvlap>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Background:* In 2007, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requested that NIST establish a laboratory accreditation program for laboratories performing interoperability, performance, and conformance biometrics testing on Personal Identification Verification equipment used in Homeland Security Applications. According to guidance developed by DHS, laboratory accreditation by NVLAP is a recommended step in assuring reliability and quality practices as part of a conformance test program for biometric access control devices.<sup>1</sup>

Biometric technologies such as facial, fingerprint, iris, and voice recognitions are used to verify the identity of individuals attempting to gain access to secure areas. The purpose of the proposed Biometrics Laboratory Accreditation Program is to evaluate testing laboratories' technical competencies against known standards and testing criteria that will ultimately be used to provide confidence in the performance of biometric sub-systems.

In accordance with NVLAP procedures (15 CFR Part 285), on February 29, 2008, NIST published a notice in the **Federal Register** requesting comments on the proposed establishment of a laboratory accreditation program for laboratories

<sup>1</sup> Guidance Package on Biometrics for Airport Access Control released in October 2005, Volume 1: Requirements Document, Chapter 2 Operational System Requirements.