

disclosed by VAGA to any other Member;

15. Exchange information with and among the Members as necessary to carry out the Export Trade Facilitation Services, Export Trade Activities and Methods of Operation;

16. Provide Export Market entry and development assistance to its Members, including:

a. Designing and executing foreign marketing strategies for VAGA's Export Markets;

b. Designing, developing and marketing generic corporate labels, and

c. Other related administrative and promotional services;

17. Solicit non-Members to become Members;

18. Recover administrative expenses and costs through fees and assessments allocated to each Member on a pro-rata share basis or any other non-discriminatory method. Any Member objecting to the method of allocating expenses and costs will be charged based on actual expenses incurred;

19. Apply for and utilize export assistance and incentive programs, as well as arrange financing through bank holding companies, governmental programs, and other arrangements; and

20. Bill and collect from foreign buyers and provide accounting, tax, legal and consulting assistance and services.

V. Definition

"Export Intermediary" means a person who acts as a distributor, sales representative, sales or marketing agent, broker, or who performs similar functions including providing or arranging for the provision of Export Trade Facilitation Services.

VI. Terms and Conditions of Certificate

1. In engaging in Export Trade Activities and Methods of Operation, neither VAGA, nor any Member, shall intentionally disclose, directly or indirectly, to any Member (including parent companies, subsidiaries, or other entities related to any Member) any information regarding any other Member's costs, production, inventories, domestic prices, domestic sales, domestic customers, capacity to produce apples for domestic sale, domestic orders, terms of domestic marketing or sale, or U.S. business plans, strategies, or methods, unless such information is already generally available to the trade or public.

2. VAGA and its Members will comply with requests made by the Secretary of Commerce on behalf of the Secretary or the Attorney General for information or documents relevant to

conduct under the Certificate. The Secretary of Commerce will request such information or documents when either the Attorney General or the Secretary of Commerce believes that the information or documents are required to determine that the Export Trade, Export Trade Activities and Methods of Operation of a person protected by this Certificate of Review continue to comply with the standards of section 303(a) of the Act.

VII. Protection Provided by Certificate

This Certificate protects VAGA, its Members, and directors, officers, and employees acting on behalf of VAGA and its Members from private treble damage actions and government criminal and civil suits under U.S. federal and state antitrust laws for the export conduct specified in the Certificate and carried out during its effective period in compliance with its terms and conditions.

VIII. Effective Period of Certificate

This Certificate continues in effect from the effective date indicated below until it is relinquished, modified, or revoked as provided in the Act and the Regulations.

IX. Other Conduct

Nothing in this Certificate prohibits VAGA and its Members from engaging in conduct not specified in this Certificate, but such conduct is subject to the normal application of U.S. antitrust laws.

X. Disclaimer

The issuance of this Certificate of Review to VAGA by the Secretary of Commerce with the concurrence of the Attorney General under the provisions of the Act does not constitute, explicitly or implicitly, an endorsement or opinion by the Secretary of Commerce or the Attorney General concerning either (a) the viability or quality of the business plans of VAGA or its Members or (b) the legality of such business plans of VAGA or its Members under the laws of the United States (other than as provided in the Act) or under the laws of any foreign country.

The application of this Certificate to conduct in Export Trade where the United States Government is the buyer or where the United States Government bears more than half the cost of the transaction is subject to the limitations set forth in Section V.(D.) of the "Guidelines for the Issuance of Export Trade Certificates of Review (Second Edition)," 50 FR 1786 (January 11, 1985).

In accordance with the authority granted under the Act and the Regulations, this Certificate of Review is hereby issued to the Virginia Apple Growers Association, Inc.

The effective date of the Certificate is April 4, 2003. A copy of this certificate will be kept in the International Trade Administration's Freedom of Information Records Inspection Facility Room 4102, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Dated: April 16, 2003.

Jeffrey C. Anspacher,

Director, Office of Export Trading Company Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board

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

ACTION: Notice of partially closed meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board (MEPNAB), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will meet Thursday, May 8, 2003, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The MEPNAB is composed of nine members appointed by the Director of NIST who were selected for their expertise in the area of industrial extension and their work on behalf of smaller manufacturers. The Board was established to fill a need for outside input on MEP. MEP is a unique program consisting of centers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The centers have been created by state, federal, and local partnerships. The Board works closely with MEP to provide input and advice on MEP's programs, plans, and policies. The purpose of this meeting is to update the board on the latest program developments at MEP including the 360vu National Accounts initiative. Discussions scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. and to end at 12 p.m. on May 8, 2003, on MEP budget issues will be closed. All visitors to the National Institute of Standards and Technology site will have to pre-register to be admitted. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting must register 48 hours in advance in

order to be admitted. Please submit your name, time of arrival, email address and phone number to Carolyn Peters no later than Tuesday, May 6, 2003, and she will provide you with instructions for admittance. Ms. Peter's e-mail address is carolyn.peters@nist.gov and her phone number is 301/975-5607.

DATES: The meeting will convene May 8, 2003 at 8 a.m. and will adjourn at 3:30 p.m. on May 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Employees' Lounge, Administration Building, at NIST, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899. Please note admittance instructions under the **SUMMARY** paragraph.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carrie Hines, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-4800, telephone number (301) 975-3360.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on March 11, 2003, that portions of the meeting which involve discussion of proposed funding of the MEP may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B), because that portion will divulge matters the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency actions; and that portions of the meeting which involve discussion of the staffing of positions in MEP may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), because divulging information discussed in that portion of the meeting is likely to reveal information of a personal nature, where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Dated: April 14, 2003.

Karen H. Brown,
Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 03-9867 Filed 4-21-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 030411083-3083-01]

RIN 0648-ZB40

Call for Proposals for Research in the Area of Climate and Weather Impacts on Society and the Environment

AGENCIES: National Climatic Data Center and Coastal Services Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA); Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Federal assistance.

SUMMARY: NOAA invites applications to establish a cooperative agreement with two of NOAA's centers, the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) and the Coastal Services Center (CSC). In general terms, the agreement will be established to provide a collaborative environment between the National Climatic Data Center, the Coastal Services Center, and the recipient, within which a broad-based research program will be conducted that links climate and weather processes, the formation of severe events, and the impacts of these events for the region of the South Atlantic Bight, including the coastal ocean to the mountain environment. This announcement provides guidelines for the proposed cooperative agreement, and includes details for the technical program, proposal development, evaluation criteria, and competitive selection procedures. NOAA will collaborate on cooperative research and development activities and provide financial support to enhance the public benefits to be derived from the research results, including practical applications for the needs of coastal and inland communities. The selected applicant and NOAA will work together to engage the support of both the science and management communities, and ensure that a broad group of constituents will benefit from the products as well as contribute to their design and use. The agreement will be established based on ease and effectiveness of interaction and collaboration with the National Climatic Data Center and the Coastal Services Center, and/or expertise in areas related to the missions of NOAA, particularly the National Climatic Data Center and the Coastal Services Center. The selected applicant will also be expected to identify, and as appropriate, establish relationships with other NOAA program offices that may benefit from, or collaborate in, the work conducted under the cooperative agreement.

DATES: Complete applications must be received by the National Climatic Data Center no later than 4 p.m. May 22, 2003. Final selection is anticipated to be completed by approximately June 15, 2003. The anticipated start date is September 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Signed proposals, with two copies, should be submitted to: National Climatic Data Center; 151 Patton Avenue, Room 476, Asheville, NC 28801-5001. Proposals should cite this

Notice and be sent to the attention of Linda Statler.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Administrative questions, Linda Statler, (828) 271-4657, Linda.S.Statler@noaa.gov. Technical point of contact is Marc Plantico, (828) 271-4765, Marc.Plantico@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Funding Instrument:* The selected recipient will enter into a 4-year cooperative agreement to support the development of a cooperative research program with NOAA's National Climatic Data Center and Coastal Services Center in the area of climate and weather impacts on society and the environment (including severe climate weather impacts in North and South Carolina).

Authority: Statutory authority for these programs is provided under 49 U.S.C. 44720; 33 U.S.C. 883d; 15 U.S.C. 2907; 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*; the Global Change Research Act, 15 U.S.C. 2921-2961; and the National Climate Program Act, 15 U.S.C. 2901-2908.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA): This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under the Number 11.440, Environmental Sciences, Applications, Data, and Education.

Funding Availability: Funding for the first year (FY 2003) is anticipated to be approximately \$375,000. Each additional year is anticipated to be approximately \$400,000 per year thereafter for the term of the agreement. However, funding is contingent upon availability of appropriations and is at the sole discretion of NOAA. Funding for non-U.S. institutions and contractual arrangements for services and products for delivery to NOAA are not available under this announcement.

Cost Sharing: Applicant will be required to contribute at least 5 percent (from non-Federal funds) of the total amount contributed by NOAA each year if the application is approved. This should be shown in the budget.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible organizations are limited to U.S. institutions. Eligible organizations are universities, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, State and local governments, and Indian Tribes. Multiple organizations may collaborate in submitting a single proposal, but the award will be made to a single organization with the primary responsibility for administration and execution of the agreement.

Program Description

The primary purpose of establishing a cooperative agreement is to bring together the resources of a research-