Dated: January 6, 2005.

Jeffrey Anspacher,

Director, Export Trading Company Affairs.

[FR Doc. E5–88 Filed 1–11–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

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

ACTION: Notice of invitation to energy industry event—Norwegian offshore opportunities forum.

DATE: March 3, 2005.

TIME: 8 a.m.

LOCATION: The Houstonian Hotel, Houston, Texas.

SUMMARY: As part of the U.S.-Norway Oil and Gas Industry Summit in Houston, the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and the U.S. Department of Commerce are pleased to invite you, or a representative you designate from your company, to a breakfast briefing on opportunities on the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS). The briefing will provide offshore exploration and production companies with an overview of the resource potential and the framework conditions on the NCS.

Although Norway is the third largest oil exporter in the world, only about ¼ of the total estimated petroleum resources on the NCS have been produced. With the large quantities of petroleum that remain to be discovered, the NCS offers a variety of oil and gas opportunities in both established and frontier basins. Norway also has a well established and competitive petroleum industry, predictable and transparent framework conditions, and an approachable and skilled public administration.

8 a.m.—Breakfast.

8:15 a.m.—Welcome and Opening Remarks.

Ms. Thorild Widvey, Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy Official from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

8:30 a.m.—The Resource Potential on the NCS.

Ms. Bente Nyland, Director, Norwegian Petroleum Directorate.

8:45 a.m.—The Framework Conditions on the NCS.

Mr. Gunnar Gjerde, Director General, Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy.

9:15 a.m.—Experiences of a U.S. Entrant to the NCS.

Steven B. Hinchman, Senior Vice President of Worldwide Production, Marathon Oil Corporation.

9:35 a.m.—Question and Answer Period.

9:55 a.m.—Closing Remarks.

Official from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

10 a.m.—Adjourn.

Please RSVP by February 18, 2005 to Patterson Brown, U.S. Department of Commerce, 202/482.4950, 202/482.0170 (fax), or *pbrown@ita.doc.gov;* or to Erik Just Olsen, Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, +47 22 24 61 94 or *erik-just.olsen@oed.dep.no.*

Dated: January 6, 2004.

Patterson W. Brown,

International Trade Specialist, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries.

[FR Doc. E5–71 Filed 1–11–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 041217352–4352–01]

Announcing Development of Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140–3, a Revision of FIPS 140–2, Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology announces that it plans to develop Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140–3, which will supersede FIPS 140–2, Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules. FIPS 140–2, approved by the Secretary of Commerce and announced in the **Federal Register** (June 27, 2001, Volume 66, Number 124, Pages 34154–34155), identifies requirements for four levels of security for cryptographic modules that are utilized by Federal agencies to protect the security of Federal information systems. The Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) (Public Law 107–347) requires that all Federal agencies and their contractors use only those cryptographic-based security systems that were validated to FIPS 140–2 or to its predecessor, FIPS 140–1.

DATES: Comments on new and revised requirements for FIPS 140–3 must be received on or before Febrary 28, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent electronically to *FIPS140–3@nist.gov,* or may be mailed to Information Technology Laboratory, ATTN: Development of FIPS 140–3, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8930, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8930. All comments received will be available on the NIST Web site at: *http://csrc.nist.gov/cryptval/*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Allen Roginsky (301) 975–3603, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, STOP 8930, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8930. E-mail: *allen.roginsky@nist.gov.*

A copy of FIPS 140–2 is available electronically from the NIST Web site at: *http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips/index.html.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FIPS 140–2, Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules, superseded FIPS 140–1, which had been issued in 1994. FIPS 140–1 specified that the standard be reviewed within five years to consider its continued usefulness and to determine whether new or revised requirements should be added. NIST conducted a review of FIPS 140–1 in 1998–99, and the standard was reaffirmed as FIPS 140–2 in 2001 with technical modifications to address technological advances that had occurred since FIPS 140–1 had been issued.

FIPS 140–2 identifies requirements for four increasing, qualitative levels of security for cryptographic modules. The four security levels cover a wide range of potential applications and a wide spectrum of information types, including data with the potential to cause low, moderate and serious impacts on organizations should there be a loss of confidentiality, integrity or availability of the data. In 1995, NIST and the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) of the Government of Canada established the Cryptographic Module Validation Program (CMVP) to validate cryptographic modules to FIPS 140–1 and other cryptography-based standards. Nearly 500 cryptographic modules and many implementations of cryptographic algorithms have been tested by National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) accredited, independent third-party laboratories and have been validated. Products validated by this program are used in Canada, the U.S., and many other countries. Federal government agencies are required to acquire products that have been validated under the CMVP when they use cryptographic-based security systems to protect their information. The CMVP enables vendors of cryptographic products to use a common standard and a common testing

and validation process for their products.

NIST plans to develop FIPS 140–3 to meet the new and revised requirements of Federal agencies for cryptographic systems, and to address technological and economic changes that have occurred since the issuance of FIPS 140–2. As the first step in the development of FIPS 140–3, NIST invites comments from the public, users, the information technology industry, and Federal, State and local government organizations concerning the need for and recommendations for a new standard.

NIST is especially interested in comments on the following issues:

(1) Compatibility with industry standards.

(2) New technology areas.

(3) Introduction of additional levels of security.

(4) Additional requirements specific to physical security.

(5) Portability of applications (including operating systems) based on platform and/or environment.

Following its review of the comments submitted in response to this notice, NIST will hold open, public workshops in 2005 to discuss the development of FIPS 140–3. These workshops will be announced in the **Federal Register** with information about participation. NIST expects to propose FIPS 140–3 for public review and comment before recommending the standard to the Secretary of Commerce for approval in 2006.

NIST will develop a plan for a transition period for testing and validating modules to FIPS 140–3, and for agencies to develop plans to acquire products that are compliant with FIPS 140–3. The transition plan will also address the use by Federal agencies of cryptographic modules that have been validated for compliance to FIPS 140–1 and FIPS 140–2.

Authority: Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) are issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology after approval by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to Section 5131 of the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 and the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–347).

E.O. 12866: This notice has been determined not to be significant for the purposes of E.O. 12866.

Dated: January 5, 2005.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 05–545 Filed 1–11–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–CN–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Notice of Jointly Owned Invention Available for Licensing

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of jointly owned invention available for licensing.

SUMMARY: The invention listed below is jointly owned by the U.S. Government, as represented by the Department of Commerce, and Biospace, Inc. The Department of Commerce's interest in the invention is available for licensing in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 and 37 CFR part 404 to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally funded research and development.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Technical and licensing information on this invention may be obtained by writing to: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Office of Technology Partnerships, Attn: Teresa Bradshaw, Building 820, Room 213, Gaithersburg, MD 20899. Information is also available via telephone: (301) 975–2624 , fax (301) 869–2751, or e-mail: *teresa.bradshaw@nist.gov.* Any request for information should include the NIST Docket number and title for the invention as indicated below.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NIST may enter into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (''CRADA'') with the licensee to perform further research on the invention for purposes of commercialization. The invention available for licensing is:

NIST Docket Number: 01–015

Title: Applying X-ray Topography and Diffractometry to Improve Protein Crystal Growth.

Abstract: The present invention provides a general method and system for identifying conditions for growing protein crystals having greater order and fewer crystal defects that are suitable for use in determining the structure of the protein by x-ray diffractometry. Crystals of a protein are grown under different sets of predetermined conditions and x-ray topographic images of the protein crystals are generated. The x-ray topographic images reveal defects in the crystals and permit identification of the set(s) of conditions that produce crystals having the fewest crystal defects. In a preferred embodiment, the protein crystals are grown in a dynamically controlled crystallization system (DCCS). An important condition of crystal growth that can be optimized by the method is the effective gravity, g^{eff}, experienced by the growing crystal; for example, when the crystal is grown under microgravity in space, or in a powerful magnetic field that causes the protein molecules in the growing crystal to experience acceleration of an effective gravitational field that is greater or less than the actual gravitational field at the earth's surface. With the present method, it is possible to identify differences between crystals grown on the earth with the DCCS and those grown in space under identical conditions. A comparison of x-ray topographs taken from both earth grown and space grown crystals indicates that the space grown crystals are of higher crystallographic perfection.

Dated: January 5, 2005.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 05–544 Filed 1–11–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092704B]

Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Construction of the East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) has been issued to the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) to take small numbers of California sea lions, Pacific harbor seals, and gray whales, by harassment, incidental to construction of a replacement bridge for the East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (SF-OBB) in California.

DATES: This authorization is effective from January 3, 2005, until January 3, 2006.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the application, IHA, and/or a list of references used in this document may be obtained by writing to Steve Leathery, Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315