

Background: As requested by the USTR pursuant to section 131 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2151), in its report the Commission will provide advice as to the probable economic effect of providing duty-free treatment for imports of products of Australia (i) on industries in the United States producing like or directly competitive products, and (ii) on consumers. The import analysis will consider each article in chapters 1 through 97 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States for which U.S. tariffs will remain after the United States fully implements its Uruguay Round tariff commitments. The import advice will be based on the 2002 Harmonized Tariff System nomenclature and 2001 trade data. The advice with respect to the removal of U.S. duties on imports from Australia will assume that any known U.S. non-tariff barrier will not be applicable to such imports. The Commission will note in its report any instance in which the continued application of a U.S. non-tariff barrier to such imports would result in different advice with respect to the effect of the removal of the duty.

As also requested, pursuant to section 2104(b)(2) of the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3804(b)(2)), the Commission will provide advice as to the probable economic effect of eliminating tariffs on imports of certain agricultural products of Australia on (i) industries in the United States producing the product concerned and (ii) the U.S. economy as a whole.

USTR indicated that the Commission's report will be classified and considered to be an inter-agency memorandum containing pre-decisional advice and subject to the deliberative process privilege. The Commission expects to provide its report to USTR by June 6, 2003.

Public Hearing: A public hearing in connection with this investigation will be held at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on February 6, 2003. All persons shall have the right to appear, by counsel or in person, to present information and to be heard. Requests to appear at the public hearing should be filed with the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436, no later than 5:15 p.m., January 21, 2003. Any prehearing briefs (original and 14 copies) should be filed not later than 5:15 p.m., January 23, 2003; the deadline for filing post-hearing briefs or statements is 5:15 p.m., February 13, 2003. In the event that, as of the close of business on January 21, 2003, no

witnesses are scheduled to appear at the hearing, the hearing will be canceled. Any person interested in attending the hearing as an observer or non-participant may call the Secretary to the Commission (202-205-1806) after January 21, 2003, for information concerning whether the hearing will be held.

Written Submissions: In lieu of or in addition to participating in the hearing, interested parties are invited to submit written statements (original and 14 copies) concerning the matters to be addressed by the Commission in its report on this investigation. Commercial or financial information that a submitter desires the Commission to treat as confidential must be submitted on separate sheets of paper, each clearly marked "Confidential Business Information" at the top. All submissions requesting confidential treatment must conform with the requirements of section 201.6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.6). All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be made available in the Office of the Secretary to the Commission for inspection by interested parties. The Commission may include such confidential business information in the report it sends to the USTR. To be assured of consideration by the Commission, written statements relating to the Commission's report should be submitted to the Commission at the earliest practical date and should be received no later than the close of business on February 13, 2003. All submissions should be addressed to the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436. The Commission's rules do not authorize filing submissions with the Secretary by facsimile or electronic means. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>).

List of Subjects

Australia, tariffs and imports.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: December 23, 2002.

Marilyn R. Abbott,

Secretary to the Commission.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Antitrust Division

Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—National Center for Manufacturing Sciences, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that, on December 3, 2002, pursuant to Section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* ("the Act"), the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences, Inc. ("NCMS") has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing changes in its membership status. The notifications were filed for the purpose of extending the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Specifically, Eclipse International Corporation, Corona, CA; General Lasertronics Corporation, San Jose CA; IMES, Inc., Norwell, MA; Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA; and the Aerostructures Corporation, Nashville, TN have been added as parties to this venture. Also, Conventus Technology Corporation, Dublin, OH has resigned or has had their membership in NCMS terminated.

No other changes have been made in either the membership or planned activity of the group research project. Membership in this group research project remains open, and NCMS intends to file additional written notification disclosing all changes in membership.

On February 20, 1987, NCMS filed its original notification pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on March 17, 1987 (52 FR 8375).

The last notification was filed with the Department on August 28, 2002. A notice was published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on October 8, 2002 (67 FR 62816).

Constance K. Robinson,

Director of Operations Antitrust Division.

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