DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Multistakeholder Process To Develop Best Practices for Privacy, Transparency, and Accountability Regarding Commercial and Private Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will convene a meeting of a multistakeholder process concerning privacy, transparency, and accountability issues regarding commercial and private use of unmanned aircraft systems on April 8, 2016.

DATES: The meeting will be held on April 8, 2016 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Time. See Supplementary Information for details.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Boardroom at the American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Verdi, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Room 4725, Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482–8238; email *jverdi@ntia.doc.gov.* Please direct media inquiries to NTIA's Office of Public Affairs, (202) 482–7002; email *press@ntia.doc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: Congress recognized the potential wide-ranging benefits of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operations within the United States in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112–95), which requires a plan to safely integrate civil UAS into the National Airspace System (NAS) by 2015. On February 15, 2015, President Obama issued the Presidential Memorandum ''Promoting Economic Competitiveness While Safeguarding Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties in Domestic Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems.'' [1] The Presidential Memorandum establishes a ''multi-stakeholder engagement process to develop and communicate best practices for privacy, accountability, and transparency issues regarding commercial and private UAS use in the NAS.'' [2] The process includes stakeholders from industry, civil society, and academia, and will be initiated by the Department of Commerce, through NTIA, and in consultation with other interested agencies. On August 3, 2015, NTIA convened the first meeting of the multistakeholder process, followed by additional meetings through February 2016.

Matters To Be Considered: The April 8, 2016 meeting is a continuation of a series of NTIA-convened multistakeholder discussions concerning privacy, transparency, and accountability issues regarding commercial and private use of UAS. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed. Stakeholders will engage in an open, transparent, consensus-driven process to develop best practices for privacy, accountability, and transparency issues regarding commercial and private UAS use in the NAS. The April 8, 2016 meeting will build on stakeholders' previous work. More information about stakeholders' work is available at: *http://www.ntia.doc.gov/other-publication/2015/multistakeholder-process-unmanned-aircraft-systems.*

Time and Date: NTIA will convene a meeting of the multistakeholder process regarding unmanned aircraft systems on April 8, 2016 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Time. The meeting date and time are subject to change. The meeting is subject to cancellation if stakeholders complete their work developing best practices. Please refer to NTIA's Web site, *http://www.ntia.doc.gov/other-publication/2016/multistakeholder-process-unmanned-aircraft-systems,* for the most current information.

Place: The meeting will be held in the Boardroom at the American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20006. The location of the meeting is subject to change. Please refer to NTIA's Web site, *http://www.ntia.doc.gov/other-publication/2016/multistakeholder-process-unmanned-aircraft-systems,* for the most current information.

Other Information: The meeting is open to the public and the press. The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to John Verdi at (202) 482–8238 or *jverdi@ntia.doc.gov* at least seven (7) business days prior to the meeting. The meeting will also be webcast. Requests for real-time captioning of the webcast or other auxiliary aids should be directed to John Verdi at (202) 482–8238 or *jverdi@ntia.doc.gov* at least seven (7) business days prior to the meeting. There will be an opportunity for stakeholders viewing the webcast to participate remotely in the meeting through a moderated conference bridge, including polling functionality. Access details for the meeting are subject to change. Please refer to NTIA's Web site, *http://www.ntia.doc.gov/other-publication/2016/multistakeholder-process-unmanned-aircraft-systems,* for the most current information.

Dated: March 14, 2016.

Kathy D. Smith,

Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 2016–06029 Filed 3–16–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–60–P

[1] Presidential Memorandum, *Promoting Economic Competitiveness While Safeguarding Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties in Domestic Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems,* (Feb. 15, 2015), *available at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/02/15/presidential-memorandum-promoting-economic-competitiveness-while-safegua.*

[2] Presidential Memorandum at 4.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Requirements for Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 16, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Email: InformationCollection@uspto.gov.* Include ''0651–0024 inquiry'' in the subject line of the message.
- *Federal Rulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov.*
- *Mail:* Marcie Lovett, Records Management Division Director, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, United States

Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450; by telephone at 571–272–7728; or by email at *Raul.Tamayo@uspto.gov* with ''0651–0024 inquiry'' in the subject line. Additional information about this collection is also available at *http://www.reginfo.gov* under ''Information Collection Review.''

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Patent applications that contain nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosures must include a copy of the sequence listing in accordance with the requirements in 37 CFR 1.821–1.825. Applicants may submit sequence listings for both U.S. and international patent applications. Submissions of sequence listings in international applications are in accordance with Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Rule 13ter.

This information collection contains the sequence listing information itself. Information pertaining to the filing of the initial U.S. application is collected under OMB Control Number 0651–0032, and information pertaining to the filing of the initial international application is collected under OMB Control Number 0651–0021.

In particular, this information collection accounts for sequence listings submitted on paper, compact disc (CD), or through EFS-Web, the USPTO's online filing system. For U.S. applications, 37 CFR 1.821(c) permits all three modes of submission: Paper, CD, or EFS-Web. Sequence listings for international applications may be submitted on paper or through EFS-Web only, though sequence listings that are too large to be filed electronically though EFS-Web may be submitted on a separate CD.

The USPTO uses the sequence listings during the examination process to determine the patentability of the associated patent application. Sequence listings are also disclosed as part of the published patent application or issued patent.

This information collection also contains requests for transfer of a computer readable form under 37 CFR 1.821(e). Under 37 CFR 1.821(e)–(f), applicants who submit their sequence listings on paper or CD must submit a copy of the sequence listing in ''computer readable form'' (CRF) with a statement indicating that the CRF copy of the sequence listing is identical to the paper or CD copy required by 1.821(c). Applicants may submit the CRF copy of the sequence listing to the USPTO on CD or other acceptable media as provided in 37 CFR 1.824. Sequence listings that are submitted online through EFS-Web in the proper text format do not require a separate CRF copy or the associated statement.

If the CRF sequence listing in a new application is identical to the CRF sequence listing of another application that the applicant already has on file at the USPTO, 37 CFR 1.821(e) permits the applicant to refer to the CRF listing in the other application, rather than having to submit a duplicate copy of the CRF listing for the new application. In such a case, the applicant may submit a letter identifying the application and CRF sequence listing that is already on file and stating that the sequence listing submitted in the new application is identical to the CRF copy already filed with the previous application. The USPTO provides a form, Request for Transfer of a Computer Readable Form Under 37 CFR 1.821(e) (PTO/SB/93), in order to assist customers in submitting this statement.

II. Method of Collection

By mail, hand delivery, or electronic submission to the USPTO.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651–0024.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently-approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations; and not-for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 27,200 responses per year. Of this total, the USPTO expects that 25% will be from small entities.

Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take approximately 6 minutes (0.10 hours) to 6 hours to complete a single IC item in this collection, depending on the instrument. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, create the documents, and submit the completed request to the USPTO.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 152,285 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost Burden (Hourly): $26,260,375.00. The USPTO estimates that a sequence listing will take approximately five hours of paraprofessional time at an estimated rate of $125 per hour and one hour of attorney time at $410 per hour, for a weighted average rate of $172.50 per hour for preparing a sequence listing. The USPTO expects that the Request for Transfer of a CRF will be prepared by a paraprofessional at an estimated rate of $125 per hour. Using this hourly rate, the USPTO estimates $26,260,375.00 per year for the total hourly costs associated with respondents.

TABLE 1—BURDEN HOUR/BURDEN COST TO RESPONDENTS

IC No.	Item	Estimated response time (hours)	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours	Rate ($/hr)	Total cost ($/yr)
		(a)	(b)	(a) × (b) = (c)	(d)	(c) × (d) = (e)
1	Sequence Listing in Application (paper).	6.00	6,000	36,000	$172.50	$6,210,000.00
1	Sequence Listing in Application (CD)	6.00	350	2,100	172.50	362,250.00
1	Sequence Listing in Application (electronic).	6.00	19,000	114,000	172.50	19,665,000.00
2	Request for Transfer of a Computer Readable Form Under 37 CFR 1.821(e) (PTO/SB/93).	0.10	1,850	185	125.00	23,125.00
Totals			27,200	152,285		26,260,375.00

Estimated Total Annual Cost Burden (Non-Hourly): $1,774,500.00. This collection has no capital startup, maintenance, or operating fees. This collection does have a non-hourly cost

burden in the form of filing fees and postage costs.

Filing Fees

In accordance with 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G), the USPTO only charges a fee for submitting a sequence listing as part of a U.S. application or as part of an international application entering the U.S. national stage if the sequence listing (i) is not filed via EFS-Web or not filed on an electronic medium in compliance with §§ 1.52(e) and 1.821(c) or (e), and (ii) causes the application to exceed 100 pages. (See 37 CFR 1.52(f).) Under 37 CFR 1.16(s) and 1.492(j) for U.S. applications and international applications entering the U.S. national stage, respectively, if the application, including the sequence listings filed on paper or on a non-compliant electronic medium, exceeds 100 pages, the application size fee is $400 (or $200 for small entities and $100 for micro entities) for each additional 50 pages or fraction thereof. The USPTO estimates the following with respect to the number of applications that will include long sequence listings filed on paper or on a non-compliant electronic medium and the average application size fee that such applications will incur: (i) Approximately 200 applications from large entities will incur an average application size fee of $1,200; (ii) approximately 100 applications from small entities will incur an average application size fee of $600; and (iii) approximately 40 applications from micro entities will incur an average application size fee of $300. The estimate corresponds to a total fee cost of $240,000, $60,000, and $12,000, respectively.

As a Receiving Office, the USPTO collects the international filing fee for each international application it receives. The basic international filing fee only covers the first 30 pages of the international application. As a result, a $15 fee per page is added to the international filing fee for each page over 30 pages of an international application including a sequence listing filed on paper or in PDF format. No page fees are triggered by sequence listings that are submitted via EFS-Web in the proper text format. The average length of a sequence listing filed on paper or in PDF format in an international application is 150 pages, which would carry an additional fee of $2,250 if the international application were already at least 30 pages long without the listing. The USPTO estimates that approximately 650 of the 6,000 sequence listings filed per year on paper or in PDF format will be for international applications, for a cost of $1,462,500.

Therefore, the USPTO estimates that the total fee costs for this collection will total $1,774,500.00.

Postage Costs

Mailed submissions may include the sequence listing on either paper or CD, the CRF copy of the listing on CD, and a transmittal letter containing the required identifying information. The USPTO estimates that the average postage cost for a paper or CD sequence listing submission will be $6.45 (USPS Priority Mail, flat rate envelope) and that 6,350 sequence listings will be mailed to the USPTO per year, for a total of $40,957.50 in postage costs.

With filing fee costs totaling $1,774,500.00 and postage costs totaling $40,957.50, the USPTO estimates that the total annual non-hourly cost burden for this collection will amount to $1,815,457.50.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on:

(a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility;

(b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submission of responses.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 11, 2016.

Marcie Lovett,

Records Management Division Director, OCIO, United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2016–06011 Filed 3–16–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DOD–2016–OS–0021]

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Office of the Inspector General, DoD.

ACTION: Notice to alter a System of Records.

SUMMARY: The Office of Inspector General proposes to alter a system of records, CIG–16, Defense Case Activity Tracking System (D–CATS) to carry out its responsibilities pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. The OIG is statutorily directed to conduct and supervise investigations relating to the programs and operations of the Department of Defense, to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of such programs and operations, and to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in such programs and operations. Accordingly, the records in this system are used in the course of investigating individuals suspected of administrative or criminal misconduct.

This system is also used for case management, case tracking, information storage, to respond to requests for information, and to fulfill mandatory reporting requirements. It fulfills these purposes by enabling users to record complaints, allegations of wrongdoing, and requests for assistance; to document inquiries; to store investigative case records; to compile statistical information; to provide prompt, responsive and accurate information regarding the status of ongoing cases; to provide a record of complaint disposition; and to record actions taken and notifications of interested parties and agencies.

DATES: Comments will be accepted on or before April 18, 2016. This proposed action will be effective the date following the end of the comment period unless comments are received which result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

* *Federal Rulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

* *Mail:* Department of Defense, Office of the Deputy Chief Management Officer, Directorate of Oversight and Compliance, Regulatory and Audit Matters Office, 9010 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–9010.