

experience of the applicant (and partners) that relate to the Program Priorities? Are the proposers capable of conducting a project of the scope and scale proposed (*i.e.*, scientific, professional, facility, and resources/capabilities)? Will appropriate partnerships be employed to achieve the highest quality content and maximum efficiency?

(7) *Innovation (5 Points)*: Does the collaborator propose to develop novel concepts, approaches, measures or methods in basic research that will address the Program Priorities? Are they original and innovative?

Selection Procedures

All proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the above evaluation criteria by an independent peer review panel which may consist of both NOAA and non-NOAA Federal experts. The panel will review and discuss each proposal and make a consensus recommendation of the most meritorious and relevant proposal to the Selecting Officials. The selecting officials are the Directors of the National Climatic Data Center and the Coastal Services Center.

The Selecting Officials may accept the proposal recommended by the review panel, or may select another proposal based on the following program policy factors: (a) Duplication of on-going Federal support; (b) ease and effectiveness of interaction with applicant; (c) history of institutional commitment to related endeavors. The successful proposal will be forwarded to the NOAA Grants Officer for action. The final budget may be negotiated after selection is made.

Other Requirements/Information

(1) Disposition of Unsuccessful Proposals. Proposals will be held in the Program Office until an award is made to the selected applicant and then destroyed.

(2) Federal Policies and Procedures Applicable to this announcement:

(a) The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification of Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the **Federal Register** notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), is applicable to this solicitation.

(b) In accordance with Federal statutes and regulations, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance. Telephone Device

for the Deaf (TDD) capabilities are available through the National Climatic Data Center at 828-271-4010 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This notice contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, and SF-LLL has been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0340, and 0348-0046. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

Executive Orders 12866 and 12372

This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866. Applications under this program are not subject to E.O. 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

Administrative Procedure Act/ Regulatory Flexibility Act

Notice and comment are not required under 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2), or any other law, for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts. Because notice and comment are not required, a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, is not required and has not been prepared for this notice.

Dated: April 15, 2003.

Gregory W. Withee,

Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Notice of Public Meeting

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES) will meet May 16, 2003.

DATES AND TIMES: The meeting is scheduled as follows: May 16, 2003, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The first part of this meeting will be closed to the public. The public portion of the meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Room 4527 of Silver Spring Metro

Center Building III (SSMC III) in Silver Spring, Maryland. SSMC III is located at 1315 East-West Highway. It is located near the Silver Spring Metro Station on the Red Line. While open to the public, seating capacity may be limited.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1982), notice is hereby given of the meeting of ACCRES. ACCRES was established by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) on May 21, 2002, to advise the Secretary through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on long- and short-range strategies for the licensing of commercial remote sensing satellite systems.

Matters To Be Considered

The first part of the meeting will be closed to the public pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, as amended by section 5(c) of the Government in Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409 and in accordance with section 552b(c)(1) of Title 5, United States Code, that the portions of this meeting which involve briefings on the ongoing review and implementation of commercial space policy relating to the National Security Presidential Directive-15 and the national security and foreign policy considerations for NOAA's licensing decisions may be closed to the public. These briefings are likely to disclose matters that are specifically authorized under criteria established by Executive Order 12958 to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such *Executive Order*.

All other portions of the meeting will be open to the public. During the open portion of the meeting, the Committee will discuss initial findings, the development of its work plan, and will receive public comments on its activities.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations may be directed to ACCRES, NOAA/NESDIS International and Interagency Affairs Office, 1335 East-West Highway, Room 7311, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

Additional Information and Public Comments

Any member of the public wishing further information concerning the meeting or who wishes to submit oral or written comments should contact