

APPENDIX—Continued

[Petitions instituted between 06/02/2003 and 06/06/2003]

TA-W	Subject firm (petitioners)	Location	Date of institution	Date of petition
51,958	UTI Star Guide (CO)	Arvada, CO	06/06/2003	06/04/2003
51,959	Fiskars Brands (Comp)	Opelika, AL	06/06/2003	05/29/2003
51,960	Agilent Technologies, Inc. (Wkrs)	Palo Alto, CA	06/06/2003	06/03/2003
51,961	3M (Comp)	Eagar, MN	06/06/2003	05/30/2003
51,962	Vibratech, Inc. (UAW)	Alden, NY	06/06/2003	06/03/2003
51,963	Nortel Networks (Wkrs)	RTP, NC	06/06/2003	05/19/2003
51,964	L.E. Smith Glass (AFGWU)	Mt. Pleasant, PA	06/06/2003	05/28/2003
51,965	Copperweld Corporation (Comp)	Birmingham, AL	06/06/2003	05/28/2003
51,966	Springs Window Fashions (Comp)	Wausau, WI	06/06/2003	06/04/2003
51,967	Reading Anthracite Co. (Wkrs)	Pottsville, PA	06/06/2003	05/29/2003
51,968	International Uranium Corp. (Wkrs)	Blanding, UT	06/06/2003	05/23/2003
51,969	Knaack Manufacturing Co. (Wkrs)	Payson, UT	06/06/2003	06/03/2003
51,970	Northwest Airlines (MN)	St. Paul, MN	06/06/2003	05/06/2003
51,971	Fulton Bellows and Components (USWA)	Knoxville, TN	06/06/2003	06/05/2003
51,972	Ken-Marc Sales Corp. (Comp)	Maspeth, NY	06/06/2003	06/05/2003
51,973	Briggs and Stratton (PACE)	Wauwatosa, WI	06/06/2003	06/02/2003
51,974	ICT Group (Wkrs)	Christiansburg, VA	06/06/2003	05/30/2003
51,975	Walstenburg Apparel Corp. (Comp)	Walstenburg, NC	06/06/2003	05/30/2003

[FR Doc. 03-15863 Filed 6-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment and Training
Administration****Notice of Availability of Funds and
Solicitation for Grant Applications
(SGA) for Business-Led H-1B
Technical Skills Training Grants****AGENCY:** Employment and Training
Administration.**SUMMARY:** The Employment and
Training Administration (ETA), U.S.
Department of Labor (DOL), announces
the availability of approximately \$50
million in grant funds for technical
skills training programs.

Technical skills training grants were authorized under the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (ACWIA), as amended. Fees paid by employers who bring foreign workers into the United States to work in high skill or specialty occupations on a temporary basis under H-1B nonimmigrant visas finance these grants. Twenty-five percent of the grants are to be awarded to business partnerships and seventy-five percent are to be awarded to local workforce investment boards established under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

This notice applies to the 25 percent of the total funds available for technical skills training grants that are required by ACWIA to be awarded to business partnerships that consist of at least two businesses or a business-related nonprofit organization that represents more than one business. The

partnership may also include any educational, labor, faith-based or community organization, or workforce investment board.

H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants are focused on addressing the high skill technology shortages of American businesses and are a long-term solution to domestic skill shortages in high skill and high technology occupations. H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants are aimed at raising the technical skills levels of American workers so they can take advantage of the new technology-related employment opportunities. Raising the skill level of American workers will, in turn, help businesses reduce their dependence on skilled foreign professionals permitted to work in the United States using H-1B visas. H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants are not intended to address labor shortages due to reasons other than technical skills shortages.

At least eighty percent of the grants are to be awarded to projects that train workers in high technology, information technology, and biotechnology skills, including skills needed for software and communications services, telecommunications, systems installation and integration, computers and communications hardware, advanced manufacturing, health care technology, biotechnology and biomedical research and manufacturing, and innovation services.

Grant funds awarded under the 25 percent provision may be used only to carry out a strategy that would otherwise not be eligible for funds provided through workforce investment boards under the 75 percent provision. Applicants must explain the barriers

that prevent them from meeting the 75 percent eligibility criteria. An announcement of the solicitation for grant applications (SGA/DFA 03-100) for the 75 percent of grants to be awarded to local boards was published in the **Federal Register** on January 6, 2003.

In awarding H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants, every effort will be made to fairly distribute grants across rural and urban areas and across the different geographic regions of the United States. It is anticipated that individual awards will not exceed \$3 million.

This solicitation provides background information and describes the application submission requirements, the process that eligible entities must use to apply for funds covered by this solicitation, and how grantees will be selected.

DATES: The closing date for receipt of applications under this announcement is September 22, 2003. Applications must be received at the address below no later than 4 pm EST (Eastern Standard Time). Grant applications received after this date will not be considered.

ADDRESSES: Mailed applications must be addressed to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Division of Federal Assistance, Attention: Mamie D. Williams, SGA/DFA 03-114, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room S-4203, Washington, DC 20210. Telefacsimile (FAX) applications will not be accepted. Applicants are advised that mail delivery in the Washington area may be delayed due to mail