

reviewers who are Federal employees who will review all applications based on the above evaluation criteria. Each reviewer will evaluate and provide a score for each proposal. The Director of MBDA makes the final recommendation to the Department of Commerce Grants Officer regarding the funding of applications, taking into account the following selection criteria:

1. The evaluations and rankings of the independent review panel;
2. The following funding priorities: (1) Identifying and working to eliminate barriers which limit the access of minority businesses to markets and capital; (2) Identifying and working to meet the special needs of minority businesses seeking to obtain large-scale contracts (in excess of \$500,000) with institutional customers; and (3) Promoting the understanding and use of Electronic Commerce by the minority business community. The National Director or his designee reserves the right to conduct a site visit (subject to the availability of funding) to applicant organizations receiving at least 70% of the total points available for each evaluation criterion, in order to make a better assessment of the organization's capability to achieve the three funding priorities.
3. The availability of funding.

#### Unsuccessful Competition

On occasion, competitive solicitations or competitive panels may produce less than optimum results, such as competition resulting in the receipt of no applications or competition resulting in all unresponsive applications received. If the competition results in the receipt of only one application, it may or may not require additional action from MBDA depending upon the competitive history of the area, the quality of the application received, and the time and cost limits involved. In the event that any or all of these conditions arise, MBDA shall take the most time and cost-effective approach available that is in the best interest of the Government. This includes, but is not limited to: (1) Re-competition or (2) Re-Paneling or (3) Negotiation.

#### Universal Identifier

Applicants should be aware that they may be required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number during the application process. See the June 27, 2003 (68 FR 38402) **Federal Register** notice for additional information. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or on

MBDA's website at <http://www.mbda.gov>.

#### Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

#### Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification 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), are applicable to this solicitation.

#### Executive Order 12866

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

#### Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act for rules concerning public property, loans, grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)). Because notice and opportunity for comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required and has not been prepared.

#### Paperwork Reduction Act

This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, CD 346, and SF-LLL have been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, 0605-0001, 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 OMB Control Number.

Dated: August 25, 2003.

**Ronald N. Langston,**  
National Director, Minority Business  
Development Agency.

[FR Doc. 03-22131 Filed 8-28-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-21-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### Minority Business Development Agency

[Docket No. 000724218-3211-06]

#### Solicitation of Applications for the Native American Business Development Center (NABDC) Program

**AGENCY:** Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Executive Order 11625 and 15 U.S.C. 1512, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting competitive applications from organizations to operate Native American Business Development Centers (NABDCs) under its Native American Development Center (NABDC) Program.

In order to receive consideration, applicants must comply with all information and requirements contained in this Notice. For-profit entities (including sole-proprietorships, partnerships and corporations), non-profit organizations, state and local government entities, American Indian Tribes and educational institutions are eligible to operate NABDCs.

The NABDC Program has been in operation since 1982. The NABDCs provide generalized management and technical assistance and business development services to Native American business enterprises within their designated geographic service areas.

The NABDC Program requirements further increase the impact of the NABDC projects by requiring that project operators deploy standardized business assistance services to the Native American business public directly, develop a network of strategic partnerships and provide strategic business consulting within the geographic service area. These requirements will be used to generate increased results with respect to financing and contracts awarded to Native American and minority-owned firms and thus, are a key component of this program.

**DATES:** The closing date for applications for each NABDC project is October 10, 2003. Anticipated time for processing of applications is one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of the publication of this notice.

MBDA anticipates that awards for the NABDC program will be made with a start date of January 1, 2004. Completed applications for the NABDC program must be (1) mailed (USPS postmark) to the address below; or (2) received by