

Numbers listed in this notice are not toll-free. An original and two copies of the required application materials should be sent to the Project Officer at the above address. Applications sent by facsimile must be immediately followed by submission of the original application to the Project Officer.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Rebecca Hunt, Project Officer, phone 1-809-221-2171 ex 404. Information is also available via the International Trade Administration's (ITA) Internet home page at <http://www.ita.doc.gov/doctm>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Mission Description**

As a follow up to President Clinton's commitment at the Bridgetown summit held in May 1997, the Department of Commerce will organize a senior level business development mission to three Eastern Caribbean countries to promote expanded commercial opportunities for U.S. firms. The Clinton Administration has long been committed to fostering and supporting the region's goals of economic diversification, sustained growth, and social stability through the creation of service and niche industries. The President's commitment to the Eastern Caribbean was clearly confirmed with the Economic Goals that were established in the Bridgetown Summit. The United States is committed to increased participation in the economies of the region through: (1) The sales of goods and services in the sectors mentioned below, and (2) joint ventures and investments to foster competitiveness in each country and throughout the region.

With stops in Barbados, Grenada and St. Lucia, the mission will cover all of the Windward Islands (meetings will be held on Barbados with representatives from St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica), focusing on export and business development opportunities for U.S. firms in the areas of tourism development (to include resort management, architectural/engineering services, marina development, building supplies and hotel/resort supplies), specialty and gourmet food industry development (to include food processing and packaging machinery and services, agricultural chemicals and industrial veterinary supplies) and opportunities in the business services area (financial, insurance and data processing) for small, medium and large companies through contacts with both the government and private sector.

The mission itinerary will be as follows:

May 3 (Sun.) Arrive Barbados

May 4 (Mon.) Barbados

May 5 (Tues.) Barbados

Leave in pm for Grenada

Arrive Grenada

May 6 (Wed.) Grenada

Leave in pm for St. Lucia

May 7 (Thur.) St. Lucia

May 8 (Fri.) Mission Concludes

**Criteria for Participation**

Individuals must be a senior level executive, appropriate to the goals of the mission, with authority to execute sales and other marketing agreements.

Company participation will be determined on the basis of:

- Consistency of the company's goals with the scope and desired outcome of the mission;
- Relevance of a company's business line to the plan for the mission;
- Past, present and prospective business activity in the Caribbean;
- Diversity of company size, type, location, demographics and traditional under-representation in business.
- A company's products or services must either be produced in the United States or, if not, marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have U.S. content representing at least 51 percent of the value of the finished product/service. A national interest exception may be applied to this 51 percent rule when a senior Department official deems it appropriate.
- An applicant's partisan political activities (including political contributions) are irrelevant to the selection process. The recruitment and selection of private sector participants in the mission will be conducted according to the Statement of Policy Governing Department of Commerce Overseas Trade Missions announced by Secretary Daley on March 3, 1997 and reflected herein.
- Endorsements/referrals: Third parties may nominate or endorse potential applicants, but companies nominated or endorsed must themselves submit an application to be eligible for consideration. Referrals from political organizations will not be considered.

**Cost:** Mission participants will agree to pay the mission fee of \$2,100. The participation fee does not cover participants' travel, lodging or other personal expenses.

**Authority:** 15 U.S.C. 1512.

Dated: March 18, 1998.

**Dolores F. Harrod,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary, International Operations, US&Foreign Commercial Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-7724 Filed 3-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-FF-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**International Trade Administration**

[Docket No. 980319069-8069-01]

**Joint Projects with the U.S. Commercial Centers in Sao Paulo, Brazil; Jakarta, Indonesia; and Shanghai, People's Republic of China**

**AGENCY:** U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of opportunity.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce offers a unique opportunity for nonprofit trade promotion organizations to undertake a joint project with the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service (US&FCS), the export promotion arm of the U.S. Government, in Brazil, Indonesia and the People's Republic of China. This joint project features space sharing with the US&FCS in the U.S. Commercial Centers ("Commercial Centers") in Sao Paulo, Jakarta, and Shanghai to enhance opportunities for joint project participants to work toward shared market development goals and assist U.S. companies in-country.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Alan Long, Director, U.S. Commercial Center—Sao Paulo, Rua Estados Unidos, 1812, Sao Paulo, SP. 01427-002, Brazil; or  
AMCONGEN—Sao Paulo, Unit 3502, APO AA 34030. Tel: (55-11) 853-2811; Fax: (55-11) 3061-0718;  
Internet: ALong@doc.gov.

Jon Kuehner, Director, U.S. Commercial Center—Jakarta Wisma Metropolitan II, Third Floor, JL. Jendral Sudirman, Jakarta 12920, Indonesia. Tel: (62-21) 526-2850; Fax: (62-21) 526-2855;  
Internet: Jkuehner@doc.gov.

Will Center Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Commercial Center—Shanghai Portman Shanghai Centre, Suite 631, 1369 Nanjing West Road, Shanghai, 200040 China. Tel: (86-21) 6279-7640; Fax: (86-21) 6279-7649;  
Internet: WCenter@doc.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Commercial Center Concept**

U.S. Commercial Centers are enhanced U.S. government export promotion facilities that provide, under one roof, expert business counseling by frontline Commercial Officers, a proven array of trade promotion programs, and in-house business facilities. Commercial Centers are the only U.S. government operations that are designed physically and legally to share space on a long-term basis with nonprofit trade promotion entities who seek to build a

presence in one or more of these countries. US&FCS has authority to enter into joint projects on matters of mutual interest with public organizations and establish U.S. Commercial Centers overseas under 15 U.S.C. 1525 and 4723a. By working with other trade promotion organizations, US&FCS seeks to expand both the trade promotion resources available to U.S. companies as well as the number of U.S. companies served at the Commercial Center.

#### Eligible Participants

The U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service seeks other federal trade promotion agencies, state-local economic development agencies, nonprofit industry associations, regional and bilateral business councils, and other nonprofit trade promotion entities to share space in the Commercial Centers.

#### Features of Commercial Centers

Commercial Centers are strategically placed in the heart of the business districts of Sao Paulo, Jakarta and Shanghai to serve clients, U.S. companies, and their business partners in-country. While striving to adapt to local business conditions and opportunities, each Commercial Center provides a consistent level of service and access to core features. In accordance with the authorizing legislation, Title IV, Jobs Through Exports Act of 1992, U.S. Commercial Centers offer the following basic features:

- All the core US&FCS export promotion programs and services, including expert business counseling, advocacy, business-facilitation services;
- Long-term space-sharing for nonprofit trade promotion partners, such as other federal trade promotion agencies, state-local export development offices, and nonprofit industry associations;
- Fully equipped offices and executive support services (in Sao Paulo and Jakarta) for short-term use by U.S. companies and trade promotion organizations;
- Multipurpose rooms for conferences, meetings, technical seminars, product launches, receptions, and other business functions;
- Exhibit or display areas, depending on the market;
- Business Information Center, offering an array of information products, including up-to-the minute commercial intelligence on trade leads and opportunities, extensive market research on leading sectors,

on-line/CD-ROM-based company and product locators, and from the Sao Paulo Center, accessibility from remote locations in the U.S. and Brazil; and

- Prime business location that enhances access to prospective business partners and clients.

#### *Joint Project Opportunity in Sao Paulo, Brazil*

In July 1994, the first U.S. Commercial Center was established in Sao Paulo. Since then, agencies including the U.S. Information Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Export-Import Bank have helped put the Commercial Center at the "center" of the bilateral commercial dialogue by holding key events such as government-to-government meetings, technical seminars, and business receptions at the Center. U.S. and Brazilian policymakers used the Sao Paulo Commercial Center as the primary vehicle for establishing the U.S.-Brazil Business Development Council (BDC), the bilateral forum for government-private sector commercial dialogue.

The San Paulo Commercial Center has four fully furnished private offices (twelve square meters each) for long-term participants. Two of these offices are expected to become available in July 1998. The annual contribution to participate in this joint project covers use of a private office, and common areas—reception area and business information center (commercial library). Use of the multipurpose rooms and audio visual equipment are available on a user-fee basis. For short-term use of business facilities, please contact the Commercial Center listed under the "For More Information" section or call the Trade Information Center for a program brochure at 1-800-USA-TRAD.

#### *Joint Project Opportunity in Jakarta, Indonesia*

The late Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown officially opened the U.S. Commercial Center in Jakarta during the ministerial meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in November 1994. Since its inception, the Commercial Center has been a vehicle for implementing local and regional events, and linking trade policy with trade promotion by organizing bilateral roundtables in conjunction with technical seminars where participating small-and medium-size U.S. companies can demonstrate technical expertise to host country government policymakers and business decisionmakers. Already positioned as long-term participants are the California Trade and Commerce

Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service and its Agricultural Trade Office, and the U.S.-Asia Environmental Partnership (USAEP). The current economic challenges sweeping through Asia make the Jakarta Commercial Center a "first-stop" in country for U.S. companies interested in pursuing business opportunities in Indonesia and the region.

Located in the Jakarta World Trade Center Complex, the Commercial Center has available one fully furnished office (twenty-five square meters). The annual contribution to participate in this joint project covers the use of the private office and common areas—a reception area and business information center (commercial library). Use of multipurpose rooms and audio visual equipment are available on a user-fee basis.

For short-term use of business facilities, please contact the post listed under the **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT** or call the Trade Information Center for a program brochure at 1-800-USA-TRAD.

#### *Joint Project Opportunity in Shanghai, China*

The U.S. Commercial Center in Shanghai, established in July 1996, is the first export-promotion facility of its kind in the People's Republic of China. Through the Commercial Centers, U.S. state economic development offices can open representative offices in China. Maryland, Michigan and Washington are among the first states to place representatives in the Commercial Center.

Shanghai is located at the mouth of the Yangtze River, the commercial lifeline of Southeast China, reinforcing this pivotal city's role as the commercial nexus that fits strategically between Beijing, the administrative capital, and the special economic zones in the southern and eastern coastal provinces. Placing the Commercial Center in Shanghai, the financial hub of all of China, positions U.S. companies to compete in the entire Chinese Economic Area, which comprise the vast markets of China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, which reverted to the Mainland in 1997.

The Shanghai Commercial Center includes six private offices for long-term space sharing, two of which are currently available. Offices are fully furnished and are either 20.6 square meters or 25.3 meters in size. The annual contribution to participate in this joint project covers use of private offices and common areas—a reception area and business information center (commercial library). Use of the multipurpose room and audio visual

equipment are available on a user-fee basis.

Please contact the post listed under the **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT** for annual contributions and other Center-specific information or call the Trade Information Center for a program brochure at 1-800-USA-TRAD.

*Short-term Use of Commercial Centers by U.S. Companies or Organizations*

The joint project opportunity, which features long-term space for periods of one year or longer, is designed to assist nonprofit trade promotion organizations achieve long-term market development goals. The Commercial Centers in Sao Paulo and Jakarta also offer short-term use of business facilities to U.S.

companies and business organizations on a user fee basis. For the latter group, the Commercial Center provides an ideal venue to achieve specific, short-term business objectives: hold meetings with prospective clients, potential agents/distributors, local staff, conduct market research, stage technical seminars or product launches, or find a local office. The length of time depends on the specific business objectives and proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The broad goal of Commercial Centers is to offer clients a unique package that combines US&FCS counseling and trade programs and the convenience of using in-house business facilities—fully equipped offices, meeting and conference rooms, exhibit/display areas—at one site. The facilities are made available to complement the core US&FCS trade promotion programs and services which are designed to help U.S. companies export.

**Next Steps**

Contact the Commercial Centers directly to propose your use of the Commercial Centers on either a long-term or short-term basis. The Directors are in the best position to suggest most effective uses of the Commercial Center resources to achieve your business goals in-country. All proposals will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

For the convenience of clients, Commercial Center brochures will be made available through the Trade Information Center, located in Washington D.C.

For general inquiries or requests for export counseling on exploring business opportunities in Brazil, Indonesia and the People's Republic of China and neighboring markets, call 1-800-USA-TRAD and ask the Trade Information

Center for the nearest US&FCS domestic field office, referred to as the U.S. Export Assistance Center, for individual counseling.

**Marjory E. Searing,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary and Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-6996 Filed 3-24-98; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**TITLE:** Central Title and Lien Registry for Limited Access Permits.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before May 26, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Charles L. Cooper, Financial Services Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 713-2396.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act requires NMFS to establish a central registry (Registry) for limited access permits (LAPs). The Registry will be the exclusive means of perfecting title to LAPs. It will also be the exclusive means of perfecting security interests in, assignments of, and liens and other encumbrances against LAPs (except for Federal tax liens). The

respondents will be commercial fishing industry creditors and borrowers, individuals, partnerships, corporations, and other fisheries parties which need to perfect limited access permit titles and liens.

**II. Method of Collection**

The collection of information will be collected on the Central Title and Lien Registry filing forms.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* New Collection.

*Form Numbers:* N/A.

*Type of Review:* Regular Submission.

*Affected Public:* Businesses and other for profit organizations—commercial fishermen, partnerships, and corporations applying for financing or buyback funds.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3050.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* .5 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,525.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* No capital, operations, or maintenance costs are expected.

**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; (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.

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

Dated: March 19, 1998.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

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