

Currency Conversion

For purposes of the preliminary results, we made currency conversions based on the exchange rates in effect on the dates of the U.S. sales as published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Section 773A(a) of the Act directs the Department to use a daily exchange rate in effect on the date of sale of subject merchandise in order to convert foreign currencies into U.S. dollars, unless the daily rate involves a "fluctuation." In accordance with the Department's practice, we have determined, as a general matter, that a fluctuation exists when the daily exchange rate differs from a benchmark by 2.25 percent. *See, e.g.,* Certain Stainless Steel Wire Rods from France: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review, 61 FR 8915, 8918 (March 6, 1996) and Policy Bulletin 96-1: Currency Conversions, 61 FR 9434, March 8, 1996. The benchmark is defined as the rolling average of rates for the past 40 business days. When we determined a fluctuation existed, we substituted the benchmark for the daily rate.

Preliminary Results of the Review

As a result of this review, we preliminarily determine that the following weighted-average dumping margin exists for the period June 1, 1998, through May 31, 1999:

CERTAIN STAINLESS STEEL BUTT-WELD PIPE FITTINGS FROM TAIWAN

Producer/manufacturer/ exporter	Weighted- average margin (percent)
Ta Chen	8.03

The Department will disclose to any party to the proceeding, within five days of publication of this notice, the calculations performed (19 CFR 351.224(b)). Any interested party may request a hearing within 30 days of publication. Any hearing, if requested, will be held 37 days after the date of publication, or the first working day thereafter. Interested parties may submit case briefs and/or written comments no later than 30 days after the date of publication. Rebuttal briefs and rebuttals to written comments, limited to issues raised in such briefs or comments, may be filed no later than 35 days after the date of publication. Parties who submit arguments are requested to submit with the argument (1) A statement of the issue, (2) a brief summary of the argument and (3) a table of authorities. Further, we would

appreciate it if parties submitting written comments would provide the Department with an additional copy of the public version of any such comments on diskette. The Department will publish the final results of this administrative review, which will include the results of its analysis of issues raised in any such written comments or at a hearing, within 120 days after the publication of this notice.

Upon issuance of the final results of review, the Department shall determine, and Customs shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate entries. The Department will issue appraisal instructions directly to Customs. The final results of this review shall be the basis for the assessment of antidumping duties on entries of merchandise covered by the results and for future deposits of estimated duties. For duty assessment purposes, we calculated an importer-specific assessment rate by dividing the total dumping margins calculated for the U.S. sales to the importer by the total entered value of these sales. This rate will be used for the assessment of antidumping duties on all entries of the subject merchandise by that importer during the POR.

If found that revocation is warranted for Ta Chen, it will apply to all unliquidated entries of subject merchandise produced by Ta Chen, exported to the United States and entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after June 1, 1999, the first day after the period under review.

Furthermore, the following deposit requirements will be effective upon completion of the final results of this administrative review for all shipments of the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication of the final results of this administrative review, as provided in section 751(a)(1) of the Act: (1) The cash deposit rate for Ta Chen, the only reviewed company, will be that established in the final results of this review; (2) For previously reviewed or investigated companies not covered in this review, the cash deposit rate will continue to be the company-specific rate published for the most recent period; (3) If the exporter is not a firm covered in this review, a prior review, or the original LTFV investigation, but the manufacturer is, the cash deposit rate will be the rate established in the most recent period for the manufacturer of the merchandise; and (4) If neither the exporter nor the manufacturer is a firm covered in this or any previous review conducted by the Department, the cash deposit rate will continue to be the "all other" rate

established in the LTFV investigation, which was 51.01 percent.

This notice serves as a preliminary reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in the Secretary's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

This administrative review and notice are published in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: June 28, 2000.

Troy H. Cribb,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Advanced Technology Program (ATP) Advisory Committee

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Request for nominations of members to serve on the Advance Technology Program Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY: NIST invites and requests nominations of individuals for appointment to the Advanced Technology Program Advisory Committee. NIST will consider nominations received in response to this notice for appointment to the Committee, in addition to nominations already received.

DATES: Please submit nominations on or before July 21, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please submit nominations to Dr. Brian C. Belanger, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 1004, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1004. Nominations may also be submitted via FAX to 301-948-1224.

Additional information regarding the Committee, including its charter and current membership list may be found on its electronic home page at: http://www.atp.nist.gov/atp/adv_com/ac_menu.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Brian C. Belanger, National Institute of

Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 1004, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1004; telephone 301-975-4720, fax 301-948-1224; or via email at brian.belanger@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee will advise the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on ATP programs, plans, and policies.

The Committee will consist of not fewer than six nor more than twelve members appointed by the Director of NIST and its membership will be balanced to reflect the wide diversity of technical disciplines and industrial sectors represented in ATP projects.

The Committee will function solely as an advisory body, in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Authority: Federal Advisory Committee Act: 5 U.S.C. App. 2 and General Services Administration Rule: 41 CFR Subpart 101-6.10.

Dated: June 26, 2000.

Karen H. Brown,
Deputy Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 00609171-0171-01]

RIN 0693-ZA38

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology invites proposals from qualified organizations for funding projects to provide manufacturing extension services to small- and medium-size manufacturers in the United States. These projects correspond to the Manufacturing Technology Centers component of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). This competition is for the expansion of manufacturing extension service capacity within 2 discrete geographic areas in the United States. The first area encompasses the entirety of the state of Indiana. The second area encompasses 17 counties in the Southeast Ohio area; Athens, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Hocking, Licking, Logan, Madison, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, Pickaway, Union, and Washington. The

competition is open to all organizations meeting the eligibility requirements provided herein. This includes existing MEP manufacturing extension centers.

Manufacturing extension centers must be affiliated with a U.S.-based not-for-profit institution or organization. MEP interprets not-for-profit organizations to include universities and state and local governments. Applicants are required to provide 50% or more of the operating cost for providing these manufacturing extension services in year 1 through 3 and an increasing percentage in year 4, and in year 5 and beyond.

DATES: Proposals from qualified applicants must be received at the address below by no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (September 5, 2000). Selection of awards will be made in September 2000.

ADDRESSES: Applicants must submit one signed original and three (3) copies of their proposal along with a Standard Form 424, 424-A, and 424-B (Rev 7/97), Form CD-511 (Rev 7/91), and Form CD-346 to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 4800, Building 301, Room C100, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-4800. Plainly mark on the outside of the package it contains a manufacturing extension center proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding this announcement, contact Margaret Phillips of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership by calling (301) 975-5020; or by mailing information requests to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 4800, Building 301, Room C100, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-4800. Information packets, which include background materials on MEP, existing centers and the necessary application forms, should be requested via a one page fax sent to (301) 963-6556. Please include name, organization, mailing address, telephone number, and fax number on this request. Information is also available on-line at www.mep.nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Name and Number: The catalog number for the award of Manufacturing Technology Centers funds in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is 11.611

Background

In accordance with the provisions of Section 5121 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-418), codified in 15 U.S.C. 278k,

and final rule 15 CFR 290 published September 17, 1990 and amendment published May 2, 1994, NIST will provide assistance for the creation and support of manufacturing extension centers. The objective of these centers is to enhance productivity, technological performance, and strengthen the global competitiveness of small- and medium-sized U.S.-based manufacturing firms.

These manufacturing extension centers will become part of the MEP national system of extension service providers. Currently, the MEP national system consists of over 400 centers and field offices located throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Information regarding MEP and these centers is provided in the information packet that can be obtained as explained above or on-line at www.mep.nist.gov.

Funding Availability

It is anticipated that approximately \$1,500,000 will be available to support manufacturing extension centers under this program. The funding level for individual awards is not prescribed. The funding requested by the applicant should be directly related to the level of activity of the center, which is a function of the number of manufacturers in the designated service region, and to the availability of applicant-provided cash and in-kind contributions to be used as cost share.

Invitation for Proposals

Proposals must be received at the address listed above by September 5, 2000.

Award Period

The projects awarded under this program will have a budget and performance period of one year. These projects may be renewable on an annual basis subject to the review requirements described in 15 CFR 290.8, but only if additional funding is allocated to this program by Congress beyond Federal fiscal year 2000. Renewal of these projects shall be at the sole discretion of NIST and shall be based upon satisfactory performance, priority of the need for the service, existing legislative authority, and availability of funds. Although the MEP regulation (15 CFR Part 290) indicates that Centers are not eligible for MEP funding after six years, this requirement is no longer in effect. Public Law 105-239 amended the MEP's organic legislation to authorize MEP to fund Centers for more than six years under specified circumstances.

Cost Share Requirements

A cost sharing contribution from the applicant is required. The applicant