

ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation: Quality of the program idea; program planning and ability to achieve program objectives; multiplier effect/impact; institution's record/ability/capacity; cost-effectiveness.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Office for the Promotion of Human Rights and Democracy of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL/PHD). Please specify Sondra Govatski 202-647-9734 on all inquiries and correspondence.

Please read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

To Download a Solicitation Package Via Internet

The Solicitation Package consists of this RFP plus the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI). The PSI contains detailed award criteria, specific budget instructions, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation. The PSI may be downloaded from the HRDF section on the Bureau's Web site at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/>.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau that contradicts published language will not be binding.

Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements. Final technical authority for assistance awards resides with the Office of Acquisition Management's Grants Officer.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Bureau procedures.

Dated: October 9, 2003.

Lorne W. Craner,

Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No.: OST-2003-15962]

Notice of Request for Renewal of a Previously Approved Collection.

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for renewal and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on August 22, 2003 [68 FR 50825]. No comments were received.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 17, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments [identified by DOT DMS Docket Number OST 2003-15962 by the following methods:

- Web site: <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic docket site.

- Fax 1-202-493-2251.

- **Mail:** Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-001.

- **Hand Delivery:** Room PL-401 on Plaza Level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket number or Regulatory Identification Number (RIN) for this rulemaking. For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the Public Participation heading of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://dms.dot.gov> including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act heading under Regulatory Notes.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://dms.dot.gov> at any time or to Room PL-401 on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Delores King, Air Carrier Fitness Division (X-56), Office of Aviation Analysis, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-2343.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Procedures and Evidence Rules for Air Carrier Authority Applications: 14 CFR part 201—Air Carrier Authority under Subtitle VII of title 49 of the United States Code—(Amended); 14 CFR Part 204—Data to Support Fitness Determinations; 14 CFR Part 291—Cargo Operations in Interstate Air Transportation.

OMB Control Number: 2106-0023.

Affected Public: Persons seeking initial or continuing authority to engage in air transportation of persons, property, and/or mail.

Annual Estimated Burden: 4,604 hours.

Abstract: In order to determine the fitness of persons seeking authority to engage in air transportation, the Department collects information from them about their ownership, citizenship, managerial competence, operating proposal, financial condition, and compliance history. The specific information to be filed by respondents is set forth in 14 CFR part 201 and 204.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (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 the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 8, 2003.

Michael A. Robinson,

*Information Technology Program
Management, United States Department of
Transportation.*

[FR Doc. 03-26127 Filed 10-15-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Extension of Scoping

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of extension of scoping for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Licensing Launches of Horizontally Launched Vehicles and Reentries of Reentry Vehicles.

SUMMARY: The FAA is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations and is requesting comments in preparation of the PEIS. The FAA has extended public scoping for the PEIS to ensure that all interested government and private organizations, and the general public have an opportunity to express their concerns and identify topics that should be addressed in the PEIS. Scoping comments will be accepted until October 31, 2003. This PEIS will assess environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, reasonable alternatives including those identified during scoping, the no action alternative, and cumulative impacts. This PEIS will support decisions made to meet the FAA's responsibility to license commercial launch and reentry operations and the operation of launch and reentry sites consistent with public health and safety, safety of property, and the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States. Issuing a launch or reentry license is a Federal action and is therefore subject to NEPA review.

Proposed Action and Possible Alternatives: The proposed action for this PEIS is to license the launch and landing of horizontally launched vehicles and the reentry of reentry vehicles. A reentry vehicle is defined in 14 CFR 401.5 as "a vehicle designed to return from Earth orbit or outer space to Earth substantially intact. A reusable launch vehicle (RLV) that is designed to return from Earth orbit or outer space to Earth substantially intact is a reentry

vehicle." Launch, as defined in 14 CFR 401.5, means "to place or try to place a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle and any payload from Earth in a suborbital trajectory, in Earth orbit in outer space, or otherwise in outer space, and includes activities involved in the preparation of a launch vehicle for flight, when those activities take place at a launch site in the United States. The term launch includes the flight of a launch vehicle and pre-flight ground operations beginning with the arrival of a launch vehicle or payload at a U.S. launch site. For purposes of an expendable launch vehicle launch, flight ends after the licensee's last exercise of control over its launch vehicle. For purposes of an orbital RLV launch, flight ends after deployment of a payload for an RLV having payload deployment as a mission objective. For other orbital RLVs, flight ends upon completion of the first sustained, steady-state orbit of an RLV at its intended location."

Alternatives to the proposed action may include activities such as not licensing horizontal launches, not licensing vertical reentries, not licensing horizontal reentries, not licensing powered reentries, and not licensing unpowered reentries.

FAA exercises licensing authority in accordance with the Commercial Space Launch Act and Commercial Space Transportation Licensing Regulations, 14 CFR Ch.III, which authorize the FAA to license the launch of a launch vehicle when conducted within the U.S. and those operated by U.S. citizens abroad. The scope of the PEIS would include launches on both orbital and suborbital trajectories.

In May 1992, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Commercial Reentry Vehicles that assessed the environmental impacts of licensing the unpowered reentry of reentry vehicles from space to Earth. This 1992 PEIS relied in part on the analysis in the Programmatic Environmental Assessment of Commercial Expendable Launch Vehicle Programs, February 1986.

In May 2001, the FAA issued the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Licensing Launches, which assessed the environmental impacts of licensing commercial launches. This 2001 PEIS updated and replaced the 1986 Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA).

The PEIS for Licensing Launches of Horizontally Launched Vehicles and Reentries of Reentry Vehicles will update and replace the 1992 PEIS and

address the launch of horizontally launched vehicles and the reentry of all reentry vehicles.

Scoping: Public scoping will be conducted as part of the PEIS development process to ensure that all interested government and private organizations, and the general public have an opportunity to express their concerns and identify topics that should be addressed in the PEIS. The FAA has developed a public participation Web site (<http://ast.faa.gov/>), which provides information on the development of this PEIS and provides the public an opportunity to submit comments electronically. Materials on the web site include information about licensing and the NEPA process; frequently asked questions, a fact sheet on the PEIS; a comparison of the analysis of the previous programmatic documents; and public comment forms. Scoping meetings may be requested by organizations or individuals that feel their concerns cannot be met through the online opportunity to comment. Information regarding the development of the PEIS is available on the public participation web site at <http://ast.faa.gov/>, under the "What's new on the AST Web site "Announcements" section.

To Submit Comments: Written comments, statements, and/or questions regarding scoping issues or the PEIS process should be addressed to Ms. Michon Washington, FAA Environmental Specialist, FAA PEIS, c/o ICF Consulting, 9300 Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia 22031; phone (703) 934-3950; fax (703) 934-3951; e-mail at FAA.PEIS@icfconsulting.com; or by Web site <http://ast.faa.gov/>. Comments should clearly identify and describe the specific issue(s) or topics to be included in the PEIS. To ensure sufficient time to consider issues identified during public scoping, comments should be submitted no later than October 31, 2003.

Charles Larsen,

*(Acting) Manager, Space Systems
Development Division.*

[FR Doc. 03-26090 Filed 10-15-03; 8:45 am]

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