

language interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings by contacting the person listed for further information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following business will be conducted: (1) Welcome and Introductions; (2) Review of RAC Guidelines; (3) Discussion and Vote on Proposed Projects; and (4) Comments from the Public. The agenda may be viewed at https://fsplaces.fs.fed.us/fsfiles/unit/wo/secure_rural_schools.nsf. Anyone who would like to bring related matters to the attention of the committee may file written statements with the committee staff before or after the meeting. The agenda will include time for people to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should request in writing by September 5, 2011 to be scheduled on the agenda. Written comments and requests for time for oral comments must be sent to Ann Westling, Tahoe National Forest, 631 Coyote St, Nevada City, CA 95959 or by e-mail to awestling@fs.fed.us or via facsimile to 530-478-6109. A summary of the meeting will be posted at https://fsplaces.fs.fed.us/fsfiles/unit/wo/secure_rural_schools.nsf within 21 days of the meeting.

Dated: August 23, 2011.

Tom Quinn,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2011-22030 Filed 8-26-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board: Meeting of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of an open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and agenda for an open meeting of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board (Board). The agenda may change to accommodate Board business. The final agenda will be posted on the Department of Commerce Web site for the Board at http://tinet.ita.doc.gov/TTAB/TTAB_Home.html. At the meeting, the Board will hear and deliberate on proposed recommendations to be presented by the Advocacy and Research subcommittees. The Board

also will summarize all recommendations adopted throughout its 2009–2011 charter term in a final presentation to the Secretary of Commerce.

DATES: September 14, 2011, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (E.D.T.).

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Suite 4830, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Pilat, the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, Room 4043, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, *telephone:* 202-482-4501, *e-mail:* jennifer.pilat@trade.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The Board was re-chartered in August 2011, to advise the Secretary of Commerce on matters relating to the U.S. travel and tourism industries.

Topics to be considered: During this first meeting of the Board's new charter term, the Board will hear updates from two Board subcommittees on Advocacy and Research. Representatives from the Departments of Homeland Security, State and Transportation will also provide updates on their respective agencies' work relating to the U.S. travel and tourism industries, and updates on their respective agencies' work relating to the recommendations of the Travel Facilitation, Advocacy and Marketing, Outreach and Coordination subcommittees presented at prior meetings and adopted by the Board. The Board will hear and deliberate on proposed recommendations to be presented by the Advocacy and Research subcommittees. The Board also will summarize all recommendations adopted throughout its 2009–2011 charter term in a final presentation to the Secretary of Commerce.

Public Participation: The meeting will be open to the public and will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Seating is limited and will be on a first come, first served basis. Because of building security and logistics, all attendees must pre-register no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 with Jennifer Pilat, the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, Room 4043, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, *telephone* 202-482-4501, *jennifer.pilat@trade.gov*. Please specify any requests for sign language interpretation, other auxiliary aids, or other reasonable

accommodation no later than 5 p.m. E.D.T. on September 7, 2011, to Jennifer Pilat at the contact information above. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fill.

No time will be available for oral comments from members of the public attending the meeting. Any member of the public may submit pertinent written comments concerning the Board's affairs at any time before or after the meeting. Comments may be submitted to Jennifer Pilat at the contact information indicated above. To be considered during the meeting, comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. E.D.T. on September 7, 2011, to ensure transmission to the Board prior to the meeting. Comments received after that date will be distributed to the members but may not be considered at the meeting. Copies of Board meeting minutes will be available within 90 days of the meeting.

Dated: August 16, 2011.

Jennifer Pilat,

Executive Secretary, U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board.

[FR Doc. 2011-21989 Filed 8-26-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Advisory Board

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces that the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Advisory Board, NIST will hold an open meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DATES: The meeting will convene September 21, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. and will adjourn at 5 p.m. on September 21, 2011.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) Offices, 1101 K Street, NW., Suite 610, Washington, DC 20005. Please see admission instructions in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Lellock, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 4800, Gaithersburg,

Maryland 20899-4800, telephone number (301) 975-4269.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MEP Advisory Board is composed of 10 members, appointed by the Director of NIST. MEP is a unique program consisting of centers across the United States and Puerto Rico with partnerships at the state, federal, and local levels. The Board works closely with MEP to provide input and advice on MEP's programs, plans, and policies. This meeting will focus on (1) Recent studies on international benchmarking of manufacturing support programs, (2) an update on MEP's Next Generation Strategy, and (3) discussion of innovation strategies for manufacturers including recent MEP Center and client experiences. The agenda may change to accommodate other Board business.

Admission Instructions: Anyone wishing to attend this meeting should submit their name, e-mail address, and phone number to Karen Lellock (Karen.lellock@nist.gov or 301-975-4269) no later than September 19, 2011.

Individuals and representatives of organizations who would like to offer comments and suggestions related to the MEP Advisory Board's business are invited to request a place on the agenda. Approximately 15 minutes will be reserved for public comments at the beginning of the meeting. Speaking times will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The amount of time per speaker will be determined by the number of requests received but is likely to be no more than three to five minutes each. Questions from the public will not be considered during this period. Speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, those who had wished to speak but could not be accommodated on the agenda, and those who were unable to attend in person are invited to submit written statements to the MEP Advisory Board, National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 4800, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-4800, or via fax at (301) 963-6556, or electronically by e-mail to karen.lellock@nist.gov.

Dated: August 22, 2011.

Phillip A. Singerman,

Associate Director for Innovation and Industry Services.

[FR Doc. 2011-21988 Filed 8-26-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-P-2011-0032]

Establishing a One-Year Retention Period for Patent-Related Papers That Have Been Scanned Into the Image File Wrapper System or the Supplemental Complex Repository for Examiners

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is considering establishing a retention period of one year for patent-related papers that have been scanned into the Image File Wrapper system (IFW) or the Supplemental Complex Repository for Examiners (SCORE). Specifically, the USPTO is considering establishing a one-year retention period that begins on September 1, 2011, for papers scanned into IFW or SCORE prior to September 1, 2011; or a paper's submission date, for papers scanned into IFW or SCORE on or after September 1, 2011. After the expiration of the one-year retention period (after September 1, 2012, or later), the USPTO would dispose of the paper unless, within sufficient time prior to disposal of the paper, the relevant patent applicant, patent owner, or reexamination party files a *bona fide* request to correct the electronic record of the paper in IFW or SCORE, and the request remains outstanding at the time disposal of the paper would have otherwise occurred. Establishing a one-year retention period for papers scanned into IFW or SCORE would replace the USPTO's past practice of indefinitely retaining the papers, which has been rendered unnecessary and cost-ineffective by improvements in scanning and indexing.

DATES: *Comment Deadline Date:* To be ensured of consideration, written comments must be received on or before October 28, 2011. No public hearing will be held.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice may be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet addressed to IFWPaperRetention@uspto.gov, or submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Although comments may be submitted by mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via the Internet.

The comments will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, located in

Madison East, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia, and will be available via the USPTO Internet Web site (address: <http://www.uspto.gov>). Because comments will be available for public inspection, information that is not desired to be made public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Raul Tamayo, Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Associate Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, by telephone at (571) 272-7728, or by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments-Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, marked to the attention of Raul Tamayo.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: IFW is the USPTO's system for electronically storing and maintaining the files of patent applications and reexamination proceedings. The image files in IFW for patent applications and reexamination proceedings are the official records of those patent applications and reexamination proceedings. See *Changes to Implement Electronic Maintenance of Official Patent Application Records*, 68 FR 38611 (June 30, 2003), 1272 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 197 (July 29, 2003). The USPTO stores in IFW documents it receives over the Electronic Filing System—Web (EFS-Web). In particular, the USPTO converts Portable Document Format (PDF) files submitted by users into Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) image files and then stores the TIFF image files in IFW as part of the official record for the relevant patent application or reexamination proceeding. The USPTO also stores in IFW as part of the official record of a patent application or reexamination proceeding the image files that it creates when it scans documents filed in paper, *i.e.*, filed by mail, at the USPTO's Customer Service Window, or, when permitted, facsimile. After being scanned into IFW, the papers are no longer part of the official record.

Since July 1, 2003, the USPTO has been scanning into IFW newly received patent applications filed in paper. See *Notification of United States Patent and Trademark Office Patent Application Records being Stored and Processed in Electronic Form*, 1271 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 100 (June 17, 2003). In particular, the USPTO since July 1, 2003, has been scanning into IFW newly received, paper-filed (1) Nonprovisional applications under 35 U.S.C. 111(a), (2) provisional applications under 35 U.S.C. 111(b), (3) plant applications under 35 U.S.C. 161, (4) design