

(19 U.S.C. 3703); and (2) section 502 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462).

Section 104 of AGOA includes requirements that the country has established or is making substantial progress toward establishing, *inter alia*: a market-based economy; the rule of law, political pluralism, and the right to due process; the elimination of barriers to U.S. trade and investment; economic policies to reduce poverty; a system to combat corruption and bribery; and protection of internationally recognized worker rights. In addition, the country may not engage in activities that undermine U.S. national security or foreign policy interests or engage in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights. Please see section 104 of AGOA and section 502 of the 1974 Act for a complete list of the AGOA eligibility criteria.

Section 506A of the 1974 Act requires that, if the President determines that a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country is not meeting the eligibility requirements, he must terminate the designation of the country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country. For 2013, 39 countries were designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. These countries, as well as the countries currently designated as ineligible, are listed below. Section 506A of the 1974 Act provides that the President shall monitor and review annually the progress of each sub-Saharan African country in meeting the foregoing eligibility criteria in order to determine whether each beneficiary sub-Saharan African country should continue to be eligible, and whether each sub-Saharan African country that is currently not a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country, should be designated as such a country.

The Subcommittee is seeking public comments in connection with the annual review of the eligibility of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries for AGOA's benefits. The Subcommittee will consider any such comments in developing recommendations on country eligibility for the President. Comments related to the child labor criteria may also be considered by the Secretary of Labor in making the findings required under section 504 of the 1974 Act.

The following sub-Saharan African countries were designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries in 2013:

Angola  
Republic of Benin  
Republic of Botswana  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi

Republic of Cape Verde  
Republic of Cameroon  
Republic of Chad  
Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros  
Republic of Congo  
Republic of Cote d'Ivoire  
Republic of Djibouti  
Ethiopia  
Gabonese Republic  
The Gambia  
Republic of Ghana  
Republic of Guinea  
Republic of Kenya  
Kingdom of Lesotho  
Republic of Liberia  
Republic of Malawi  
Republic of Mali  
Islamic Republic of Mauritania  
Republic of Mauritius  
Republic of Mozambique  
Republic of Namibia  
Republic of Niger  
Federal Republic of Nigeria  
Republic of Rwanda  
Sao Tome & Principe  
Republic of Senegal  
Republic of Seychelles  
Republic of Sierra Leone  
Republic of South Africa  
Republic of South Sudan  
Kingdom of Swaziland  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Republic of Togo  
Republic of Uganda  
Republic of Zambia

The following sub-Saharan African countries were not designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries in 2013:

Central African Republic  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
Republic of Equatorial Guinea  
State of Eritrea  
Republic of Guinea-Bissau  
Republic of Madagascar  
Republic of Mali  
Somalia  
Republic of Sudan  
Republic of Zimbabwe

#### *Requirements for Submissions:*

Comments must be submitted in English. To ensure the most timely and expeditious receipt and consideration of petitions, USTR has arranged to accept on-line submissions via <http://www.regulations.gov>. To submit petitions via this site, enter docket number USTR-2013-0035 on the home page and click "search." The site will provide a search-results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this notice on search-results page and click on the link entitled "Submit a Comment." (For further information on using the <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site, please consult the resources provided on the Web site by clicking on "Help" at the top of the home page.)

The <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site provides the option of making submissions by filling in a "Type Comment" field, or by attaching a document. USTR prefers comments to be submitted as attachments. When doing this, it is sufficient to type "See attached" in the "Type Comment" field. Submissions in Microsoft Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (pdf) are preferred.

Persons wishing to file comments containing business confidential information must submit both a business confidential version and a public version. Persons submitting business confidential information should write "See attached BC comments" in the "Type Comment" field. Any page containing business confidential information must be clearly marked BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL on the top of that page. Persons submitting a business confidential comment must also submit a separate public version of that comment with the business confidential information deleted. Persons should write "See attached public version" in the "Type Comment" field of the public submission. Submissions should not attach separate cover letters; rather, information that might appear in the cover letter should be included in the comments you submit. Similarly, to the extent possible, please include any exhibits, annexes, or other attachments to a submission in the same file as the submission itself and not as separate files.

Public versions of all documents relating to this review will be available for review no later than two weeks after the due date at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), docket number USTR-2013-0035.

**Douglas Bell,**

*Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee.*

[FR Doc. 2013-23863 Filed 9-30-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3290-F3-P

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

### **Determination Regarding Waiver of Discriminatory Purchasing Requirements With Respect to Goods and Services of a New Member State of the European Union (Republic of Croatia)**

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Determination Regarding Waiver of Discriminatory Purchasing Requirements under the Trade Agreements Act of 1979.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* September 30, 2013.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Scott J. Pietan, Director of International Procurement Policy, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-9646.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The European Union ("EU") is a party to the World Trade Organization ("WTO") Agreement on Government Procurement ("GPA") and has assumed rights and obligations under the GPA on behalf of its Member States. On July 1, 2013, the Republic of Croatia acceded to the EU. In light of that accession, the EU has committed to assume rights and obligations on behalf of the new Member State under the GPA. On June 27, 2013 the WTO Committee on Government Procurement approved the application of the GPA to the Republic of Croatia. The United States, which is also a party to the GPA, has agreed to waive discriminatory purchasing requirements for eligible products and suppliers of the Republic of Croatia, beginning on September 30, 2013.

Section 1-201 of Executive Order 12260 of December 31, 1980 delegated the functions of the President under sections 301 and 302 of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 ("the Trade Agreements Act") (19 U.S.C. 2511, 2512) to the United States Trade Representative.

**Determination:** In conformity with sections 301 and 302 of the Trade Agreements Act, and in order to carry out U.S. obligations under the GPA, I hereby determine that:

1. The European Union, including the Republic of Croatia, is an instrumentality that: (A) is a party to the GPA; and (B) will provide appropriate reciprocal competitive government procurement opportunities to United States products and services and suppliers of such products and services. In accordance with section 301(b)(1) of the Trade Agreements Act, the European Union is so designated for purposes of section 301(a) of the Trade Agreements Act.

2. Accordingly, beginning on September 30, 2013, with respect to eligible products (namely, those goods and services covered under the GPA for procurement by the United States) of the Republic of Croatia and suppliers of such products, the application of any law, regulation, procedure, or practice regarding government procurement that would, if applied to such products and suppliers, result in treatment less favorable than that accorded—

(A) To United States products and suppliers of such products, or

(B) To eligible products of another foreign country or instrumentality

which is a party to the GPA and suppliers of such products, shall be waived. This waiver shall be applied by all entities listed in United States Annexes 1 and 3 of GPA Appendix 1.

3. The Trade Representative may modify or withdraw the designation in paragraph 1 and the waiver in paragraph 2.

4. This notice shall not affect the treatment to be accorded to eligible products of any country that was a Member State of the European Union before September 30, 2013.

Dated: September 17, 2013.

**Mike Froman,**

*United States Trade Representative.*

[FR Doc. 2013-23857 Filed 9-30-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3290-F3-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Transit Administration

#### Discretionary Funding Opportunity

**AGENCY:** Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA): Solicitation of Project Proposals for Innovative Safety, Resiliency, and All-Hazards Emergency Response and Recovery Research Demonstrations.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the availability of \$29,000,000 in Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment Program funds for innovative safety, resiliency, and all-hazards emergency response and recovery research demonstration projects of national significance.

This NOFA makes funds available for cooperative agreements to engage in the demonstration of innovative technologies, methods, practices and techniques in three areas: (1) Operational safety, (2) infrastructure or equipment resiliency and (3) all-hazards emergency response and recovery methods. Eligible applicants include providers of public transportation; State and local governmental entities; departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Government including Federal laboratories; private or non-profit organizations; institutions of higher education; and technical and community colleges.

This notice solicits competitive proposals addressing priorities established by FTA for these research areas, provides instructions for submitting proposals, and describes criteria FTA will use to identify meritorious proposals for funding. This

NOFA is also available on the FTA Web site at: [www.fta.dot.gov](http://www.fta.dot.gov). FTA will announce final selections on the Web site and in the **Federal Register**. Additionally, a synopsis of this funding opportunity will appear on the government-wide electronic grants Web site [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) (GRANTS.GOV).

**DATES:** Complete proposals must be submitted electronically through the (GRANTS.GOV) "APPLY" function by December 2, 2013. Prospective applicants should initiate the process by registering on the GRANTS.GOV Web site promptly to ensure completion of the application process before the submission deadline. Instructions for applying can be found on FTA's Web site at <http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13077.html> and in the "FIND" module of GRANTS.GOV. Mail and fax submissions will not be accepted.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific information regarding the three areas of research targeted within this NOFA contact the following program specialists in FTA's Office of Research, Demonstration, and Innovation (TRI):

For operational safety questions, contact Roy Chen, Office of Technology, email: [royweishun.chen@dot.gov](mailto:royweishun.chen@dot.gov).

For infrastructure or equipment resiliency questions, please contact Terrell Williams, Office of Technology, email: [terrell.williams@dot.gov](mailto:terrell.williams@dot.gov).

For all-hazards emergency response and recovery questions contact Patrick Centolanzi, Office of Technology, email: [patrick.centolanzi@dot.gov](mailto:patrick.centolanzi@dot.gov).

For general program information on this opportunity, contact Matthew Lesh, email: [matthew.lesh@dot.gov](mailto:matthew.lesh@dot.gov). A TDD is available at 1-800-877-8339 (TDD/FIRS).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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##### A. Authority

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012, Public Law 112-55, made \$25,000,000 available to carry out innovative research and demonstrations of national significance under 49 U.S.C. 5312. Of that amount, this NOFA makes \$20.8 million available for innovative safety,