

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

[Docket No. WTO/D-163]

**WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding
Regarding Korea—Measures Affecting
Government Procurement**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative ("USTR") is providing notice of the request for the establishment of a dispute settlement panel under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization ("WTO"), by the United States, to examine the Republic of Korea's government procurement practices in the construction of the Incheon International Airport. In this dispute, the United States alleges that these practices are inconsistent with Korea's obligations under the Government Procurement Agreement ("GPA"). USTR invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in this dispute.

DATES: Although USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted by June 15, 1999, to be assured of timely consideration by USTR in preparing its first written submission to the panel.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to Sandy McKinzy, Litigation Assistant, Office of Monitoring and Enforcement, Room 122, Attn: Korea Airport Procurement Dispute, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John G. Ellis, Director for Government Procurement Issues, (202) 395-3063; Mary Latimer, Director for Korean Affairs, (202) 395-6813; or Stephen Kho, Assistant General Counsel, (202) 395-3581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 127(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act ("URAA") (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)), USTR is providing notice that on May 11, 1999, the United States submitted a request for the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel to examine whether certain government procurement measures, employed by Korea in the construction of the Incheon International Airport, are inconsistent with Korea's obligations under the GPA. The WTO Dispute Settlement Body ("DSB") will consider the United States' first request

for the establishment of a panel on May 26, 1999.

**Major Issues Raised and Legal Basis of
the Complaint**

The United States asserts that the following Korean government procurement practices are inconsistent with the GPA: (1) Requirements that suppliers have manufacturing facilities in Korea before participating in tender procedures; (2) requirements that foreign firms partner with or act as subcontractors to Korean firms in order to participate in tendering procedures; (3) absence of access to bid challenge procedures for Incheon International Airport and other airport procurements; and (4) impositions of deadlines for the receipt of tenders that are shorter than the GPA-required 40 days.

As its defense, Korea is claiming that the entities responsible for Incheon International Airport procurements are not within its GPA obligations, and therefore not subject to the requirements of the GPA. However, these entities are within the scope of Korea's GPA obligations, pursuant to Article I(1) of the GPA. The United States bargained in good faith for the coverage of all airport construction in Korea during negotiations for Korea's accession to the GPA. Consequently, the United States believes that the above measures are inconsistent with Articles III, VIII, XI, XVI, and XX of the GPA. In addition, whether or not these measures conflict with the provisions of the GPA, they nullify or impair benefits accruing to the United States under the GPA.

**Public Comment: Requirements for
Submissions**

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in this dispute. Comments must be in English and provided in fifteen copies to Sandy McKinzy at the address provided above. A person requesting that information contained in a comment submitted by that person be treated as confidential business information must certify that such information is business confidential and would not customarily be released to the public by the submitting person. Confidential business information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy.

Information or advice contained in a comment submitted, other than business confidential information, may be determined by the USTR to be confidential in accordance with section 135(g)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(g)(2)). If the submitting

person believes that information or advice may qualify as such, the submitting person—

(1) Must so designate the information or advice;

(2) Must clearly mark the material as "SUBMITTED IN CONFIDENCE" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy; and

(3) Is encouraged to provide a non-confidential summary of the information or advice.

Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA (19 U.S.C. 3537(e)), the USTR will maintain a file on this dispute settlement proceeding, accessible to the public, in the USTR Reading Room: Room 101, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508. The public file will include a listing of any comments received by the USTR from the public with respect to the proceeding; the U.S. submissions to the panel in the proceeding, the submissions, or non-confidential summaries of submissions, to the panel received from other parties in the dispute, as well as the report of the dispute settlement panel, and, if applicable, the report of the Appellate Body. An appointment to review the public file (Docket WTO/D-163, Korea Airport Procurement Dispute) may be made by calling Brenda Webb, (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

A. Jane Bradley,

*Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for
Monitoring and Enforcement.*

[FR Doc. 99-12433 Filed 5-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration
**Agency Information Collection Activity
Under OMB Review**

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance 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 extension of currently approved collections. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The Federal Register Notice with a 60-day comment

period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on March 12, 1999, [FR 64, page 12399].

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before June 17, 1999. A comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Judy Street on (202) 267-9895.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Title: Federal Aviation Administration Acquisition Management System (FAAAMS).

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

OMB Control Number: 2120-0595.

Form(s): FAA Acquisition Management System Format.

Affected Public: Contractors, offerors wishing to do business with the FAA.

Abstract: Pursuant to section 348 of Public Law 104-50, the FAA implemented an acquisition management system that addresses the unique needs of the agency. The information obtained is necessary in order that the FAA's acquisition organization may be able to plan and conduct acquisitions of varying types (supplies, services, real estate, etc.) including establishing contracts and monitoring contractor compliance.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 110,456 burden hours annually.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention FAA Desk Officer.

Comments Are Invited On

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; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 12, 1999.

Steve Hopkins,

Manager, Standards and Information Division, APF-100.

[FR Doc. 99-12516 Filed 5-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA Program Management Committee Working Group Weather Message Switching Center Replacement (WMSCR)

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for the RTCA Program Management Committee (PMC) meeting to be held June 17, 1999, starting at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at RTCA, Inc., 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036.

The agenda will include: (1) Co-Chairmen's Opening Remarks; (2) FAA Presentations: (a) Current Weather Message Switching Center Replacement (WMSCR) Architecture; (b) WMSCR Sustainment Plan; (3) Mission Need Validation; (4) Review/Discuss Industry Comment: (a) Near-Term Sustainment (1999-2003); (b) Mid-Term Functional Enhancements (2003-2009); (5) Prepare consensus recommendations(s) to forward to the FAA; (6) Closing.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the RTCA Secretariat, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 833-9339 (phone); (202) 833-9434 (fax); or <http://www.rtca.org> (web site). Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 13, 1999.

Janice L. Peters,

Designated Official.

[FR Doc. 99-12513 Filed 5-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA Special Committee 159; Minimum Operational Performance Standards for Airborne Navigation Equipment Using Global Positioning System (GPS)

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for a Special Committee 159 meeting to be held June 7-11, 1999, starting at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at RTCA, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

The agenda will be as follows:

Specific Working Group Sessions:

June 7: Working Group 1, Third Civil Frequency; Working Group 2C, Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial; 1:30-4:30 p.m., Working Group 6, Interference. June 8: Working Group 4, Precision Landing Guidance (LAAS CAT I/II/III); 1:30-4:30 p.m., Ad Hoc, Recommendation Support. June 9: Working Group 2, WAAS; Working Group 4, Precision Landing Guidance (LAAS CAT I/II/III). June 10: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Working Group 4, Precision Landing Guidance (LAAS CAT I/II/III); 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Working Group 5, Airport Surface Surveillance.

June 10, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Plenary Session (continuing on June 11): (1) Chairman's Introductory Remarks; (2) Review/Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting; (3) Review WG Progress and Identify Issues for Resolution: (a) GPS/Third Civil Frequency (WG-1); (b) GPS/WAAS (WG-2); (c) GPS/GLONASS (WG-2A); (d) GPS/Inertial (WG-2C); (e) GPS/Precision Landing Guidance (WG-4); (f) GPS/Airport Surface Surveillance (WG-5); (g) GPS/Interference (WG-6); (h) SC-159 Ad Hoc; (4) Review of EUROCAE Activities; (5) Review/Approval of Minimum Operational Performance Standards for Global Positioning System/Wide Area Augmentation System Airborne Equipment (DO-229B) and Minimum Operational Performance Standards for Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) Airborne Antenna Equipment (Change 1 to DO-228); (6) Assignment/Review of Future Work; (7) Other Business; (8) Date and Location of Next Meeting.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact Mr. Harold Moses, RTCA Program Director, at (202) 833-9339 (phone), (202) 833-9434 (fax), or hmoses@rtca.org (electronic mail). Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 12, 1999.

Janice L. Peters,

Designated Official.

[FR Doc. 99-12514 Filed 5-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M