

companies (13 CFR 107.300 (1997)) for a license to operate as a small business investment company.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to section 301(c) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended, after having considered the application and all other pertinent information, SBA issued License No. 05/05-0241 on June 4, 1999 to U.S. Bancorp Capital Corporation to operate as a small business investment company.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59.11, Small Business Investment Companies)

Dated: November 30, 1999.

Don A. Christensen,

Associate Administrator for Investment.

[FR Doc. 99-31898 Filed 12-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Wolf Venture Fund III, L.P.

[License No. 08/78-0157]

Notice of Issuance of a Small Business Investment Company License

On April 13, 1999, an application was filed by Wolf Venture Fund III, L.P. at 50 South Steele Street, Suite 77, Denver, Colorado 80209 with the Small Business Administration (SBA) pursuant to section 107.300 of the Regulations governing small business investment companies (13 CFR 107.300 (1997)) for a license to operate as a small business investment company.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to section 301(c) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended, after having considered the application and all other pertinent information, SBA issued License No. 08/78-0157 on September 16, 1999 to Wolf Venture Fund III, L.P. to operate as a small business investment company.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59.11, Small Business Investment Companies)

Dated: November 30, 1999.

Don A. Christensen,

Associate Administrator for Investment.

[FR Doc. 99-31902 Filed 12-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[License No. 01/71-0372]

Zero Stage Capital VI, L.P.; Notice Seeking Exemption Under Section 312 of the Small Business Investment Act, Conflicts of Interest

Notice is hereby given that Zero Stage Capital VI, L.P., 101 Main Street, Cambridge, MA 02142, a Federal Licensee under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended ("the Act"), in connection with the proposed financing of a small concern is seeking an exemption under section 312 of the Act and section 107.730, Financials which Constitute Conflicts of Interest of the Small Business Administration ("SBA") Rules and Regulations (13 CFR 107.730 (1998)). An exemption may not be granted by SBA until Notices of this transaction have been published. Zero Stage Capital VI, L.P., proposes to provide equity financing to Evergreen Solar, Inc., 211 Second Avenue, Waltham, MA 02451. The financing is contemplated for funding growth.

The financing is brought within the purview of section 107.730(a)(1) of the Regulations because Zero Stage Capital VI, L.P., an Associate of Zero Stage Capital VI, L.P., owns greater than 10 percent of Evergreen Solar, Inc. and therefore Evergreen Solar, Inc. is considered an Associate of Zero Stage Capital VI, L.P. as defined in section 107.50 of the Regulations.

Notice is hereby given that any interested person may, not later than fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice, submit written comments on the proposed transaction to the Associate Administrator for Investment, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20416.

A copy of this Notice shall be published, in accordance with section 107.730(g), in the Boston Herald, Boston, Massachusetts.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs No. 59.011, Small Business Investment Companies)

Dated: December 1, 1999.

Don A. Christensen,

Associate Administrator for Investment.

[FR Doc. 99-31889 Filed 12-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3229]

U.S. Virgin Islands

As a result of the President's major disaster declaration on November 23, 1999, and amendments thereto, I find that St. Croix, St. John, St. Thomas, and Water Islands in the U. S. Virgin Islands constitute a disaster area due to damages caused by Hurricane Lenny beginning on November 16, 1999 and continuing through November 20, 1999. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on January 22, 2000, and for loans for economic injury until the close of business on August 23, 2000 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow Blvd., South, 3rd Floor, Niagara Falls, NY 14303.

The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Homeowners with credit available elsewhere	7.500
Homeowners without credit available elsewhere	3.750
Businesses with credit available elsewhere	8.000
Businesses and non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere	4.000
Others (including non-profit organizations) with credit available elsewhere	6.750
For Economic Injury:	
Businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere	4.000

The numbers assigned to this disaster are 322908 for physical damage and 9F8300 for economic injury.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

Dated: November 30, 1999.

Herbert L. Mitchell,

Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 99-31887 Filed 12-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3169]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; Partners in Education Program

NOTICE: Request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Global Educational Programs of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the

U.S. Department of State announces an open competition for the Partners in Education (PiE) program assistance award, not to exceed \$1,420,000. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit proposals to administer a six-week professional internship program for approximately 115 English-language proficient secondary school teachers, administrators, and teacher trainers from Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as a three-week program designed for 22 non-English-speaking NIS school directors. The exchange should involve at least 45 Russian, 40 Ukrainian, 20 Kyrgyzstani, and 10 Uzbekistani teachers and administrators, and 12 Russian and 10 Ukrainian school directors. Selection of participants is merit-based with a fair representation of large and small oblasts. The U.S. grantee will also be responsible for the consecutive exchange of 24 U.S. educators who have hosted the NIS teachers, trainers, and administrators during their stay in the United States for a two-week program to consult on best practices and implement linkage activities designed to strengthen the partnership between the U.S. and NIS schools.

The six-week internship program and three-week school director programs should provide the NIS educators with thorough exposure to civic education and the social sciences at the secondary school level. Proposals relating to the teaching of English or English as a foreign language (EFL) are not eligible. The program should encourage participants to establish contacts in the U.S. that will foster ongoing school and community partnerships upon their return to the NIS.

The proposed program will span three academic semesters, starting in the spring of 2001. The contracted organization (grantee) will be expected to recruit in Russia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan in consultation with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Office of Public Affairs within U.S. embassies in the NIS countries.

The goal of the teacher/administrator component of the PiE program is to provide NIS participants with opportunities to learn about secondary-level curriculum development and civic education and social science teaching methodologies in the U.S. After an academically-focused orientation in Washington, DC, NIS grantees will be placed in small groups at various school districts in the U.S. and provided with internships at local high schools. The proposed internship activities for the

115 teachers and administrators would include: observing social science classrooms, civic education curriculum development, and computer-based and other teaching methods; participating in at least five days of professional development seminars that incorporate computer-based teaching, designed by the host schools or by the local/regional schools of education; delivering presentations to students and faculty at the host schools and communities on NIS educational systems and cultures, either alone or together with their NIS colleagues; reviewing and collecting teaching materials for possible use in their home schools; and collaborating with U.S. school administrators or faculty of education to gain an understanding of the U.S. educational system and local control of education in the U.S. Teachers and administrators should also come to understand the relationship between the community and the educational system. The teachers and administrators would also engage in site visits to other local schools, deliver presentations at those schools as well as to local civic and community groups, and attend PTA and school board meetings.

The school director program should include 22 Russian and Ukrainian non-English-speaking directors who will participate in a three-week program that integrates the core civic education and social science curriculum of the PiE teachers, as well as specific seminars and workshops in community-based school governance. The school directors' program may begin at the same time as the teachers', trainers', and administrators' programs, or they may be programmed separately. To maximize impact, the school directors should be recruited from existing lists of NIS schools that have participated or from schools that are about to participate in the PiE teacher/administrator program. The applicant is encouraged to submit a proposal that provides a detailed explanation of how the non-English-speaking participants and their NIS schools will fully benefit from the U.S. exchange.

Program Information

Overview

The goal of the PiE program is to expose NIS educators to U.S. teaching methodologies and curriculum development processes, and establish professional partnerships with U.S. teachers and teacher-trainers in schools, universities, and communities. The rationale of the program is to promote democratic relations among members of NIS school communities and build upon

the Bureau's previous and existing linkages with NIS secondary schools.

For the PiE teacher, administrator, teacher-trainer program, the grantee should recruit English-speaking social science and civic education teachers, faculty, and administrators from secondary schools and pedagogical institutions, including educators who incorporate civic education principles as part of a social science curriculum. These educational leaders will be placed in clusters around the United States, hosted by schools, school-university partnerships, or private-sector institutions to experience U.S. educational communities and related democratic institutions. The Bureau is interested in the grantee soliciting U.S. host proposals that are academically oriented and foster long-term linkages between U.S. high schools and comparable schools in Russia, Ukraine, and other NIS countries. Where possible, U.S. host proposals should include institutions that have provided superior programming for other NIS secondary-level teacher training programs (lists are available from the program office).

For the secondary school director program, the grantee should develop a comprehensive, academically oriented program that will engage the NIS school directors in democratic school reform issues and community-school relations, as well as exposing the participants to the teaching methodologies for civic education and the social sciences. The school directors should travel in one or more groups and should be provided with simultaneous translation. The Bureau will consider a school director component that exposes the participants to up to two U.S. communities or school districts during the three-week program.

The grantee will also be responsible for facilitating the exchange of 24 U.S. teachers, preferably two U.S. host teachers from each host site who were involved in the PiE teacher/administrator six-week program. The U.S. educators will travel to the NIS community(ies) from which the NIS teachers came, and will engage in a substantive two-week program to be designed by the NIS participants in collaboration with the grantee. The goal of the U.S. participants' program in the NIS is to strengthen the partnerships established during the U.S.-based program, build long-term linkages, and provide opportunities for the U.S. educators to engage the educational communities of their NIS colleagues. There is no commensurate NIS-based program for the U.S. hosts of the school director component of the PiE program.

Guidelines

Program Planning and Implementation

The grant should begin on or around June 5, 2000 and the grantee should complete all exchange activities by December, 2002. The recipient organization will be responsible for activities related to recruitment, screening, orientation coordination, monitoring in the U.S., program evaluation, and alumni activities. The grantee organization will also be responsible for the competitive recruitment of up to 12 U.S. host school districts for participation in the PiE teacher/administrator program, as well as up to two sites for the school director program. The recipient organization will maintain overall oversight for the program. Please refer to additional program specific guidelines in the Project Objectives, Goals, and Implementation (POGI) document.

Budget Guidelines:

Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

Applicants must submit a comprehensive line-item budget for the entire program based on the specific guidance in the Solicitation Package. Awards may not exceed \$1,420,000 for program and administrative costs. There must be a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program budgets. Applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity to provide clarification. The summary and detailed program administrative budgets should be accompanied by a narrative which provides a brief rationale for each line item. Administrative costs should be kept low; this will be an important factor in grant competition.

Allowable costs for the program include the following:

- I. Teacher/Administrator/Trainer Participant Costs: Total \$6,700 (per participant) × 115 participants: \$770,500
- II. U.S. Teachers Participant Costs: Total \$3,000 (per participant) × 24 participants: \$72,000
- III. NIS School Directors Participant Costs: Total \$6,900 (per participant) × 22 participants: \$186,300
- IV. General Program Costs: Total: \$68,000

This includes sub-contracts with U.S. host sites, fees for one program curriculum advisor, costs for recruitment and advertising, and alumni activities.

The per participant costs include administrative costs. Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposed budget in accordance with the needs of the program.

Announcement Title and Number: All correspondence with the Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs concerning this RFP should reference the above title and the number ECA/A/S/X-00-02.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Office of Global Educational Programs, Teacher Exchange Branch, ECA/A/S/X, Room 349, U.S. Department of State, S.A. 44, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, tel. 202-619-4556 and fax 202-401-1433, dghebreab@usia.gov to request a Solicitation Package. The Solicitation Package contains detailed award criteria, required application forms, specific budget instructions, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation. Please specify Office of Global Educational Programs, Program Officer Dehab Ghebreab, on all other 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 entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from the Bureau's website at <http://e.usia.gov/education/rfps>. Please read all information before downloading.

Deadline for Proposals: All proposal copies must be received at the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Monday, February 28, 2000. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked on the due date but received on a later date will not be accepted. Each applicant must ensure that the proposals are received by the above deadline.

Applicants must follow all instructions in the Solicitation Package. The original and 10 copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Ref.: ECA/A/S/X-00-02, Program Management Staff, ECA/EX/PM, Room 336, S.A. 44 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547.

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal

Narrative" sections of the proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. These documents must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. The Bureau will transmit these files electronically to the appropriate public affairs offices at U.S. embassies for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Bureau's grants review process.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the 'support for Diversity' section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal. Public Law 104-319 provides that "in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy," the Bureau "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Proposals should reflect advancement of this goal in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Year 2000 Compliance Requirement (Y2K Requirement)

The Year 2000 (Y2K) issue is a broad operational and accounting problem that could potentially prohibit organizations from processing information in accordance with Federal management and program specific requirements including data exchange with the Bureau. The inability to process information in accordance with Federal requirements could result in grantees being required to return funds that have not been accounted for properly.

The Bureau therefore requires all organizations use Y2K compliant systems including hardware, software, and firmware. Systems must accurately process data and dates (calculating, comparing and sequencing) both before and after the beginning of the year 2000 and correctly adjust for leap years.

Additional information addressing the Y2K issue may be found at the General Services Administration's Office of Information Technology website at <http://www.itpolicy.gsa.gov>.

Review Process

The Bureau will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Senior Coordinator for the Newly Independent States and the public affairs offices of U.S. embassies overseas, where appropriate. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of Bureau officers for advisory review. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Department of State, Office of the Legal Adviser or by other Bureau elements. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of the Department of State's Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the Bureau's Grants Officer.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. **Quality of the program idea:** Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to the Bureau's mission, and responsiveness to the objectives and guidelines stated in this solicitation. Proposals should demonstrate substantive experience in the social sciences and civic education.
2. **Program planning and ability to achieve program objectives:** Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above. Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program's objectives and plan.
3. **Multiplier effect/impact:** Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.
4. **Support of Diversity:** Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity.

Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (selection of participants, program venue and program evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities).

5. **Institutional Capacity and Record:** Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals. Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Bureau grants as determined by the grants staff. The Bureau will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

6. **Follow-on Activities:** Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without Bureau support) ensuring that Bureau supported programs are not isolated events.

7. **Project Evaluation:** Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. A draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives are recommended. Successful applicants will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

8. **Cost-effectiveness/Cost-sharing:** The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate. Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

Authority: Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries . . . to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations . . . and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." The funding authority for the program above is provided

through the Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Markets Support Act of 1993 (Freedom Support Act).

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.

Notification

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

Dated: December 1, 1999.

Evelyn S. Lieberman,

Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-31967 Filed 12-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-45-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Proposed Advisory Circular; Damage Tolerance for High Energy Turbine Engine Rotors

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed advisory circular and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of draft Advisory Circular (AC), No. 33.14-1, Damage Tolerance for High Energy Turbine engine Rotors.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 10, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments on the proposed AC to the Federal Aviation Administration, Attn: Engine and Propeller Standards Staff, ANE-110, Engine and Propeller Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Mouzakis, Engine and Propeller Standards Staff, ANE-110, at the above address, telephone (781) 238-7114, fax (781) 238-7199.