

reducing or eliminating duplicative vetting.

### Agency Officials Exchanging Best Practices Regarding Partnerships

An online forum could be structured to allow agency officials to exchange best practices on any number of topics involving partnerships, such as how to:

- Initiate or create a partnership in a manner that is consistent with ethical requirements,
- Evaluate the success of partnerships,
- Structure an internal vetting process (for example, whether there should be a central vetting unit, or whether vetting should be carried out office by office),
- Develop internal processes to reduce duplication in vetting, and
- Resolve complex legal issues encountered during the lifecycle of partnerships.

The forum could also allow agency officials to exchange resources with one another, including sample MOUs and MOAs, and checklists or worksheets that agencies use when vetting potential private-sector partners or structuring partnerships.

Additionally, while taking into consideration relevant laws and protections regarding privacy, ethics, and other restrictions on disclosure of personally identifiable information, agencies can consider sharing notes about specific private-sector entities that have been vetted. These notes may help reduce external duplication by allowing agencies to see the results of other agencies' vetting of specific entities.

*MAX.gov*, a website established by the Office of Management and Budget in 2007, can offer such a forum. The website can be accessed only by those with a federal government email address. An agency could set up an interagency partnership group on *MAX.gov* that would allow agency officials to exchange best practices with respect to partnerships and share resources.

### Recommendation

1. All agencies that are considering, or are currently participating in, a public-private partnership (partnership) should distribute the *Guide to Legal Issues Involved in Public-Private Partnerships at the Federal Level (Guide)* (available at <https://www.acus.gov/report/guide-legal-issues-involved-public-private-partnerships-federal-level-final-12-6-2018>) to attorneys in their general counsels' offices, or other central legal offices, and should distribute it to partnership staff throughout the agency.

2. The Office of the Chairman of the Administrative Conference should create a group on *MAX.gov* titled "Strategies for Developing and Managing Successful Partnerships." The group should be structured to allow agency officials to exchange best practices with one another regarding partnerships. It should also allow agency officials to share resources, including sample memoranda of understanding or agreement, and checklists or worksheets that agency officials use when vetting potential private-sector partners.

3. All agencies that are considering, or are currently participating in, a partnership should encourage staff responsible for partnership efforts to join the *MAX.gov* group and actively participate in the discussion topics and uploading of resources. Participation should be consistent with protections regarding privacy, ethics, and other restrictions on disclosure of personally identifiable information and should be undertaken in consultation with the agency's general counsel's office or other designated legal office.

[FR Doc. 2019-01284 Filed 2-5-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6110-01-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Research Service

#### Notice of Intent To Grant Exclusive License

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant to Oregon State University of Corvallis, Oregon, an exclusive license to the variety of blackberry described in U.S. Plant Patent Application Serial No. 15/998,301, "BLACKBERRY PLANT NAMED 'TWILIGHT'", filed on August 2, 2018.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 8, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Rm. 4-1174, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brian T. Nakanishi of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301-504-5989.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Government's patent rights in this plant variety are assigned to the

United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within thirty (30) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

**Mojdeh Bahar,**

*Assistant Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 2019-01220 Filed 2-5-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Research Service

#### Notice of Intent To Grant Exclusive License

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant to Golden Valley Organics, Inc. dba BioWest Ag Solutions of Nampa, Idaho, an exclusive license to U.S. Patent No. 9,578,884, "PSEUDOMONAS SPECIES HAVING WEED-SUPPRESSIVE ACTIVITY AND BENIGN SOIL SURVIVAL TRAITS FOR ANNUAL GRASS WEED MANAGEMENT", issued on February 28, 2017.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 8, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Rm. 4-1174, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brian T. Nakanishi of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301-504-5989.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Government's patent rights in this invention are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention as Golden Valley Organics, Inc. dba BioWest Ag Solutions of Nampa, Idaho has submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with