

Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2021-24504 Filed 11-8-21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Defense Acquisition Regulations System

Negotiation of a Reciprocal Defense Procurement Agreement With the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania

AGENCY: Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice and request for public comments.

SUMMARY: On behalf of the U.S. Government, DoD is contemplating negotiating and concluding a Reciprocal Defense Procurement Agreement with the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania. DoD is requesting industry feedback regarding its experience in public defense procurements conducted by or on behalf of the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence or Armed Forces.

DATES: Comments must be received by December 6, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to Contract Policy, Attn: Mr. Jeff Grover, 3060 Defense Pentagon, Room 3B938, Washington, DC 20301-3060; or by email to jeffrey.c.grover.civ@mail.mil.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jeff Grover, telephone 703-697-9352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DoD has concluded Reciprocal Defense Procurement (RDP) Agreements with 27 qualifying countries, as defined in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) 225.003, at the level of the Secretary of Defense and his counterpart. The purpose of an RDP Agreement is to promote rationalization, standardization, and interoperability of conventional defense equipment with allies and other friendly governments. These Agreements provide a framework for ongoing communication regarding market access and procurement matters that enhance effective defense cooperation.

RDP Agreements generally include language by which the Parties agree that their defense procurements will be conducted in accordance with certain implementing procedures. These procedures relate to—

- Publication of notices of proposed purchases;
- The content and availability of solicitations for proposed purchases;
- Notification to each unsuccessful offeror;
- Feedback, upon request, to unsuccessful offerors concerning the reasons they were not allowed to participate in a procurement or were not awarded a contract; and
- Provision for the hearing and review of complaints arising in connection with any phase of the procurement process to ensure that, to the extent possible, complaints are equitably and expeditiously resolved.

Based on the Agreement, each country affords the other country certain benefits on a reciprocal basis consistent with national laws and regulations. The benefits that the United States accords to the products of qualifying countries include the following:

- Offers of qualifying country end products are evaluated without applying the price differentials otherwise required by the Buy American statute and the Balance of Payments Program.
- The chemical warfare protection clothing restrictions in 10 U.S.C. 2533a and the specialty metals restriction in 10 U.S.C. 2533b do not apply to products manufactured in a qualifying country.
- Customs, taxes, and duties are waived for qualifying country end

products and components of defense procurements.

If DoD (for the U.S. Government) concludes an RDP Agreement with the Ministry of National Defence of Lithuania, then Lithuania would be listed as one of the qualifying countries in the definition of “qualifying country” at DFARS 225.003, and offers of products of Lithuania or that contain components from Lithuania would be afforded the benefits available to all qualifying countries. This also means that U.S. products would be exempt from any analogous “Buy Lithuania” and “Buy European Union” laws or policies applicable to procurements by the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence or Armed Forces.

While DoD is evaluating Lithuania’s laws and regulations in this area, DoD would benefit from U.S. industry’s experience in participating in Lithuania’s public defense procurements. DoD is, therefore, asking U.S. firms that have participated or attempted to participate in procurements by or on behalf of Lithuania’s Ministry of National Defence or Armed Forces to let us know if the procurements were conducted with transparency, integrity, fairness, and due process in accordance with published procedures, and if not, the nature of the problems encountered.

DoD is also interested in comments relating to the degree of reciprocity that exists between the United States and Lithuania when it comes to the openness of defense procurements to offers of products from the other country.

Authority: DoD Instruction 5000.35, Defense Acquisition Regulations (DAR) System.

Jennifer Johnson,

Editor/Publisher, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

[FR Doc. 2021-24558 Filed 11-5-21; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2021-SCC-0157]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS 2023) Main Study Sampling, Recruitment, and Data Collection

AGENCY: Institute of Education Sciences (IES), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is