

matter of the patented invention” and “acts performed solely for the purposes of teaching or scientific or academic research.”³⁸

Scope of Interest

The USPTO is interested in collecting the public’s views on the impact of the experimental use exception in all technology areas. For example, one technology area for which greater clarity around the experimental use exception may be of interest is the agricultural industry. In March 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a report, prepared in consultation with the USPTO, on promoting fair competition and innovation in regards to seeds and other agricultural inputs.³⁹ In that report, the USDA and the USPTO both committed to evaluating “new proposals for incentivizing and protecting innovation in the seed and agricultural-related space, including the addition of research or breeders’ exemptions for U.S. utility patents.”⁴⁰ This work is consistent with the call in the President’s 2021 Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy. The views submitted in response to this notice will help in conducting this evaluation, as well as evaluating the impact of the experimental use exception in other technology areas.

Questions for Public Comment

When responding to the questions, please identify yourself and your interest in the U.S. patent system. If applicable, please indicate whether you fall within one or more of the following categories:

- (1) Inventors, patent owners, or investors (e.g., venture capital, investment bank, fund, etc.);
- (2) licensees or users of patented technology;
- (3) entities that represent inventors or patent owners (e.g., law firms);
- (4) recipients of demand letters concerning alleged patent infringement or accused infringers in a patent lawsuit;
- (5) entities that represent accused infringers;
- (6) government agencies or officials;
- (7) academic or research institutions;
- (8) intellectual property organizations or associations; and
- (9) nonprofit organizations or advocacy groups.

³⁸ Andean Community Decision No. 486 of Sept. 14, 2000, Section 53(b) and (c).

³⁹ Agric. Mktg. Serv., U.S. Dep’t Agric., *More and Better Choices for Farmers: Promoting Fair Competition and Innovation in Seeds and Other Agricultural Inputs*, at 6 (2023).

⁴⁰ *Id.* at 6 (2023).

Commenters need not respond to every question and may provide relevant information even if not responsive to a particular question. Unless otherwise specified, the questions are in reference to the U.S. and/or to U.S. laws and regulations. The questions should not be interpreted as an indication that the USPTO has taken a position on or is predisposed to any particular views. The USPTO welcomes comments from the public on any issues that are relevant to this topic, and is particularly interested in answers to the following questions:

1. Please explain how the current state of U.S. experimental use exception jurisprudence impacts investment and/or research and development in any field of technology, including, but not limited to: (a) quantum computing; (b) artificial intelligence; (c) other computer-related inventions; (d) agriculture; (e) life sciences (including prescription drugs and medical devices); and (f) climate-mitigation technologies.

2. Do you believe there are any technologies that are negatively affected by the current state of experimental use exception jurisprudence in the United States? If yes, please identify which technologies and explain how you believe they are affected.

3. Please explain what impact, if any, a statutory experimental use exception would have on the innovation and commercialization of new technologies including with respect to: (a) research and development; (b) ability to obtain funding; (c) investment strategy; (d) licensing of patents and patent applications; (e) product development; (f) sales, including downstream and upstream sales; (g) competition; and (h) patent enforcement and litigation.

4. Has the current state of experimental use exception jurisprudence impacted decisions you have made with respect to filing, purchasing, licensing, selling, or maintaining patent applications and patents in the United States? If yes, please explain how.

5. Please explain whether you believe the United States should adopt a statutory experimental use exception. In doing so, please identify your reasons, including by providing evidence and data to support your views.

6. Please explain how a statutory experimental use exception, if any, should be defined. Please include specific limitations and restrictions you believe would be needed to ensure that patent rights are preserved.

7. Please identify public policy reasons in support of maintaining the

status quo or changing the experimental use exception in the United States.

8. Please provide any additional recommendations on how best to enhance and facilitate experimental research on patented inventions in the United States.

Katherine K. Vidal,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2024–14164 Filed 6–27–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to and deletions from the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to add service(s) to the Procurement List that will be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes product(s) previously furnished by such agencies.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before: July 28, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, 355 E Street SW, Suite 325, Washington, DC 20024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to submit comments contact: Michael R. Jurkowski, Telephone: (703) 785–6404, or email CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 8503(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51–2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed actions.

Additions

In accordance with 41 CFR 51–5.3(b), the Committee intends to add this services requirement to the Procurement List as a mandatory purchase only for the Little Rock Air Force Base, AR with the proposed qualified nonprofit agency as the authorized source of supply. Prior to adding the service to the Procurement List, the Committee will consider other pertinent information, including information from Government personnel and relevant comments from interested parties regarding the Committee’s intent

to geographically limit this services requirement.

The following service(s) are proposed for addition to the Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Service(s)

Service Type: Mail Service

Mandatory for: Official Mail Center and Postal Service Center, USAF, Little Rock Air Force Base, AR

Designated Source of Supply: VersAbility Resources, Inc. Hampton, VA, Account #0659

Contracting Activity: FA4460 19 CON, Little Rock AFB AR 72099

Deletions

The following product(s) are proposed for deletion from the Procurement List:

Product(s)

NSN(s)—Product Name(s):

7510-01-682-8094—Monthly Planner, Recycled, Dated 2024, 14-month, 6⁷/₈" x 8³/₄"

7510-01-682-8104—Professional Planner, Dated 2024, Recycled, Weekly, Black, 8¹/₂" x 11"

7530-01-693-5571—Monthly Desk Planner, Dated 2024, Wire Bound, Non-refillable, Black Cover

7530-01-693-5580—Weekly Desk Planner, Dated 2024, Wire Bound, Non-refillable, Black Cover

7530-01-693-5589—Weekly Planner Book, Dated 2024, 5" x 8", Black

7530-01-693-5597—Daily Desk Planner, Dated 2024, Wire bound, Non-refillable, Black Cover

7510-01-682-8099—Wall Calendar, Recycled, Dated 2024, Vertical, 3 Months, 12¹/₄" x 26"

7510-01-693-5076—Monthly Wall Calendar, Dated 2024, Jan–Dec, 8¹/₂" x 11"

7510-01-693-5081—Wall Calendar, Dated 2024, Wire Bound w/hanger, 15.5" x 22"

7510-01-693-5097—Wall Calendar, Dated 2024, Wire Bound w/Hanger, 12" x 17"

7510-01-695-6112—Dated 12-Month 2-Sided Laminated Wall Planner, 24" x 37"

Authorized Source of Supply: Chicago Lighthouse Industries, Chicago, IL

Contracting Activity: GSA/FAS ADMIN SVCS ACQUISITION BR(2, NEW YORK, NY

NSN(s)—Product Name(s):

7920-00-NIB-0508—WetTask Wiping System—Bucket

7920-00-NIB-0510—WetTask Wiping System—Canister

Authorized Source of Supply: East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, Tyler, TX

Contracting Activity: STRATEGIC ACQUISITION CENTER, FREDERICKSBURG, VA

NSN(s)—Product Name(s):

7045-01-599-5291—Privacy Filter, 16:9 Aspect Ratio Computer Monitor, 17.3 Widescreen

Authorized Source of Supply: Wiscraft, Inc., Milwaukee, WI

Contracting Activity: STRATEGIC

ACQUISITION CENTER, FREDERICKSBURG, VA

NSN(s)—Product Name(s):

7045-01-599-5291—Privacy Filter, 16:9 Aspect Ratio Computer Monitor, 17.3 Widescreen

Authorized Source of Supply: Wiscraft, Inc., Milwaukee, WI

Contracting Activity: GSA/FAS ADMIN SVCS ACQUISITION BR(2, NEW YORK, NY

Michael R. Jurkowski,

Director, Business Operations.

[FR Doc. 2024-14231 Filed 6-27-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Quarterly Public Meeting

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

DATES: July 25, 2024, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. ET.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held virtually only via Zoom webinar.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Angela Phifer, 355 E Street SW, Suite 325, Washington, DC 20024; (703) 798-5873; CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled is an independent government agency operating as the U.S. AbilityOne Commission. It oversees the AbilityOne Program, which provides employment opportunities through Federal contracts for people who are blind or have significant disabilities in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the Federal Government. The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. chapter 85) authorizes the contracts.

Registration: Attendees not requesting speaking time should register not later than 11:59 p.m. ET on July 24, 2024. Attendees requesting speaking time must register not later than 11:59 p.m. ET on July 17, 2024, and use the comment fields in the registration form to specify the intended speaking topic/s. The registration link will be available on the Commission's home page, www.abilityone.gov, under News and Events.

Commission Statement: This regular quarterly meeting will include updates from the Commission Chairperson, Executive Director, and Inspector General.

Public Participation: The Commission invites the public to suggest and discuss approaches and activities for the Commission to consider in order to continue modernizing the AbilityOne Program within the current statutory and regulatory framework.

During registration, you may choose to submit comments, or you may request speaking time at the meeting. The Commission may invite some attendees who submit advance comments to discuss their comments during the meeting. Comments submitted will be reviewed by staff and the Commission members before the meeting. Comments posted in the chat box during the meeting will be shared with the Commission members after the meeting. The Commission is not subject to the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 552(b); however, the Commission published this notice to encourage the broadest possible participation in its meeting.

Personal Information: Speakers should not include any information that they do not want publicly disclosed.

Michael R. Jurkowski,

Director, Business Operations.

[FR Doc. 2024-14229 Filed 6-27-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Additions to the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: This action adds product(s) and service(s) to the Procurement List that will be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

DATES: Date added to and deleted from the Procurement List: July 28, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, 355 E Street SW, Suite 325, Washington, DC 20024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to submit comments contact: Michael R. Jurkowski, Telephone: (703) 785-6404, or email CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additions

On 3/29/2024, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (operating as the U.S. AbilityOne Commission) published