

available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of Nasdaq. All submissions should refer to file number SR-NASD-2003-180 and should be submitted by January 2, 2004.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>13</sup>

**Jill M. Peterson,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### [Declaration of Disaster #3555]

#### State of California (Amendment #2)

In accordance with a notice received from the Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency, effective October 30, 2003, the above numbered declaration is hereby amended to extend the deadline for filing applications for physical damages as a result of this disaster to January 9, 2004.

All other information remains the same, *i.e.*, the deadline for filing applications for economic injury is July 27, 2004.

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

Dated: December 4, 2003.

**Herbert L. Mitchell,**

*Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 03-30659 Filed 12-10-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### [Public Notice 4551]

#### Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: Women's Political, Educational, and Economic Development for Afghanistan

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Citizen Exchanges of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State, on behalf of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council and in cooperation with the Office of International Women's Issues of the U.S. Department of State, announces an open competition for grants to support a series of exchanges and training programs promoting "Women's

Political, Educational, and Economic Development in Afghanistan." U.S. public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to develop and implement exchanges and training programs involving participants from Afghanistan, including training conducted in Afghanistan. These U.S. organizations should have a current presence in Afghanistan, or experience working in Afghanistan, and work in conjunction with Afghan NGO partners. This competition is in direct support of the work plan developed by the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council, which seeks to carry out training programs in partnership with provincial Women's Resource Centers. Up to five grants, not exceeding \$150,000 each, may be awarded. Depending on the types and number of proposals received, more than one award may be made in some areas of focus and no awards may be made in others. Proposals that clearly demonstrate significant cost-sharing—with 50% of the amount requested from ECA as the preferred target—will be judged more competitive. For example, an organization requesting \$150,000 would be more competitive if the proposal presents at least \$75,000 in allowable cost sharing. *A maximum of 10 Afghans traveling to the U.S. will be permitted for each grant awarded under this competition, and all individuals traveling to the U.S. should use their U.S. experience directly for carrying out programs in Afghanistan after their return home.* Deadline for submissions is Friday, February 6, 2004.

**Important Note:** This Request for Grant Proposals contains language in the "Shipment and Deadline for Proposals" section that is significantly different from that used in the past. Please pay special attention to procedural changes as outlined.

#### Program Information

**Overview:** On January 28, 2002, Presidents Bush and Karzai announced the creation of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council to promote private/public partnerships between U.S. and Afghan institutions and to mobilize private resources to ensure that Afghan women are provided access to the education and skills to which they had no access during the years of Taliban misrule. The Council is co-chaired by the Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs, the Afghan Minister of Women's Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Council is staffed in the United States by the State Department's Office of International Women's Issues.

The U.S.-Afghan Women's Council seeks to help integrate women into Afghan society and to prepare them for positions of leadership and management. The priority themes listed below reflect the goals and work plan of the Council, and the exchange and training programs being funded will be carried out as programs of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council. Please refer to the following Web site for more information on the Council: <http://usawc.state.gov>.

The Office of Citizen Exchanges of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) consults with and supports American public and private nonprofit organizations in developing and implementing multi-phased, often multi-year, exchanges of professionals, community leaders, scholars and academics, public policy advocates, etc. These exchanges address issues of critical importance to both the United States and to the countries with which the exchanges will be conducted. They encourage substantive and cooperative interaction among counterparts, and they entail both theoretical and experiential learning for all participants. A primary goal is the development of sustained, international institutional and individual linkages. In addition to providing a context for professional development and collaborative problem-solving, these projects are intended to introduce participants to one another's political, social, and economic structures, facilitating improved communication and enhancing mutual understanding.

**Special Note:** The Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs is establishing Women's Resource Centers throughout Afghanistan. The US-Afghan Women's Council and the Department of State are dedicated to supporting the work of these centers. All proposals submitted in response to this RFGP must feature activities organized in close cooperation with and promoting the work of these centers, including training activities taking place inside these centers in provinces outside of Kabul. All proposals must display an understanding of the work of the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Women's Resource Centers and discuss how proposed exchange activities will further the work of these centers. To the extent possible, exchange and training activities in Afghanistan will take place at or center around the Resource Centers in provinces where such Centers have been established. Proposals should also reflect a clear understanding of the work of USAID in support of the Centers and demonstrate how exchanges will complement and further that support.

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).