

IRELAND; Wavecrest, Eden Prairie, MN; Xelerated, Stockholm, SWEDEN; and Zarlink, San Diego, CA have been dropped as parties to this venture. Multilink Technology, Somerset, NJ has merged into Vitesse Semiconductor, Camarillo, CA.

No other changes have been made in either the membership or planned activity of the group research project. Membership in this group research project remains open, and Optical Internetworking Forum intends to file additional written notification disclosing all changes in membership.

On October 5, 1998, Optical Internetworking Forum filed its original notification pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on January 29, 1999 (64 FR 4709).

The last notification was filed with the Department on July 23, 2003. A notice was published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to section 6(b) of the Act on August 29, 2003 (68 FR 52056).

Dorothy B. Fountain,

Deputy Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.

[FR Doc. 03-28285 Filed 11-10-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Antitrust Division

Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—Spoken Dialogue Interfaces for Cars

Notice is hereby given that, on October 3, 2003, pursuant to Section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* ("the Act"), Spoken Dialogue Interfaces for Cars has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing changes in its membership status. The notifications were filed for the purpose of extending the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Specifically, The Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University, Palo Alto, CA; and SRI-International, Speech Technology and Research Lab, Menlo Park, CA have been added as parties to this venture.

No other changes have been made in either the membership or planned activity of the group research project. Membership in this group research project remains open, and Spoken

Dialogue Interfaces for Cars intends to file additional written notification disclosing all changes in membership.

On July 4, 2003, Spoken Dialogue Interfaces for Cars filed its original notification pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on September 8, 2003 (68 FR 52959).

Dorothy B. Fountain,

Deputy Director of Operations Antitrust Division.

[FR Doc. 03-28287 Filed 11-10-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Antitrust Division

Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—VSI Alliance

Notice is hereby given that, on October 10, 2003, pursuant to Section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* ("the Act"), VSI Alliance has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing changes in its membership status. The notifications were filed for the purpose of extending the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Specifically, Richard Brown (individual member), Ann Arbor, MI; Ramesh Chandra (individual member), San Diego, CA; LTRIM Technologies, Inc., Laval, Quebec, CANADA; Michael McCorquodale (individual member), Ann Arbor, MI; Morpho Technologies, Irvine, CA; and Signal Technologies AG, Unterhaching, GERMANY have been added as parties to this venture.

Also, 0-In Design Automation, Inc., San Jose, CA; Beijing Hongsi Electronic Technology Co., Ltd., Hai Dian, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA; Global UniChip Corp., Hsinchu Science Park, TAIWAN; Intellitech Corp., Durham, NH; NOKIA, Tokyo, JAPAN; NurLogic Design, Inc., San Diego, CA; Cyril Rayan (individual member), San Jose, CA; and X-Vein, Tokyo, JAPAN have been dropped as parties to this venture.

No other changes have been made in either the membership or planned activity of the group research project. Membership in this group research project remains open, and VSI Alliance intends to file additional written notification disclosing all changes in membership.

On November 29, 1996, VSI Alliance filed its original notification pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on March 4, 1997 (62 FR 9812).

The last notification was filed with the Department on July 9, 2003. A notice was published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on August 29, 2003 (68 FR 44367).

Dorothy B. Fountain,

Deputy Director of Operations Antitrust Division.

[FR Doc. 03-28286 Filed 11-10-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Antitrust Division

Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—XSEC Consortium

Notice is hereby given that, on October 1, 2003, pursuant to Section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* ("the Act"), XSEC Consortium has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing (1) the identities of the parties and (2) the nature and objectives of the venture. The notifications were filed for the purpose of invoking the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiff to actual damages under specified circumstances. Pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, the identities of the parties are Varian Medical Systems, Inc., Mountain View, CA; and Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), Palo Alto, CA. The nature and objectives of the venture are to develop two types of novel, high performance, low cost x-ray detectors, first for diffraction scanning of checked bags for explosives and contraband, and second for computed tomography (CT) scanning of large seaborne cargo containers. The first type of detector will be a flat panel photoconductor x-ray detector of approximate area 5 cm x 25 cm capable of detecting individual x-ray photons and measuring their energy. These detectors will be used to build a subscale laboratory test apparatus for a diffraction-based explosive detector suitable for later scale-up to a size appropriate for airport screening of checked bags. The second type of detector will be a large area thin film transistor (TFT) panel detector for detecting the flux or x-ray photons incident upon it but without energy

measurement capability. Here the requirement is to produce TFT panels at sufficiently low cost to enable very large detectors several meters in extent to be assembled for CT scanning of cargo containers. Jet printing techniques will be developed to enable wax masks to be used during fabrication of the TFT arrays to reduce their manufacturing cost.

Dorothy B. Fountain,

Deputy Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.

[FR Doc. 03-28283 Filed 11-10-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employee Benefits Security Administration

Proposed Extension of Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment; Petition for Finding Under Section 3(40) of ERISA

AGENCY: Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employee Benefits Security Administration is soliciting comments on the proposed extension of the Petition for Finding under Section 3(40) of ERISA.

A copy of the information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual shown in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office shown in the **Addresses** section on or before January 12, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Gerald B. Lindrew, Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210, (202) 693-8410, FAX (202)

693-4745 (these are not toll-free numbers).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Rules codified beginning at 29 CFR 2570.150 set forth an administrative procedure ("procedural rules") for obtaining a determination by the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) as to whether a particular employee benefit plan is established or maintained under or pursuant to one or more agreements that are collective bargaining agreements for purposes of section 3(40) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). These procedural rules relate to specific criteria set forth in 29 CFR 2510.3-40 ("criteria rules") that if met constitute a finding by the Secretary that a plan is maintained under or pursuant to one or more collective bargaining agreements. Employee benefit plans that meet the requirements of the criteria rules are generally excluded from the definition of "multiple employer welfare arrangements" under section 3(40) and are consequently not subject to state regulation. These rules were generally effective on April 9, 2003.

The procedure that includes the ICR is available only in situations where the jurisdiction or law of a state has been asserted against an entity that it meets the exception for plans established or maintained under or pursuant to one or more collective bargaining agreements and is, as a result, subject to state law.

II. Review Focus

The Department of Labor (Department) is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

III. Current Actions

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of this ICR will expire on January 31, 2004. After considering comments received in response to this notice, the Department intends to submit the ICR to OMB for continuing approval. No change to the existing ICR is proposed or made at this time.

Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.

Title: Petition for Finding under Section 3(40) of ERISA.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection of information.

OMB Number: 1210-0119.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Respondents: 45.

Responses: 45.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 1.

Estimated Total Burden Cost (Operating and Maintenance): \$104,100.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 6, 2003.

Gerald B. Lindrew,

Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Research, Employee Benefits Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-28299 Filed 11-10-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Labor Certification Process for Temporary Agricultural Employment of Nonimmigrant Workers in the United States (H-2A Workers); H-2A On-line Application Processing System; Formal Briefing

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: As the result of the General Accounting Office (GAO) recommendation to the Secretary of Labor on ways to improve the H-2A Program, the Department of Labor (DOL) has designed an H-2A case management system to improve data tracking and reporting capabilities. The system will also provide a user-friendly platform for the Regional Office staff and the regulated community to enter application data. The Division of