

zone throughout the trading day; and

—Have disaster recovery facilities for its computer network and software.

The Committee will assess these responses in considering the proposed combination.

The Policy is proposed to be amended to require that the unit in a Tier 2 or Tier 3 review must have a real-time surveillance system that monitors specialist trading and uses exception alerts to detect unusual trades or trading patterns.

Public Interest

The Policy (section c(1)(a)(iv)) provides that specialist units that are involved in a Tier 2 or Tier 3 review must “demonstrate that, if approved, the proposed combination is otherwise in the public interest.” The Exchange proposes to add to the Policy a guideline outlining what the QOMC may consider under this provision. This includes: (a) The unit’s efforts to enhance market quality; (b) its capability of maintaining ongoing communications with their listed companies and customers in compliance with Rule 106; and (c) the unit’s commitment to applying for new listings and other activities.

Reasons for a Specialist Combination Review Policy

The Exchange views the Policy as a necessary mechanism for the review of proposed specialist combinations that may lead to a level of concentration within the specialist community that may be of concern to the Exchange and the quality of its markets. The Exchange recognizes that some specialist organizations seek to grow or attract capital through mergers or acquisitions. The Policy offers a structured approach for reviewing proposed combinations that may raise concentration-related issues. The amendments to the Policy proposed in this filing are part of the Exchange’s continued effort to see that the Policy addresses these issues. As the Commission noted in its approval of the Exchange’s filing first proposing the Policy, “the Commission believes it is appropriate for the NYSE to adopt a policy that authorizes it to monitor specialist combinations to determine their impact upon the competitive environment necessary to maintain an orderly market.”¹²

Other Matters

Specialists Ability to Monitor Real Time Trading

The larger specialist units, representing a significant portion of listed stocks and trading volume, have the capability to monitor the unit’s trading on a real-time basis, and use exception alerts to identify unusual trading patterns.

Statistical Information

- There are currently 10 specialist firms, including 3 firms that are registered solely in Exchange-Traded Funds (“ETFs”).
- There are currently 460 members registered as specialists.
- At the end of June 2002, there were 2,796 companies that had common and preferred issues listed on the NYSE.

1. Statutory Basis

The NYSE believes the proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b)(5)¹³ of the Act, which requires that an Exchange have rules that are designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The NYSE believes the proposed amendments are consistent with these objectives in that they address concerns about capitalization, and operational efficiency where proposed combinations would result in large-sized specialist units.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants or Others

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such

longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the Exchange consents, the Commission will:

(A) By order approve such proposed rule change, or

(B) Institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change, as amended, is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be 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 the NYSE. All submissions should refer to file number SR-NYSE-2002-41 and should be submitted by April 17, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁴

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-7312 Filed 3-26-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[License No. 03/73-0228]

Toucan Capital Fund II, L.P.; Notice Seeking Exemption Under Section 312 of the Small Business Investment Act, Conflicts of Interest

Notice is hereby given that Toucan Capital Fund II, L.P., 7600 Wisconsin Ave, 7th Floor, Bethesda, MD 20814, a Federal Licensee under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended (“the Act”), in connection with the financing of a small concern, has sought an exemption under section 312 of the Act and § 107.730, Financings

¹² See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 24411 (April 29, 1987), 52 FR 17870 (May 12, 1987).

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

which Constitute Conflicts of Interest of the Small Business Administration ("SBA") rules and regulations (13 CFR 107.730 (2002)). Toucan Capital Fund II, L.P. proposes to provide preferred equity security financing to Mednav, Inc., 500 Edgewater Drive, Wakefield, MA 01880. The financing is contemplated to provide the company with the necessary working capital.

The financing is brought within the purview of § 107.730(a)(1) of the Regulations because Toucan Ventures, an Associate of Toucan Capital Fund II, L.P., holds an ownership interest in Mednav, Inc. of greater than 10%. Therefore, this financing is considered a financing of an Associate requiring prior SBA approval.

Notice is hereby given that any interested person may submit written comments on the transaction, within 15 days of the date of this publication, to the Associate Administrator for Investment, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416.

Dated: March 17, 2003.

Jeffrey D. Pierson,

Associate Administrator for Investment.

[FR Doc. 03-7346 Filed 3-26-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4321]

Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Overseas Citizens Services (CA/OCS); Notice of Information Collection under Emergency Review: Form DS-3072, Emergency Loan Application and Evacuation Documentation; OMB Control Number 1405-XXXX

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of State has submitted the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the emergency review procedures of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Type of Request: Emergency Review.

Originating Office: Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA/OCS/PRI).

Title of Information Collection: Emergency Loan Application and Evacuation Documentation.

Frequency: Occasionally.

Form Number: DS-3072.

Respondents: U.S. citizens abroad (and third country nationals, where eligible) who need evacuation, repatriation, or emergency medical and dietary assistance.

Estimated Number of Respondents: Normally, approximately 500 respondents per year. The number of respondents may be much larger in emergency circumstances when lives are endangered by war, civil unrest, or natural disaster, but such circumstances are extraordinary and the number of respondents cannot be predicted.

Average Hours Per Response: 10 minutes.

Total Estimated Burden: 83.3 hours in normal circumstances.

The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Emergency review and approval of this collection has been requested from OMB on or before March 30, 2003. If granted, the emergency approval is only valid for 180 days. Comments should be directed to the State Department Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20530, who may be reached on 202-395-3897.

During the first 60 days of this same period a regular review of this information collection is also being undertaken. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until 60 days from the date that this notice is published in the **Federal Register**. The agency requests written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information. Your comments are being solicited to permit the agency to:

- 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, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Public comments, or requests for additional information, regarding the collection listed in this notice should be directed to Michael Meszaros, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Policy Review and Interagency Liaison, U.S. Department of State, 1800 G Street NW., Suite 2100, Washington, DC 20006, who may be reached on 202-312-9750.

Dated: March 19, 2003.

Maura Hartly,

Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-7347 Filed 3-26-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4322]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposal: Middle School Social Studies Pre-Service Education Curriculum Development Project for Azerbaijan

SUMMARY: The Office of Global Educational Programs of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in the Department of State announces an open competition for an assistance award to support planning, implementing and evaluating a curriculum development project for the pre-service training of middle school-level social studies teachers in Azerbaijan. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit proposals to cooperate with the Bureau in the administration of a three-year project to support the development and implementation of a teacher training curriculum that emphasizes new teaching methods and delivery mechanisms for the pre-service training of middle school-level social studies teachers in Azerbaijan.

Overview and Project Objectives

Program Information

Overview: This project is designed to assist educators in Azerbaijan to develop pre-service teacher training courses that will lead to the improvement of social science teaching at the middle school level in Azerbaijan. The rationale for this project is that by introducing more interactive, student-centered teaching practices tied to relevant social studies coursework in Azerbaijan, educators will be preparing students to participate more actively as citizens in a democratic society. Although prior efforts in Azerbaijan have supported the training of in-service teachers in new approaches to classroom teaching, this project will introduce these approaches to pre-service teachers at an earlier, more formative stage in their careers. As part of the effort to promote cooperative relationships within a democratic society, the project should also prepare future teachers to interact productively with other members of the educational community including parents,