

Transfer Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-502) and Section 207 of Title 35, United States Code, the Department of the Army as represented by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory wish to license the U.S. patents listed below in a non-exclusive, exclusive or partially exclusive manner to any party interested in manufacturing, using, and/or selling devices or processes covered by these patents.

Title: Bonding for Silicon Carbide Directly to a Semiconductor Substrate by Using Silicon to Silicon Bonding.
Inventors: Timothy Mermagen, Judith McCullen, Robert Reams and Bohdam Dobriansky.

Patent Number: 5,877,516.

Issued Date: March 2, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Rausa, Technology Transfer Office, AMSRL-CS-TT, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-5055, tel: (410) 278-5028; fax: (410) 278-5820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-9613 Filed 4-15-99; 8:45 am]

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exclusive, exclusive or partially exclusive manner to any party interested in manufacturing, using, and/or selling devices or processes covered by these patents.

Title: Scannerless Ladar Architecture Employing Focal Plane Detector Arrays and FM-CW Ranging Theory.

Inventors: Barry Stann, William C. Ruff and Zoltan G. Sztankay.

Patent Number: 5,877,851.

Issued Date: March 2, 1999.

Title: Bacterial Spore Detection and Quantification Methods

Inventor: David L. Rosen.

Patent Number: 5,876,960.

Issued Date: March 2, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Norma Cammaratta, Technology Transfer Office, AMSRL-CS-TT, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, 2800 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, MD 20783-1197, tel: (301) 394-2952; fax: (301) 394-5818.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-9614 Filed 4-15-99; 8:45 am]

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applied for or received funds under the PCSP for planning or implementation, if the charter school has been in operation for at least 3 consecutive years and has demonstrated overall success, including—

(i) Substantial progress in improving student achievement;

(ii) High levels of parent satisfaction; and

(iii) The management and leadership necessary to overcome initial start-up problems and establish a thriving, financially viable charter school.

(b) Under certain circumstances, an authorized public chartering agency participating in a partnership with a charter school developer. Such a partnership is eligible to receive funding directly from the U.S. Department of Education if—

(i) The SEA in its State elects not to participate in this program; or

(ii) The SEA in its State does not have an application approved under this program.

If an SEA's application is approved in this competition, applications received from non-SEA eligible applicants in that State will be returned to the applicants. In such a case, the eligible applicant should contact the SEA for information related to its subgrant competition.

Note: The following States currently have approved applications under this program: California, Colorado, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Texas. In these States, only the SEA is eligible to receive an award under this competition. Eligible applicants in these States should contact their respective SEAs for information about participation in the State's charter school subgrant program.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 1, 1999.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 30, 1999.

Applications Available: April 16, 1999.

Available Funds: \$50,000,000.

Estimated Range of Awards:

State educational agencies: \$500,000–\$5,000,000 per year

Other eligible applicants: \$25,000–\$150,000 per year

Estimated Average Size of Awards:

State educational agencies: \$3,000,000 per year

Other eligible applicants: \$100,000 per year

Estimated Number of Awards:

State educational agencies: 10–15

Other eligible applicants: 20–30

Note: These estimates are projections for the guidance of potential applicants. The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Availability of U.S. Patents for Non-Exclusive, Exclusive, or Partially-Exclusive Licensing

AGENCY: U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Adelphi, Maryland.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 37 CFR 404.6, announcement is made of the availability of the following U.S. patents for non-exclusive, partially exclusive or exclusive licensing. All of the listed patents have been assigned to the United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Army, Washington, D.C.

This patent covers a wide variety of technical arts including: An incoherent LADAR which achieves high range resolution employing focal plane detector arrays and a Method for detecting the presence and concentration of bacterial spores in a medium.

Under the authority of Section 11(a)(2) of the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-502) and Section 207 of Title 35, United States Code, the Department of the Army as represented by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory wish to license the U.S. patents listed below in a non-

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.282A]

Public Charter Schools Program (PCSP)

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 1999.

Purpose of Program: The major purpose of the PCSP is to expand the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the Nation by providing financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of public charter schools; evaluation of the effects of charter schools; and the dissemination of information about charter schools and successful practices in charter schools.

Who May Apply: (a) State educational agencies (SEAs) in States with a specific State statute authorizing the establishment of charter schools. The Secretary awards grants to SEAs to enable them to conduct charter school programs in their States. SEAs use their PCSP funds to award subgrants to "eligible applicants," as defined in this notice, for planning, program design, and initial implementation of a charter school; and to support the dissemination of information about, and successful practices in, charter schools. A charter school may apply for funds to carry out dissemination activities, whether or not the charter school has

Project Period:

State educational agencies: Up to 36 months
 Other eligible applicants: Up to 36 months

Note: Grants awarded by the Secretary directly to non-SEA eligible applicants or subgrants awarded by SEAs to eligible applicants will be awarded for a period of up to 36 months, of which the eligible applicant may use—

- (a) Not more than 18 months for planning and program design;
- (b) Not more than two years for the initial implementation of a charter school; and
- (c) Not more than two years to carry out dissemination activities.

Applicable Regulations and Statute:

The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 75 (except 75.210), 76, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86. Title X, Part C, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, 20 U.S.C. 8061–8067.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As part of wider education reform efforts to strengthen teaching and learning, charter schools can be an innovative approach to improving public education and expanding public school choice. While there is no one model, public charter schools are exempted from most statutory and regulatory requirements in exchange for performance-based accountability. They are intended to stimulate the creativity and commitment of teachers, parents, students, and citizens and contribute to better student academic achievement.

Congress reauthorized the PCSP in October 1998, by enacting the Charter School Expansion Act of 1998. Under the new legislation, SEA applicants for funding are required to include in their applications descriptions of how the SEA (a) will inform each charter school in the State about Federal funds the charter school is eligible to receive and Federal programs in which the charter school may participate; (b) will ensure that each charter school in the State receives the charter school's commensurate share of Federal education funds that are allocated by formula each year, including during the charter school's first year of operation; and (c) will disseminate best or promising practices of charter schools to LEAs in the State. The new legislation also added a requirement that SEA applicants as well as charter school applicants include in their applications descriptions of how charter schools that are considered to be LEAs under State law and LEAs in which a charter school is located will comply with sections 613(a)(5) and 613(e)(1)(B) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education

Act. Additional information regarding the required contents of applications, diversity of projects, and waivers are provided in the application package for this program.

The following definitions, selection criteria, priority criteria, amount criteria, authorized uses of funds for dissemination activities, and allowable activities are taken from the Public Charter Schools statute, in Title X, Part C, of the ESEA. They are being repeated in this application notice for the convenience of the applicant.

Definitions

The following definitions apply to this program:

(a) *Charter school* means a public school that—

(i) In accordance with a specific State statute authorizing the granting of charters to schools, is exempted from significant State or local rules that inhibit the flexible operation and management of public schools, but not from any rules relating to the other requirements of this definition;

(ii) Is created by a developer as a public school, or is adapted by a developer from an existing public school, and is operated under public supervision and direction;

(iii) Operates in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives determined by the school's developer and agreed to by the authorized public chartering agency;

(iv) Provides a program of elementary or secondary education, or both;

(v) Is nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations, and is not affiliated with a sectarian school or religious institution;

(vi) Does not charge tuition;

(vii) Complies with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and part B of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act;

(viii) Is a school to which parents choose to send their children, and that admits students on the basis of a lottery, if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated;

(ix) Agrees to comply with the same Federal and State audit requirements as do other elementary and secondary schools in the State, unless the requirements are specifically waived for the purposes of this program;

(x) Meets all applicable Federal, State, and local health and safety requirements;

(xi) Operates in accordance with State law; and

(xii) Has a written performance contract with the authorized public chartering agency in the State that includes a description of how student performance will be measured in charter schools pursuant to State assessments that are required of other schools and pursuant to any other assessments mutually agreeable to the authorized public chartering agency and the charter school.

(b) *Developer* means an individual or group of individuals (including a public or private nonprofit organization), which may include teachers, administrators and other school staff, parents, or other members of the local community in which a charter school project will be carried out.

(c) *Eligible applicant* means an authorized public chartering agency participating in a partnership with a developer to establish a charter school in accordance with this program.

(d) *Authorized public chartering agency* means a State educational agency, local educational agency, or other public entity that has the authority under State law and is approved by the Secretary to authorize or approve a charter school.

Selection Criteria for SEAs

The maximum possible score for all of the criteria in this section is 140 points. The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses following each criterion. In evaluating an application from an SEA, the Secretary considers the following criteria:

(a) The contribution that the charter schools grant program will make in assisting educationally disadvantaged and other students to achieve State content standards, State student performance standards, and, in general, a State's education improvement plan (20 points).

(b) The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA to charter schools under the State's charter schools law (20 points).

(c) The ambitiousness of the objectives for the State charter school grant program (20 points).

(d) The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives (20 points).

(e) The likelihood that the charter schools grant program will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students (20 points).

(f) The number of high quality charter schools created under this part in the State (20 points).

(g) In the case of State educational agencies that propose to use grant funds to support dissemination activities under section 10302(c)(2)(C) of the

ESEA, the quality of those activities and the likelihood that those activities will improve student achievement (20 points).

Selection Criteria for Non-SEA Eligible Applicants

The maximum possible score for all of the criteria in this section is 140 points. The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses following each criterion. In evaluating an application from an eligible applicant other than an SEA the Secretary considers the following criteria:

- (a) The quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices (20 points).
- (b) The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA and, if applicable, the local educational agency to the charter school (20 points).
- (c) The extent of community support for the application (20 points).
- (d) The ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school (20 points).
- (e) The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives (20 points).
- (f) The likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students (20 points).
- (g) In the case of an eligible applicant that proposes to use grant funds to support dissemination activities under section 10302(c)(2)(C) of the ESEA, the quality of those activities and the likelihood that those activities will improve student achievement (20 points).

Priority Criteria

In awarding grants for FYs 1999, 2000, and 2001 from funds appropriated under section 10311 of the ESEA that are in excess of \$51 million for the FY, the Secretary gives priority under this competition to States to the extent that the States meet the criteria described in paragraph (a) below, and one or more of the criteria described in paragraphs (b) through (d) below (20 points).

(a) The State provides for periodic review and evaluation by the authorized public chartering agency of each charter school, at least once every 5 years unless required more frequently by State law, to determine whether the charter school is meeting the terms of the school's charter, and is meeting or exceeding the academic performance requirements and goals for charter schools as set forth under State law or the school's charter.

(b) The State has demonstrated progress, in increasing the number of

high quality charter schools that are held accountable in the terms of the schools' charters for meeting clear and measurable objectives for the educational progress of the students attending the schools, in the period prior to the period for which a State educational agency or eligible applicant applies for a grant under this competition.

(c) The State—

- (i) Provides for one authorized public chartering agency that is not a local educational agency, such as a State chartering board, for each individual or entity seeking to operate a charter school pursuant to such State law; or
- (ii) In the case of a State in which local educational agencies are the only authorized public chartering agencies, allows for an appeals process for the denial of an application for a charter school.

(d) The State ensures that each charter school has a high degree of autonomy over the charter school's budgets and expenditures.

Amount Criteria

In determining the amount of a grant to be awarded under this competition to a State educational agency, the Secretary shall take into consideration the number of charter schools that are operating or approved to open in the State.

Allowable Activities

An eligible applicant receiving a grant or subgrant under this program may use the grant or subgrant funds for only—

- (a) Post-award planning and design of the educational program, which may include—
 - (i) Refinement of the desired educational results and of the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results; and
 - (ii) Professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school; and
- (b) Initial implementation of the charter school, which may include—
 - (i) Informing the community about the school;
 - (ii) Acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies;
 - (iii) Acquiring or developing curriculum materials; and
 - (iv) Other initial operating costs that cannot be met from State or local sources.

Use of Funds for Dissemination Activities

A State educational agency may reserve not more than 10 percent of the grant funds to support dissemination activities. A charter school may use

such funds to assist other schools in adapting the charter school's program (or certain aspects of the charter school's program), or to disseminate information about the charter school, through such activities as—

(a) Assisting other individuals with the planning and startup of one or more new public schools, including charter schools, that are independent of the assisting charter school and the assisting charter school's developers, and that agree to be held to at least as high a level of accountability as the assisting charter school;

(b) Developing partnerships with other public schools, including charter schools, designed to improve student performance in each of the schools participating in the partnership;

(c) Developing curriculum materials, assessments, and other materials that promote increased student achievement and are based on successful practices within the assisting charter school; and

(d) Conducting evaluations and developing materials that document the successful practices of the assisting charter school and that are designed to improve student achievement.

FOR APPLICATIONS OR INFORMATION

CONTACT: John Fiegel, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Room 3E122, Washington, D.C. 20202-6140. Telephone (202) 260-2671. Internet address: *John—Fiegel@ed.gov*.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) upon request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph. Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternate format, also, by contacting that person. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternate format the standard forms included in the application package.

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Note: The official version of a document is the document published in the **Federal Register**.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 8061-8067.

Dated: April 12, 1999.

Judith Johnson,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

[FR Doc. 99-9616 Filed 4-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-283-000]

Colorado Interstate Gas Company; Notice of Application

April 12, 1999.

Take notice that on April 1, 1999, Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG), P.O. Box 1087, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80944, filed in Docket No. CP99-283-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate a fuel line in its Panhandle Field in Potter county, Texas, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call (202) 208-2222 for assistance).

CIG states that the Texas Panhandle Field was the original producing area for CIG when the company began operations in 1928. CIG states that because of the long period of time in which the Panhandle Field has been producing, the wellhead pressure for many of the wells has decline significantly resulting in the need to install non-jurisdictional field and wellhead compression. CIG also states that as the field has depleted, the lower quality of unprocessed fuel gas from the field has caused operating and maintenance problems for various compressor stations. CIG states that in 1996, its non-jurisdictional Panhandle

Field Compressor No. 1 (PFC-1) was retired from service. It is stated that this compressor compressed gas from 17 wells and CIG installed six wellhead compressors to maintain gas production from these wells. CIG states that the PFC-1 obtained its fuel gas from a raw gas line. However, CIG maintains that the lower quality of unprocessed fuel gas from the field using well production gas as fuel may cause the field compressor to be subject to pre-ignition or pre-detonation, resulting in loss of efficiency, and increased maintenance. Therefore, CIG maintains that it would be beneficial to change the operation to allow the compressor unit to consume processed fuel. In order to do so, CIG proposes to construct and operate 70 feet of 2-inch diameter fuel line that would extend from an existing fuel gas line located in Potter County, Texas, to CIG's PFC-1.

CIG estimates the cost of the facilities to be \$1,000 which will be financed from funds on hand and internally generated cash from operations.

Any person desiring to participate in the hearing process or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before May 3, 1999, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. The Commission's rules require that protestors provide copies of their protests to the party or parties directly involve. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

A person obtaining intervenor status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by every one of the intervenors. An intervenor can file for rehearing of any Commission order and can petition for court review of any such order. However, an intervenor must submit copies of comments or any other filing it makes with the Commission to every other intervenor in the proceeding, as well as 14 copies with the Commission.

A person does not have to intervene, however, in order to have comments

considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of environmental documents and will be able to participate in meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission and will not have the right to seek rehearing or appeal the Commission's final order to a federal court.

The Commission will consider all comments and concerns equally, whether filed by commenters or those requesting intervenor status.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the certificate is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for CIG to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-9494 Filed 4-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-287-030]

El Paso Natural Gas Company; Notice of Filing

April 12, 1999.

Take notice that on March 30, 1999, El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso) tendered for filing two firm Transportation Service Agreements (TSAs) between El Paso and Pemex Gas y Petroquimica Basica (Pemex) and Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 1 to its FERC