

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****International Trade Administration****[A-588-046]****Notice of Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Polychloroprene Rubber from Japan**

**AGENCY:** Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review.

**SUMMARY:** On January 22, 2004, pursuant to a request made by Showa Denko Elastomers, K.K. and Showa Denko K.K. (SDEL/SDK), the Department of Commerce (the Department) initiated an administrative review of the antidumping duty finding on polychloroprene rubber (PR) from Japan. On January 30, 2004, SDEL/SDK withdrew its request for an administrative review of PR from Japan. The Department is now rescinding the administrative review of the antidumping duty finding on PR from Japan.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 11, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Zev Primor or Maisha Cryor, AD/CVD Enforcement, Group II, Office 4, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482-4114 or (202) 482-5831, respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

On December 6, 1973, the U.S. Treasury Department published in the **Federal Register** (38 FR 33593) the antidumping duty finding on PR from Japan. On December 17, 2003, SDEL/SDK requested an administrative review of PR from Japan; on January 22, 2004, the Department initiated an administrative review of the antidumping finding on PR from Japan. See *Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews and Request for Revocation in Part*, 69 FR 3117 (January 22, 2004). On January 30, 2004, SDEL/SDK withdrew their request for review.

**Scope of Review**

Imports covered by this review are shipments of PR, an oil resistant synthetic rubber also known as polymerized chlorobutadiene or neoprene, currently classifiable under items 4002.41.00, 4002.49.00,

4003.00.00 of the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* (HTSUS). HTSUS item numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes. The written description remains dispositive.

**Rescission of Review**

Section 351.213(d)(1) of the Department's regulations provides that a party that requests an administrative review may withdraw the request within 90 days after the date of publication of the notice of initiation of the requested administrative review. The Department is rescinding the administrative review of the finding on PR from Japan for the period December 1, 2002, through November 30, 2003, because the requesting party has withdrawn its request for this administrative review within the 90-day time limit, and no other interested parties have requested a review of PR from Japan for this time period.

This notice is in accordance with section 777(i)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and 19 CFR 251.213(d)(4).

Dated: February 5, 2004.

**Holly A. Kuga,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Minority Business Development Agency****[Docket No. 000724217-4040-07]****Solicitation of Applications for the Minority Business Development Center (MBDC) Program**

**AGENCY:** Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting competitive applications from organizations to operate Minority Business Development Centers (MBDCs) under its Minority Business Development Center (MBDC) Program. The MBDC geographic service areas being solicited in this Notice are: North Carolina Statewide; Illinois Statewide; Michigan Statewide; El Paso, Texas; and Arizona Statewide. The prior solicitation for these geographic service areas was unsuccessful. The anticipated start date is April 1, 2004. The total award period for awards will be two years and nine months. Funding will be provided initially for a nine-month period, and provided annually

thereafter. Future funding will be at the discretion of MBDA and the Department of Commerce, and will depend upon satisfactory performance by the award recipient, availability of funds, and Agency priorities.

The MBDC Program requires MBDC staff to provide standardized business assistance services to rapid growth potential minority businesses directly; to develop a network of strategic partnerships; to charge client fees; and to provide strategic business consulting. These requirements will be used to generate increased results with respect to financing and contracts awarded to minority-owned firms and thus, are a key component of this program.

**DATES:** The closing date for submission of applications is March 12, 2004. Completed applications must be (1) mailed (USPS Postmark) to the address below; or (2) received by MBDA no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

**ADDRESSES:** If the application is mailed by the applicant or its representative, they must submit one signed original plus two (2) copies of the application. Completed application packages must be mailed to: Office of Business Development, Office of Executive Secretariat, HCHB, Room 5063, Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

If the application is hand-delivered by the applicant or his/her representative, one signed original plus two (2) copies of the application must be delivered to Room 1874, which is located at Entrance 10, 15th Street, NW., between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For a copy of the full Notice and/or an application package, contact the specified MBDA National Enterprise Center (NEC) for the geographic service area in which the project will be located (see Geographic Service Areas), or via MBDA's Minority Business Internet Portal at <http://www.mbda.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The prior solicitation for operators for MBDCs in North Carolina, Illinois, Michigan, El Paso, Texas, and Arizona published in the **Federal Register** on August 29, 2003 (68 FR 51965), as amended on September 30, 2003 (68 FR 56265), was unsuccessful. MBDA has elected to re-compete these service areas. The evaluation criteria and selection procedures contained in the August 29, 2003 notice are applicable to this solicitation. For a copy of the August 29, 2003 and the September 30, 2003

notices, please go to: <http://www.mbdba.gov>.

**Electronic Access:** The full Notice for the MBDC program is available via Web site <http://www.mbdba.gov> or by contacting the program official identified above. This announcement will also be available through Grants.gov at <http://www.Grants.gov>.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their entire proposal electronically via the Internet and mail or hand-deliver only the pages that require original signatures by the closing date and time stated above. Applicants may submit their applications on MBDA's Web site: <http://www.mbdba.gov>. All required forms are located at this web address. However, the following paper forms must be submitted with original signatures in conjunction with any electronic submissions by the closing date and time stated above: (1) SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance; (2) the SF-424B, Assurances-Non-Construction Programs; (3) the SF-LLL (Rev. 7-97) (if applicable), Disclosure of Lobbying Activities; (4) Department of Commerce Form CD-346 (if applicable), Applicant for Funding Assistance; and (5) the CD-511, Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying.

**Pre-Application Conference:** A pre-application conference will be held for the MBDC project solicitation. Contact the specified MBDA NEC for the geographic service area in which the project will be located to receive further information (see Geographic Service Areas). Picture identification is required for entrance into any Federal building. Notice of the pre-application conference will be available on MBDA's Internet Portal at <http://www.mbdba.gov>.

**Funding Availability:** Approximately \$951,000 will be available in FY 2004 for Federal assistance under this program.

Financial assistance awards under this program may range from \$150,479 to \$259,847 in the first nine months of the award and from \$240,599 to \$346,463 in the second and third year of the award in Federal funding based upon minority population, the size of the market and its need for MBDA resources.

**Geographic Service Areas:** An operator must provide services to eligible clients within its specified geographic service area. MBDA has defined the service area for each award below. To determine its geographic service areas, MBDA uses states, counties, Metropolitan Areas (MA), which comprise metropolitan statistical areas (MSA), consolidated metropolitan

statistical areas (CMSA), and primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSA) as defined by the OMB Committee on MAs <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins> and other demographic boundaries as specified herein. Service to eligible clients outside of an operator's specified service area may be requested, on a case-by-case basis, through the appropriate MBDA Regional Director and granted by the Grants Officer.

The MBDC geographic service areas being solicited in this Notice are: North Carolina Statewide, Illinois Statewide; Michigan Statewide; El Paso, Texas; and Arizona Statewide.

**1. MBDC Application:** North Carolina Statewide.

**Geographic Service Area:** State of North Carolina.

**Award Number:** 04-10-04002-01.

The recipient is required to maintain its MBDC in Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina.

Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for the first funding period from April 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004 is estimated at \$212,293. The total Federal amount is \$180,449. The application must include a minimum cost share of 15% or \$31,844 in non-Federal contributions. Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for each of the two (2) remaining 12-month funding periods from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2006, is estimated at \$283,058. The total Federal amount is \$240,599. The application must include a minimum cost share of 15% or \$42,459 in non-Federal contributions.

**Pre-Application Conference:** For the exact date, time and place, contact the Atlanta National Enterprise Center at (404) 730-3300 or visit MBDA's Web site at <http://www.mbdba.gov>.

For Further Information and a copy of the application kit, contact Robert Henderson, Regional Director at the phone number listed above.

**2. MBDC Application:** Illinois Statewide.

**Geographic Service Area:** State of Illinois.

**Award Number:** 05-10-04001-01.

The recipient is required to maintain its MBDC in downtown Chicago, Illinois.

Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for the first funding period from April 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004 is estimated at \$212,293. The total Federal amount is \$180,449. The application must include a minimum cost share of 15% or \$31,844 in non-Federal contributions. Contingent upon the

availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for each of two (2) remaining 12-month funding periods from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2006, is estimated at \$283,058. The total Federal amount is \$240,599. The application must include a minimum cost share of 15% or \$42,459 in non-Federal contributions.

**Pre-Application Conference:** For the exact date, time and place, contact the Chicago National Enterprise Center at (312) 353-0182 or visit MBDA's Web site at <http://www.mbdba.gov>.

For Further Information and a copy of the application kit, contact Eric Dobyne, Regional Director at the phone number listed above.

**3. MBDC Application:** Michigan Statewide.

**Geographic Service Area:** State of Michigan.

**Award Number:** 05-10-04003-01.

The recipient is required to maintain its MBDC in Detroit, Michigan.

Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for the first funding period from April 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004 is estimated at \$212,293. The total Federal amount is \$180,449. The application must include a minimum cost share of 15% or \$31,844 in non-Federal contributions. Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for each of the two (2) remaining 12-month funding periods from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2006, is estimated at \$283,058. The total Federal amount is \$240,599. The application must include a minimum cost share of 15% or \$42,459 in non-Federal contributions.

**Pre-Application Conference:** For the exact date, time and place, contact the Chicago National Enterprise Center at (312) 353-0182 or visit MBDA's Web site at <http://www.mbdba.gov>.

For Further Information and a copy of the application kit, contact Eric Dobyne, Regional Director at the phone number listed above.

**4. MBDC Application:** El Paso.

**Geographic Service Area:** El Paso, Texas MA.

**Award Number:** 06-10-04002-01.

The recipient is required to maintain its MBDC in El Paso, Texas.

Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for the first funding period from April 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004 is estimated at \$177,034. The total Federal amount is \$150,479. The application must include a minimum cost share of 15% or \$26,555 in non-Federal contributions. Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of

performance for each of two (2) remaining 12-month funding periods from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2006, is estimated at \$236,046. The total Federal amount is \$200,639. The application must include a minimum cost share of 15% or \$35,407 in non-Federal contributions.

**Pre-Application Conference:** For the exact date, time and place, contact the Dallas National Enterprise Center at (214) 767-8001 or visit MBDA's Web site at <http://www.mbda.gov>.

For Further Information and a copy of the application kit, contact John Iglehart, Regional Director at the phone number listed above.

5. **MBDC Application:** Arizona Statewide.

**Geographic Service Area:** State of Arizona.

**Award Number:** 09-10-04002-01.

The recipient is required to maintain its MBDC in Phoenix, Arizona.

Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for the first funding period from April 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004 is estimated at \$305,703. The total Federal amount if \$259,847. The application must include a minimum cost share of 15% or \$45,856 in non-Federal contributions. Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for each of two (2) remaining 12-month funding periods from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2006, is estimated at \$407,604. The total Federal amount is \$346,463. The application must include a minimum cost share of 15% or \$61,141 in non-Federal contributions.

**Pre-Application Conference:** For the exact date, time and place, contact the San Francisco National Enterprise Center at (415) 744-3001 or visit MBDA's Web site at <http://www.mbda.gov>.

For Further Information and a copy of the application kit, contact Linda Marmolejo, Regional Director at the phone number listed above.

**Authority:** Executive Order 11625 and 15 U.S.C. 1512.

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA):** 11.800 Minority Business Development Center (MBDC) Program.

**Eligibility Criteria:** For-profit entities (including sole-proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations), and non-profit organizations, state and local government entities, American Indian Tribes, and educational institutions are eligible to operate MBDCs.

**Matching Requirements:** Cost sharing of at least 15% is required for all geographic service areas.

## Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

## Limitation of Liability

In no event will MBDA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige MBDA or the Department of Commerce to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

## Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the **Federal Register** notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), are applicable to this solicitation.

## Executive Order 12866

This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

## Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act for rules concerning public property, loans, grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)). Because notice and opportunity for comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required and has not been prepared.

## Paperwork Reduction Act

This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, CD 346, and SF-LLL have been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, 0605-0001, and 0348-0046. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that

collection displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

**Ronald N. Langston,**

*National Director, Minority Business Development Agency.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Minority Business Development Agency

[Docket No. 000724218-4041-08]

### Solicitation of Applications for the Native American Business Development Center (NABDC) Program

**AGENCY:** Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting competitive applications from organizations to operate a Native American Business Development Centers (NABDC) under its Native American Business Development Center (NABDC) Program. The NABDC geographic service area being solicited in this Notice: The States of Minnesota/Iowa. The prior solicitation for this geographic service area was unsuccessful. The anticipated start date is April 1, 2004. The total award period for awards will be two years and nine months. Funding will be provided initially for a nine-month period, and provided annually thereafter. Future funding will be at the discretion of MBDA and the Department of Commerce, and will depend upon satisfactory performance by the award recipient, availability of funds, and Agency priorities.

The NABDC Program requires project operators to deploy standardized business assistance services to the Native American business public directly, to develop a network of strategic partnerships and to provide strategic business consulting within the geographic service area. These requirements will be used to generate increased results with respect to financing and contracts awarded to Native American and minority-owned firms and thus, are a key component of this program.

**DATES:** The closing date for submission of applications is March 12, 2004. Completed applications must be (1) mailed (USPS Postmark) to the address below; or (2) received by MBDA no later than 5 p.m. eastern standard time.