

Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the requirement of Section 6(b)(8) ¹⁰ that the proposed rule change not impose a burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the Act's purpose.

The Exchange has indicated that it intends to police compliance with the conditions applicable to the use of telephones at the equity trading posts through complaints from Exchange members at the post, as well as observations of Floor Officials and Exchange staff. The Exchange has further indicated that the OFTC will be responsible for implementing this policy in conformity with Exchange Rules and the Act, including approving access and the phone technology, and will decide any other issues relating to this policy.¹¹ The Commission finds that these proposed means of surveillance are consistent with prevention of fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, as required by Section 6(b)(5).

For these reasons, the Commission finds good cause for approving the proposed rule change (SR-PCX-00-33) prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of notice thereof in the **Federal Register**. The Commission notes that PCX's proposal is virtually identical to a proposed rule change by CBOE (SR-CBOE-00-04) that was recently approved by the Commission.¹²

The Commission believes that proper surveillance is an essential component of any policy governing telephone access to an exchange's trading floor. Especially important in this case is ensuring that the PCX's surveillance efforts prevent individuals who are not properly qualified to take public orders for securities (*i.e.*, non-Series 7 registered Exchange employees) from interacting with the public. The Commission finds that the safeguards proposed above by the PCX are consistent with the prevention of

fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, as required under Section 6(b)(5).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹³ that the proposed rule change (SR-PCX-00-33) is hereby approved on an accelerated basis.

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

Jonathan G. Katz,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-1802 Filed 1-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Notice Inviting Applications for Funding Under the Business-to-Business Learning, Investment, Networking and Collaboration (BusinessLINC) Program

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice of Invitation for Applications for Awards for FY 2001.

SUMMARY: The Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) invites applications for awards for fiscal year 2001 under a grant competition supported by § 102 of Public Law No. 106-554, BusinessLINC Grants and Cooperative Agreements ("BusinessLINC"). The statute authorizes the Administrator to enter into cooperative agreements with qualified coalitions of public and private entities to promote the growth of small businesses by matching large concerns with small concerns and creating business-to-business partnering and mentoring relationships. These BusinessLINC cooperative agreements would provide funding to qualified coalitions to: (1) Expand business-to-business relationships between large and small businesses, and (2) provide businesses with online information and a database of companies that are interested in mentor-protégé programs or community-based, statewide, or local business development programs. Coalitions may consist of public entities, private entities, or a combination of public and private entities. To qualify, the coalition must provide an amount, either in-kind or in cash, equal to the grant amount.

Subject to funding availability, SBA intends to award up to \$7.0 million in appropriated funds under this notice and expects to issue up to 50 awards.

SBA reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all or none of the applications submitted in response to this notice. Award amounts may vary, depending upon availability of funds (and performance for option years); however, award amounts will be at least \$25,000 and no single awardee may receive more than \$250,000 in a single fiscal year.

The selection criteria to be used for this competition will be provided in the application package.

DATES: The closing date for applications is March 20, 2001, 4 p.m., Eastern Standard Time (EST).

ADDRESSES: To obtain a copy of the complete application package, call Mina Bookhard at (202) 205-7080, or see the BusinessLINC Program Announcement under the "Go To New Stuff" icon on SBA's website at www.sba.gov.

FOR APPLICATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION: Questions concerning the technical aspects of this notice should be directed to Rick Mayronne at (202) 205-7736. Questions about budget or funding matters should be directed to Mina Bookhard at (202) 205-7080.

Program Authority: 15 U.S.C. § 637(n).

Dated: January 12, 2001.

Aida Alvarez,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 01-1709 Filed 1-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

SBA Minority Contractors Finance Pilot Loan Program

AGENCY: Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice of pilot program "SBA Minority Contractors Finance Pilot Loan Program"

SUMMARY: The Small Business Administration (SBA) is establishing a pilot program in which certain lenders will be permitted to use their own documentation forms to expeditiously approve loan amounts up to \$250,000 for small business contractors and subcontractors in Rhode Island using the Section 7(a) loan program. The program will offer a technical assistance component provided by a Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and additional guaranty support from non-SBA sources for a lower risk exposure that is attractive to lenders and other modifications to SBA's normal lending practices and procedures. This program will be called the SBA Minority Contractors Finance Pilot Loan Program. The purpose for this 18-month pilot program is to address the

Attorney, Division of Market Regulation, SEC (December 1, 2000).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

¹¹ Under this proposal, PCX Floor Brokers now will be able to receive telephone orders via personal or Exchange-owned cellular or cordless telephones (pursuant to proposed Rule 6.2(h)(5)(A)). The PCX represents, and the Commission notes, that surveillance of such telephone usage will be accomplished through the record-maintenance requirements in PCX Rule 6.2(h)(9), which would require members to maintain cellular or cordless phone records for at least one year and give the Exchange the authority to inspect such records. Telephone conversation between Cindy Sink, Senior Attorney, PCX, and Geoffrey Pemble, Attorney, Division of Market Regulation, SEC (November 30, 2000).

¹² See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43493 (October 30, 2000).

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).