

May 29, 2001 to become part of the hearing record.

To make special arrangements for persons with disabilities, contact Rosalie Vlach, Director, Legislative and Public Affairs, 1110 Vermont Avenue, NW., Suite 820, Washington, DC 20005, e-mail rvlach@nclis.gov, fax 202-606-9203 or telephone 202-606-9200.

Dated: March 14, 2001.

Robert S. Willard,

NCLIS Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 01-6862 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7527-01-P

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (01-038)]

Notice of Prospective Patent License

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of prospective patent license.

SUMMARY: NASA hereby gives notice that Rotary Transformers, Inc., of Blacksburg, Virginia has applied for an exclusive license to practice the invention disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,691,687 entitled "Contactless Magnetic Slip Ring," which is assigned to the United States of America as represented by the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Written objections to the prospective grant of a license should be sent to Ames Research Center.

DATES: Responses to this notice must be received by May 21, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Padilla, Patent Counsel, NASA Ames Research Center, Mail Stop 202A-3, Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000, telephone (650) 604-5104.

Dated: March 14, 2000.

Robert M. Stephens,

Deputy General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 01-6809 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510-01-U

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—National Origin Discrimination Against Persons With Limited English Proficiency; Policy Guidance

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is publishing policy

guidance on Title VI's prohibition against national origin discrimination as it affects limited English proficient persons. This policy guidance does not create new obligations, but rather, clarifies existing Title VI responsibilities. The purpose of this document is to set forth general principles for the recipients of NSF financial assistance to apply when developing services to individuals with limited English proficiency as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

DATES: This guidance is effective immediately. Comments must be submitted on or before May 21, 2001. NSF will review all comments and will determine what modifications to the policy guidance, if any, are necessary.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit written comments to Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to: rleichte@nsf.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ana Ortiz or Ruth Leichter at the above address or by telephone at 703-292-8020; TDD: 703-292-9027. Arrangements to receive the policy in an alternative format may be made by contacting the named individuals.

Ana Ortiz,

Program Manager, Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, National Science Foundation.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d, *et seq.* and its implementing regulations provide that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under any program or activity that receives federal financial assistance. The purpose of this policy guidance is to clarify the responsibilities of recipients of federal financial assistance from the National Science Foundation (NSF), and assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities to limited English proficient (LEP) persons pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and implementing regulations. The policy guidance reiterates NSF's longstanding position that in order to avoid discrimination against LEP persons on the grounds of national origin, recipients must take reasonable steps to ensure that such persons have meaningful access to the programs, services, and information those recipients provide, free of charge.

I. Background

On August 11, 2000, the President issued Executive Order 13166, titled "Improving Access to Services by Persons With Limited English Proficiency." 65 FR 50121 (August 16, 2000). On the same day, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights issued a Policy Guidance Document, titled "Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—National Origin Discrimination Against Persons With Limited English Proficiency" (hereinafter referred to as "DOJ LEP Guidance"), reprinted at 65 FR 50123 (August 16, 2000).

Executive Order 13166 requires federal agencies to assess and address the needs of otherwise eligible persons seeking access to federally conducted programs and activities who, due to limited English proficiency, cannot fully and equally participate in or benefit from those programs and activities. The DOJ LEP Guidance in turn advises each federal department or agency to "take reasonable steps to ensure 'meaningful' access [to LEP individuals] to the information and services they provide." DOJ LEP Guidance, 65 FR at 50124. The DOJ LEP Guidance goes on to provide that what constitutes reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access will be contingent on a number of factors. Among the factors to be considered are the number or proportion of LEP persons in the eligible service population, the frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with the program, the importance of the service provided by the program, and the resources available to the agency. Id. The DOJ LEP Guidance explains that the identification of "reasonable steps" to provide oral and written services in languages other than English is to be determined on a case-by-case basis through a balancing of all four factors. As required by Executive Order 13166, this policy guidance is consistent with the compliance standards set out in the DOJ LEP Guidance.

II. Legal Background

The Title VI requirement to provide meaningful access to LEP persons is not new. Section 601 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Section 2000d, *et seq.* states: "No person in the United States shall on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." This is further ordered by Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons With