

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Fiscal Service****Surety Companies Acceptable on Federal Bonds—Name Change and Change in State of Incorporation: Nations Bonding Company**

AGENCY: Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is Supplement No. 10 to the Treasury Department Circular 570; 2011 Revision, published July 1, 2011, at 76 FR 38892.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Surety Bond Branch at (202) 874-6850.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Nations Bonding Company (NAIC #11595) has formally changed its name to Merchants National Bonding, Inc., and has redomesticated from the state of Texas to the state of Iowa, effective January 1, 2012. Federal bond-approving officers should annotate their reference copies of the Treasury Circular 570, 2011 Revision, to reflect this change.

The Circular may be viewed and downloaded through the Internet at <http://www.fms.treas.gov/c570>.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Financial Accounting and Services Division, Surety Bond Branch, 3700 East-West Highway, Room 6F01, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Dated: February 15, 2012.

Laura Carrico,

Director, Financial Accounting and Services Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**Announcement of Competition Under the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2011: Badges for Veterans Contest**

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: To encourage creation of systems which help good jobs find Veterans and Veterans find good jobs, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces a prize contest under Section 105 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2011, Public Law 111-358 (2011) (the “Act”).

DATES: Entries will be accepted until 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, February

27, 2012. Winners will be announced on or about March 1, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James M. Speros, Special Assistant to Chief Technology Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420; (202) 461-7214. (This is not a toll-free number.) *Also, see Section 6.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Veterans rejoin the civilian community with up-to-date, cutting edge job skills developed during training and work experience in their military service. These job skills are highly valued and desired by civilian employers. Veterans report challenges in “translating” military job skills to their civilian counterparts and in obtaining civilian credit for military training. The easier task is drawing direct linkages between skills acquired in the military and the duties performed in civilian jobs. More challenging is obtaining civilian recognition of military training when formal education or other credential is a prerequisite for employment, self employment, or licensure leading to employment.

Through the Badges for Vets Contest (“Vets Contest”), VA and its collaborators, the U.S. Departments of Education, Labor, and Energy, seek an easily understandable means to translate military training and experience into their civilian equivalents. The badges created under this system will be marketable credentials enabling employers to quickly identify Veterans as among the best qualified in any job applicant pool, or which identify Veterans as qualified to perform services if self-employed.

Because a Veteran employed or self-employed in a civilian occupation can far more readily re-enter non-military society, Veteran employment is an objective of several programs administered by VA and its Government collaborators. The Badges for Vets Contest will advance the mission of VA by encouraging the development of systems which help good jobs find Veterans and Veterans find good jobs.

The Vets Contest will be conducted in cooperation with the “Badges for Lifelong Learning Competition” (“Competition”) administered by the Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Advanced Collaboratory (HASTAC) Initiative with the support of the Mozilla Foundation and the McArthur Foundation, <http://www.dmlcompetition.net/Competition/4/badges-competition-cfp.php>. The goal of the Competition is support for the creation of digital tools to identify, recognize,

measure, and account for skills, competencies, knowledge, and achievements acquired during the course of lifelong learning. The Mozilla Open Badge Infrastructure, <http://openbadges.org>, has been selected to enable interoperability and seamless collection of badges. The Vets Contest is described generally at <http://www.dmlcompetition.net/Competition/4/badges-projects.php?id=2667>.

VA does not anticipate that it will issue badges or, except as an employer, actively participate in the resulting badges program. Instead, VA believes it can serve Veterans and employers by acting as a catalyst for the development of meaningful badge systems for use by Veterans and employers.

Contest Requirements and Rules

1. *Subject of the Contest.* The goal of the Vets Contest is to support the development of systems that deliver real, substantial and sustainable benefits to employers and to Veterans by enabling employers to quickly identify Veterans who have military education and skills that meet requirements for civilian jobs, or which help Veterans who want to start their own business demonstrate their qualifications to their customers.

2. *Amount of the prize.* VA will award up to \$25,000 to as many as three entrants. VA may elect to award two additional prizes of up to \$25,000 each.

3. *Participation in the Contest* will be through the Badges for Lifelong Learning Competition.

a. The Vets Contest will be administered by VA according to the rules and requirements posted on the Competition Web site, <http://www.dmlcompetition.net/Competition/4/badges-competition-cfp.php>, including those on the “Terms and Conditions” page, <http://www.dmlcompetition.net/Competition/4/badges-terms-and-conditions.php#IP>.

b. The rules in this Notice supplement the rules on the Competition Web site. If there is any conflict between any requirement stated on the Competition Web site and the provisions of this Notice, the provisions of this Notice will govern.

c. *Important:* Entries must be made through the Competition Web site: <http://fastapps.dmlcompetition.net/user/login?url=application%2Fsubmit%2Fdmlc-4v>. Before submitting an entry, an entrant must register for a FastApps account at <http://fastapps.dmlcompetition.net/user/register>. Registration for a FastApps account constitutes “registration to participate in the competition” required by Section 105(g)(1) of the Act.