EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

February 10, 1982

CIRCULAR No. A-124

TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

SUBJECT: Patents - Small Business Firms and Nonprofit Organizations

1. Purpose. This Circular provides policies, procedures, and guidelines with respect to inventions made by small business firms and nonprofit organizations, including universities, under funding agreements with Federal agencies where a purpose is to perform experimental, developmental, or research work.

2. Rescissions. This Circular supersedes OMB Bulletin 81-22 effective March 1, 1982.

3. Authority. This Circular is issued pursuant to the authority contained in 35 U.S.C. §206 (§6 of P.L. 96-517, "The Patent and Trademark Amendments of 1980").

4. Background. After many years of public debate on means to enhance the utilization of the results of Government funded research, Public Law 96-517 was enacted. This Act gives nonprofit organizations and small businesses, with limited exceptions, a first right of refusal to title in inventions they have made in performance of Government grants and contracts. The Act takes precedence over approximately 26 conflicting statutory and administrative policies.

Under the Act, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) is responsible for the issuance of the regulations implementing 35 U.S.C. §202-204 after consultation with the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). On July 2, 1981, OMB Bulletin 81-22 was issued to provide interim regulations while agency and public comments were sought. Based on a review of these comments, this Circular is issued to establish permanent implementing regulations and a standard patent rights clause.

5. Policy and Scope. This Circular takes effect on March 1, 1982, and will be applicable to all funding agreements with small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations executed on or after that date. This includes

a review of these comments, this Circular is issued to establish permanent implementing regulations and a standard patent rights clause.

5. Policy and Scope. This Circular takes effect on March 1, 1982, and will be applicable to all funding agreements with small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations executed on or after that date. This includes

subcontracts at any tier made after March 1, 1982, with small business firms and nonprofit organizations even if the prime funding agreement was made prior to March 1, 1982. Unless prohibited by law, agencies are encouraged to treat subject inventions made under funding agreements made prior to July 1, 1981, in substantially the same manner as contemplated by P.L. 96-517 and this Circular for inventions made under funding agreements entered into subsequent to July 1, 1981. This can be accomplished through the granting of waivers of title on terms and conditions substantially similar to those set forth in the standard clause of Attachment A.

Agencies should be alert to determining whether amendments made after March 1, 1982, to funding agreements entered into prior to July 1, 1981, result in new funding agreements subject to this Circular and the Act. Renewals and continuations after March 1, 1982, of funding agreements entered into prior to July 1, 1981, should be normally treated as new funding agreements.

This Circular is intended to establish uniform and coordinated implementation of 35 U.S.C. §200-206 so as to foster the policy and objectives set forth in 35 U.S.C. §200.

6. Definitions. As used in this Circular --

a. The term "funding agreement" means any contract, grant, or cooperative agreement entered into between any Federal agency, other than the Tennessee Valley Authority, and any contractor for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government. Such term includes any assignment, substitution of parties, or subcontract of any type entered into for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work under a funding agreement, as herein defined.

b. The term "contractor" means any person, small business firm or nonprofit organization that is a party to a funding agreement.

c. The term "invention" means any invention or

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b. The term "contractor" means any person, small business firm or nonprofit organization that is a party to a funding agreement.

c. The term "invention" means any invention or discovery which is or may be patentable or otherwise protectable under Title 35 of the United States Code.

d. The term "subject invention" means any invention of

conditions as to establish that the invention is being utilized and that its benefits are, to the extent permitted by law or Government regulations, available to the public on reasonable terms.

f. The term "made" when used in relation to any invention means the conception or first actual reduction to practice of such invention.

g. The term "small business firm" means a small business concern as defined at section 2 of Public Law 85-536 (15 U.S.C. §632) and implementing regulations of the Administrator of the Small Business Administration. For the purpose of this Circular, the size standards for small business concerns involved in Government procurement and subcontracting at 13 CFR 121.3-8 and 121.3-12, respectively, will be used.

h. The term "nonprofit organization" means universities and other institutions of higher education or an organization of the type described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. §501(c)) and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. §501(a)) or any nonprofit scientific or educational organization qualified under a state nonprofit organization statute.

7. Use of the Patent Rights (Small Business Firm or Nonprofit Organization) (March 1982) Clause.

a. Each funding agreement awarded to a small business firm or domestic nonprofit organization which has as a purpose the performance of experimental, developmental or research work shall contain the "Patent Rights (Small Business Firm or Nonprofit Organization) (March 1982)" clause set forth in Attachment A with such modifications and tailoring as may be authorized in Part 8, except that the funding agreement may contain alternative provisions--

(1) when the funding agreement is for the operation of a Government-owned research or production facility; or

(2) in exceptional circumstances when it is determined by the agency that restriction or elimination of the right to retain title to any subject invention will better promote the policy and objectives of Chapter 38 of Title 35 of the United States Code; or

determined by the agency that restriction or elimination of the right to retain title to any subject invention will better promote the policy and objectives of Chapter 38 of Title 35 of the United States Code; or

(3) when it is determined by a Government authority which is authorized by statute or executive order to conduct foreign intelligence or counterintelligence activities that the restriction or elimination of the right to retain title to any subject invention is necessary to protect the security of such activities.

b. (1) Any determination under Part 7.a.(2) of this Circular will be in writing and accompanied by a written statement of facts justifying the determination. The statement of facts will contain such information as the funding Federal agency deems relevant and, at minimum, will (i) identify the small business firm or nonprofit organization involved, (ii) describe the extent to which agency action restricted or eliminated the right to retain title to a subject invention, (iii) state the facts and rationale supporting the agency action, (iv) provide supporting documentation for those facts and rationale, and (v) indicate the nature of any objections to the agency action and provide any documentation in which those objections appear. A copy of each such determination and written statement of facts will be sent to the Comptroller General of the United States within 30 days after the award of the applicable funding agreement. In cases of determinations application to small business firms, copies will also be sent to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

(2) To assist the Comptroller General to accomplish his or her responsibilities under 35 U.S.C. §202, each Federal agency that enters into any funding agreements with nonprofit organizations or small business firms during the applicable reporting period shall accumulate and, at the request of the Comptroller General, provide the Comptroller General or his or her duly authorized representative the total number of prime funding agreements entered into with small business firms or nonprofit organizations that contain the patent rights clause of Attachment A during each period of October 1 through September 30, beginning October 1, 1982.

c. (1) Agencies are advised that Part 7.a. applies to the Small Business Administration.

(2) To assist the Comptroller General to accomplish his or her responsibilities under 35 U.S.C. §202, each Federal agency that enters into any funding agreements with nonprofit organizations or small business firms during the applicable reporting period shall accumulate and, at the request of the Comptroller General, provide the Comptroller General or his or her duly authorized representative the total number of prime funding agreements entered into with small business firms or nonprofit organizations that contain the patent rights clause of Attachment A during each period of October 1 through September 30, beginning October 1, 1982.

c. (1) Agencies are advised that Part 7.a. applies to subcontracts at any tier under prime funding agreements with contractors that are other than small business firms or nonprofit organizations. Accordingly, agencies should take

agreement was awarded), the agency shall take appropriate action to ensure that small business firms or domestic nonprofit organization subcontractors under such prime funding agreements that received their subcontracts after July 1, 1981, will receive rights in their subject inventions that are consistent with P.L. 96-517 and this Circular. Appropriate actions might include (i) amendment of prime contracts and/or subcontracts; (ii) requiring the inclusion of the clause of Attachment A as a condition of agency approval of a subcontract; or (iii) the granting of title to the subcontractor to identified subject inventions on terms substantially the same as contained in the clause of Attachment A in the event the subcontract contains a "deferred determination" or "acquisition by the Government" type of patent rights clause.

d. To qualify for the clause of Attachment A, a prospective contractor may be required by an agency to certify that it is either a small business firm or a domestic nonprofit organization. If the agency has reason to question the status of the prospective contractor as a small business firm or domestic nonprofit organization, it may file a protest in accordance with 13 C.F.R. 121.3-5 if small business firm status is questioned or require the prospective contractor to furnish evidence to establish its status as a domestic nonprofit organization.

8. Instructions for Modification and Tailoring of the Clause of Attachment A.

a. Agencies should complete the blank in paragraph g.(2) of the clause of Attachment A in accordance with their own or applicable Government-wide regulations such as the FPR or DAR. The flow-down provisions of the clause cited by the agency should, of course, reflect the requirement of Part 7.c.(1).

b. Agencies should complete paragraph 1. "Communications" at the end of the clause of Attachment A by designating a central point of contact for communications on matters relating to the clause. Additional instructions on communications may also be included in paragraph 1.

c. Agencies may replace the italicized or underlined words and phrases with those appropriate to the particular funding agreement. For example "contract" could be replaced by "grant", "contractor" by "grantee", and "contracting officer" by "grants officer." Depending on its use, "Federal agency" can be replaced either by the identification of the agency or by the specification of the particular office or official within that agency.

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d. When the agency head or duly authorized designee determines at the time of contracting with a small business firm or nonprofit organization that it would be in the national interest to acquire the right to sublicense foreign governments or international organizations pursuant to any existing treaty or agreement, a sentence may be added at the end of paragraph b. of the clause of Attachment A as follows:

> "This license will include the right of the Government to sublicense foreign governments and international organizations pursuant to the following treaties or international agreements: _____; or pursuant to any future treaties or agreements with foreign governments or international organizations."

The blank in the above should be completed with the names of applicable existing treaties or international agreements. The above language is not intended to apply to treaties or agreements that are in effect on the date of the award which are not listed. The above language may be modified by agencies by deleting the reference to future treaties or agreements or by otherwise more narrowly defining classes of future treaties or agreements. The language may also be modified to make clear that the rights granted to the foreign government or international organization may be for additional rights beyond a license or sublicense if so required by the applicable treaty or international agreement. For example, in some cases exclusive licenses or even the assignment of title in the foreign country involved might be required. Agencies may also modify the language above to provide for the direct licensing by the contractor of the foreign government or international organization.

e. To the extent not required by other provisions of the funding agreement, agencies may add additional subparagraphs to paragraph (f) of the patent rights clause of Attachment A to require the contractor to do one or more of the following:

national organization may be for additional rights beyond a license or sublicense if so required by the applicable treaty or international agreement. For example, in some cases exclusive licenses or even the assignment of title in the foreign country involved might be required. Agencies may also modify the language above to provide for the direct licensing by the contractor of the foreign government or international organization.

e. To the extent not required by other provisions of the funding agreement, agencies may add additional subparagraphs to paragraph (f) of the patent rights clause of Attachment A to require the contractor to do one or more of the following:

(1) Provide periodic (but no more frequently than annually) listings of all subject inventions required to be disclosed during the period covered by the report;

(4) Provide, upon request, the filing date, serial number and title; a copy of the patent application; and patent number and issue date for any subject invention in any country in which the contractor has applied for patents.

Part 9. Publication or Release of Invention Disclosures

a. 35 U.S.C. §205 provides as follows:

> "Federal agencies are authorized to withhold from disclosure to the public information disclosing any invention in which the Federal Government owns or may own a right, title, or interest (including a nonexclusive license) for a reasonable time in order for a patent application to be filed. Furthermore, Federal agencies shall not be required to release copies of any document which is part of an application for patent filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office or with any foreign patent office."

b. To the extent authorized by 35 U.S.C. §205, agencies shall not disclose to third parties pursuant to requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) any information disclosing a subject invention for a reasonable time in order for a patent application to be filed. With respect to subject inventions of contractors that are small business firms or nonprofit organizations, a reasonable time shall be the time during which an initial patent application may be filed under paragraph c. of the clause of Attachment A or such other clause that may be used in the funding agreement. However, an agency may disclose such subject inventions under the FOIA, at its discretion, after a contractor has elected not to retain title or after the time in which the contractor is required to make an election if the contractor has not made an election within that time. Similarly, an agency may honor an FOIA request at its discretion if it finds that the same information has previously been published by the inventor, contractor, or otherwise. If the agency plans to file itself when the contractor has not elected title, it may, of course, continue to avail itself of the authority of 35 U.S.C. §205.

c. As authorized by 35 U.S.C. §205, Federal agencies shall not release copies of any document which is part of an application for patent filed on a subject invention to which a small business firm or nonprofit organization elected to retain title.

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shall not release copies of any document which is part of an application for patent filed on a subject invention to which a small business firm or nonprofit organization elected to retain title.

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agency through publication in Government or other publications of technical reports of contractors or others. In recognition of the fact that such publication, if it included descriptions of a subject invention, could create bars to obtaining patent protection, it is the policy of the executive branch that agencies will not include in such publication programs, copies of disclosures of inventions submitted by small business firms or nonprofit organizations, pursuant to paragraph c. of the clause of Attachment A, except that under the same circumstances under which agencies are authorized to release such information pursuant to FOIA requests under Part 9.b. above, agencies may publish such disclosures.

e. Nothing in this Part is intended to preclude agencies from including in the publication activities described in the first sentence of Part 9.d., the publication of materials describing a subject invention to the extent such materials were provided as part of a technical report or other submission of the contractor which were submitted independently of the requirements of the patent rights provisions of the contract. However, if a small business firm or nonprofit organization notifies the agency that a particular report or other submission contains a disclosure of a subject invention to which it has elected or may elect title, the agency will use reasonable efforts to restrict its publication of the material for six months from date of its receipt of the report or submission or, if earlier, until the contractor has filed an initial patent application. Agencies, of course, retain the discretion to delay publication for additional periods of time.

f. Nothing in this Part 9 is intended to limit the authority of agencies provided in 35 U.S.C. §205 in circumstances not specifically described in this Part 9.

10. Reporting on Utilization of Subject Inventions.

a. Paragraph h. of the clause of Attachment A provides that agencies have the right to receive periodic reports from the contractor on utilization of inventions. In accordance with such instructions as may be issued by the Department of Commerce, agencies shall obtain such information from their

filed an initial patent application. Agencies, of course, retain the discretion to delay publication for additional periods of time.

f. Nothing in this Part 9 is intended to limit the authority of agencies provided in 35 U.S.C. §205 in circumstances not specifically described in this Part 9.

10. Reporting on Utilization of Subject Inventions.

a. Paragraph h. of the clause of Attachment A provides that agencies have the right to receive periodic reports from the contractor on utilization of inventions. In accordance with such instructions as may be issued by the Department of Commerce, agencies shall obtain such information from their

contractors. Pending such instructions, agencies should not impose reporting requirements. The Department of Commerce and the agencies, in conjunction with representatives of small

35 U.S.C. §202(c)(5), disclose such information to persons outside the Government.

11. Retention of Rights by Inventor. Agencies which allow an inventor to retain rights to a subject invention made under a funding agreement with a small business firm or nonprofit organization contractor, as authorized by 35 U.S.C. §202(d), will impose upon the inventor at least those conditions that would apply to a small business firm contractor under paragraphs d.(ii) and (iii); f.(4); h.; i.; and j. of the clause of Attachment A.

12. Government Assignment to Contractor of Rights in Invention of Government Employee. In any case when a Federal employee is a co-inventor of any invention made under a funding agreement with a small business firm or nonprofit organization and the Federal agency employing such co-inventor transfers or reassigns the right it has acquired in the subject invention from its employee to the contractor as authorized by 35 U.S.C. 202(e), the assignment will be made subject to the same conditions as would apply to the contractor under the clause of Attachment A.

13. Exercise of March-in Rights.

a. The following procedures shall govern the exercise of the march-in rights of the agencies set forth in 35 U.S.C. §203 and the clause at Attachment A.

b. Whenever an agency receives information that it believes might warrant the exercise of march-in rights, before initiating any march-in proceeding in accordance with the procedures of Part 13.c.-h. below, it shall notify the contractor in writing of the information and request informal written or oral comments from the contractor. In the absence of any comments from the contractor within 30 days, the agency may, at its discretion, proceed with the procedures below. If a comment is received, whether or not within 30 days, then the agency shall, within 60 days after it receives the comment, either initiate the procedures below or notify the contractor, in writing, that it will not pursue march-in rights based on the information about which the contractor was notified.

c. A march-in proceeding shall be initiated by the issuance of a written notice by the agency to the contractor and its assignee or exclusive licensee, as applicable, stating that the agency is considering the exercise of march-in rights. The notice shall state the reasons for the proposed march-in in terms sufficient to put the contractor on notice of the facts upon which the action would be based and shall specify the field or fields of use in which the agency is considering requiring licensing. The notice shall advise the

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contractor (assignee or exclusive licensee) of its rights, as set forth in this Circular and in any supplemental agency regulations. The determination to exercise march-in rights shall be made by the head of the agency or designee, except as provided in part 13.j. below.

d. Within 30 days after receipt of the written notice of march-in, the contractor (assignee or exclusive licensee) may submit, in person, in writing, or through a representative, information or argument in opposition to the proposed march-in, including any additional specific information which raises a genuine dispute over the material facts upon which the march-in is based. If the information presented raises a genuine dispute over the material facts, the head of the agency or designee shall undertake or refer the matter to another official for fact-finding.

e. Fact-finding shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures established by the agency. Such procedures shall be as informal as practicable and be consistent with principles of fundamental fairness. The procedures should afford the contractor the opportunity to appear with counsel, submit documentary evidence, present witnesses and confront such persons as the agency may present. A transcribed record shall be made and shall be available at cost to the contractor upon request. The requirement for a transcribed record may be waived by mutual agreement of the contractor and the agency. Any portion of a fact-finding hearing that involves testimony or evidence relating to the utilization or efforts at obtaining utilization that are being made by the contractor, its assignee, or licensees shall be closed to the public, including potential licensees.

f. The official conducting the fact-finding shall prepare written findings of fact and transmit them to the head of the agency or designee promptly after the conclusion of the fact-finding proceeding. A copy of the findings of fact shall be sent to the contractor (assignee or exclusive licensee) by registered or certified mail.

g. In cases in which fact-finding has been conducted, waived by mutual agreement of the contractor and the agency. Any portion of a fact-finding hearing that involves testimony or evidence relating to the utilization or efforts at obtaining utilization that are being made by the contractor, its assignee, or licensees shall be closed to the public, including potential licensees.

f. The official conducting the fact-finding shall prepare written findings of fact and transmit them to the head of the agency or designee promptly after the conclusion of the fact-finding proceeding. A copy of the findings of fact shall be sent to the contractor (assignee or exclusive licensee) by registered or certified mail.

g. In cases in which fact-finding has been conducted, the head of the agency or designee shall base his or her determination on the facts found, together with any other information and argument submitted by the contractor (assignee

head of the agency or designee and sent to the contractor (assignee or exclusive licensee) by certified or registered mail within 90 days after the completion of fact-finding or the proceedings will be deemed to have been terminated and thereafter no march-in based on the facts and reasons upon which the proceeding was initiated may be exercised.

h. An agency may, at any time, terminate a march-in proceeding if it is satisfied that it does not wish to exercise march-in rights.

i. The procedures of this Part shall also apply to the exercise of march-in rights against inventors receiving title to subject inventions under 35 U.S.C. §202(d) and, for that purpose, the term "contractor" as used in this Part shall be deemed to include the inventor.

j. Notwithstanding the last sentence of Part 13.c., a determination to exercise march-in in cases where the subject invention was made under a contract may be made initially by the contracting officer in accordance with the procedures of the Contract Disputes Act. In such cases, the procedures of the Contract Disputes Act will apply in lieu of those in Parts 13.d.-g. above (except that the last sentence of Part 13.e. shall continue to apply). However, when the procedures of this Part 13.j. are used, the contractor, assignee, or exclusive license will not be required to grant a license and the Government will not grant any license until after either: (1) 90 days from the date of the contractor's receipt of the contracting officer's decision, if no appeal of the decision has been made to an agency board of contract appeals, or if no action has been brought under Section 10 of the Act within that time; or (2) the board or court, as the case may be, has made a final decision in cases when an appeal or action has been brought within 90 days of the contracting officer's decision.

k. Agencies are authorized to issue supplemental procedures, not inconsistent herewith, for the conduct of march-in proceedings.

14. Appeals.

a. The agency official initially authorized to take any of the following actions shall provide the contractor with a written statement of the basis for his or her action at the time the action is taken, including any relevant facts that were relied upon in taking the action:

(1) A refusal to grant an extension under paragraph c.(4) of the clause of Attachment A.

written statement of the basis for his or her action at the time the action is taken, including any relevant facts that were relied upon in taking the action:

(1) A refusal to grant an extension under paragraph c.(4) of the clause of Attachment A.

(2) A request for a conveyance of title under paragraph d. of the clause of Attachment A.

(3) A refusal to grant a waiver under paragraph i. of the clause of Attachment A.

(4) A refusal to approve an assignment under paragraph k.(1) of the clause of Attachment A.

(5) A refusal to approve an extension of the exclusive license period under paragraph k.(2) of the clause of Attachment A.

b. Each agency shall establish and publish procedures under which any of the agency actions listed in Part 14.a. above may be appealed to the head of the agency or designee. Review at this level shall consider both the factual and legal basis for the action and its consistency with the policy and objectives of 35 U.S.C. §200-206 and this Circular.

c. Appeals procedures established under Part 14.b. above shall include administrative due process procedures and standards for fact-finding at least comparable to those set forth in Part 13.e.-g. of this Circular whenever there is a dispute as to the factual basis for an agency request for a conveyance of title under paragraph d. of the clause of Attachment A, including any dispute as to whether or not an invention is a subject invention.

d. To the extent that any of the actions described in Part 14.a. are subject to appeal under the Contracts Dispute Act, the procedures under that Act will satisfy the requirements of Parts 14.b. and c. above.

15. Licensing of Background Patent Rights to Third Parties.

a. A funding agreement with a small business firm or a domestic nonprofit organization will not contain a provision allowing a Federal agency to require the licensing to third parties of inventions owned by the contractor that are not subject inventions unless such provision has been approved by the agency head and a written justification has been signed by

invention is a subject invention.

d. To the extent that any of the actions described in Part 14.a. are subject to appeal under the Contracts Dispute Act, the procedures under that Act will satisfy the requirements of Parts 14.b. and c. above.

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a. A funding agreement with a small business firm or a domestic nonprofit organization will not contain a provision allowing a Federal agency to require the licensing to third parties of inventions owned by the contractor that are not subject inventions unless such provision has been approved by the agency head and a written justification has been signed by the agency head. Any such provision will clearly state whether the licensing may be required in connection with the practice of a subject invention, a specifically identified

necessary for the practice of a subject invention or for the use of a work object of the funding agreement and that such action is necessary to achieve practical application of the subject invention or work object. Any such determination will be on the record after an opportunity for an agency hearing, and the contractor shall be given prompt notification of the determination by certified or registered mail.

16. Administration of Patent Rights Clause.

a. It is important that the Government and the contractor know and exercise their rights in subject inventions in order to ensure their expeditious availability to the public, to enable the Government, the contractor, and the public to avoid unnecessary payment of royalties, and to defend themselves against claims and suits for patent infringement. To attain these ends, contracts should be so administered that:

(1) Inventions are identified, disclosed, and an election is made as required by the contract clause.

(2) The rights of the Government in such inventions are established;

(3) When appropriate, patent applications are timely filed and prosecuted by contractors or by the Government;

(4) The rights in patent applications are documented by formal instruments such as licenses or assignments;

(5) Expeditious commercial utilization of such inventions is achieved.

b. With respect to the conveyance of license or assignments to which the Government may be entitled under the clause of Attachment A, agencies should follow the guidance provided in 41 CFR 1-9.109-5 or 32 CFR 9-109.5.

c. In the event a subject invention is made under funding agreements of more than one agency, at the request of the contractor or on their own initiative, the agencies shall designate one agency as responsible for administration of the rights of the Government in the invention.

17. Modification of Existing Agency Regulations.

a. Existing agency patent regulations or other published policies concerning inventions made under funding agreements shall be modified as necessary to make them

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17. Modification of Existing Agency Regulations.

a. Existing agency patent regulations or other published policies concerning inventions made under funding agreements shall be modified as necessary to make them

consistent with this Circular and 35 U.S.C. §200-206. Agency regulations shall not be more restrictive or burdensome than the provisions of this Circular.

b. After March 1, 1982, this Circular and 35 U.S.C. §200-206 shall take precedence over any conflicting agency regulations or policies.

18. Lead Agency Designation. In order to assist the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to ensure that 35 U.S.C. §200-206 and this Circular are implemented in a uniform and consistent manner, the following responsibilities are assigned to the Department of Commerce (hereafter referred to as "The Department"). Other agencies shall fully cooperate and assist in the carrying out of these responsibilities:

a. The Department will monitor agency regulations and procedures for consistency with the Act and this Circular, and it shall provide recommendations to OFPP and agencies whenever it finds inconsistencies.

b. The Department will consult with representatives of 19 agencies and contractors to obtain advice on --

(1) the development of the periodic reporting system required under Part 10 of this Circular, and

(2) changes in this Circular which may be needed based on actual experience under the Circular.

c. The Department will accumulate, maintain, and publish such statistics and analysis on utilization and activities under this Circular and under Government patent policies and practices generally, as may be agreed to between the Department and OFPP.

d. The Department will make recommendations to OFPP on changes that may be needed in this Circular.

19. Sunset Review Date. This Circular shall have a policy review no later than three years from the date of its issuance.

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d. The Department will make recommendations to OFPP on changes that may be needed in this Circular.

19. Sunset Review Date. This Circular shall have a policy review no later than three years from the date of its issuance.

20. Inquiries. All questions or inquiries should be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of

The following is the standard patent rights claused to be used in funding agreements as provided in Part 7.

PATENT RIGHTS (Small Business Firms and Nonprofit Organizations) (March 1982)

a. Definitions

(1) "Invention" means any invention or discovery which is or may be patentable or otherwise protectable under Title 35 of the United States Code.

(2) "Subject Invention" means any invention of the contractor conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the performance of work under this contract.

(3) "Practical Application" means to manufacture in the case of a composition or product, to practice in the case of a process or method, or to operate in the case of a machine or system; and, in each case, under such conditions as to establish that the invention is being utilized and that its benefits are, to the extent permitted by law or Government regulations, available to the public on reasonable terms.

(4) "Made" when used in relation to any invention means the conception or first actual reduction to practice of such invention.

(5) "Small Business Firm" means a small business concern as defined at Section 2 of Public Law 85-536 (15 U.S.C. §632) and implementing regulations of the Administrator of the Small Business Administration. For the purpose of this clause, the size standards for small business concerns involved in Government procurement and subcontracting at 13 C.F.R. 121.3-8 and 13 C.F.R. 121.3-12, respectively, will be used.

(6) "Nonprofit Organization" means a university or other institution of higher education or an organization of the type described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 USC §501(c)) and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 USC §501(a)) or any nonprofit scientific or educational organization qualified under a state nonprofit organization statute.

under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 USC §501(a)) or any nonprofit scientific or educational organization qualified under a state nonprofit organization statute.

b. Allocation of Principal Rights

The contractor may retain the entire right, title, and interest throughout the world to each subject invention subject to the provisions of this clause and 35 U.S.C. 203. With respect to any subject invention in which the contractor retains title, the Federal Government shall have a non-exclusive, non-transferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to practice or have practiced for or on behalf of the United States the subject invention throughout the world.

c. Invention Disclosure, Election of Title and Filing of Patent Applications by Contractor.

(1) The contractor will disclose each subject invention to the Federal agency within two months after the inventor discloses it in writing to contractor personnel responsible for patent matters. The disclosure to the agency shall be in the form of a written report and shall identify the contract under which the invention was made and the inventor(s). It shall be sufficiently complete in technical detail to convey a clear understanding, to the extent known at the time of the disclosure, of the nature, purpose, operation, and the physical, chemical, biological or electrical characteristics of the invention. The disclosure shall also identify any publication, on sale or public use of the invention and whether a manuscript describing the invention has been submitted for publication and, if so, whether it has been accepted for publication at the time of disclosure. In addition, after disclosure to the agency, the contractor will promptly notify the agency of the acceptance of any manuscript describing the invention for publication or of any on sale or public use planned by the contractor.

(2) The contractor will elect in writing whether or not to retain title to any such invention by notifying the Federal agency within twelve months of disclosure to the contractor; provided that in any case where publication, on sale or public use has initiated the one year statutory period wherein valid patent protection can still be obtained in the United States, the period for election of title may be shortened by the agency to a date that is no more than 60 days

been submitted for publication and, if so, whether it has been accepted for publication at the time of disclosure. In addition, after disclosure to the agency, the contractor will promptly notify the agency of the acceptance of any manuscript describing the invention for publication or of any on sale or public use planned by the contractor.

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prior to the end of the statutory period.

(3) The contractor will file its initial patent

permission is granted by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to file foreign patent applications where such filing has been prohibited by a Secrecy Order.

(4) Requests for extension of the time for disclosure to the agency, election, and filing may, at the discretion of the funding Federal agency, be granted.

d. Conditions When the Government May Obtain Title.

(1) The contractor will convey to the Federal agency, upon written request, title to any subject invention:

(i) If the contractor fails to disclose or elect the subject invention within the times specified in c. above, or elects not to retain title.

(ii) In those countries in which the contractor fails to file patent applications within the times specified in c. above; provided, however, that if the contractor has filed a patent application in a country after the times specified in c., above, but prior to its receipt of the written request of the Federal agency, the contractor shall continue to retain title in that country.

(iii) In any country in which the contractor decides not to continue the prosecution of any application for, to pay the maintenance fees on, or defend in reexamination or opposition proceeding on, a patent on a subject invention.

e. Minimum Rights to Contractor

(1) The contractor will retain a nonexclusive, royalty-free license throughout the world in each subject invention to which the Government obtains title except if the contractor fails to disclose the subject invention within the times specified in c., above. The contractor's license extends to its domestic subsidiaries and affiliates, if any, within the corporate structure of which the contractor is a party and includes the right to grant sublicenses of the same scope to the extent the contractor was legally obligated to do so at the time the contract was awarded. The license is transferable only with the approval of the funding Federal agency except when transferred to the successor of that party of the contractor's business to which the invention pertains.

(2) The contractor's domestic license may be revoked or modified by the funding Federal agency to the extent necessary to achieve expeditious practical application

or the contractor's business to which the invention pertains.

(2) The contractor's domestic license may be revoked or modified by the funding Federal agency to the extent necessary to achieve expeditious practical application

of the subject invention pursuant to an application for an exclusive license submitted in accordance with applicable provisions in the Federal Property Management Regulations. This license will not be revoked in that field of use or the geographical areas in which the contractor has achieved practical application and continues to make the benefits of the invention reasonably accessible to the public. The license in any foreign country may be revoked or modified at the discretion of the funding Federal agency to the extent the contractor, its licensees, or its domestic subsidiaries or affiliates have failed to achieve practical application in that foreign country.

(3) Before revocation or modification of the license, the funding Federal agency will furnish the contractor a written notice of its intention to revoke or modify the license, and the contractor will be allowed thirty days (or such other time as may be authorized by the funding Federal agency for good cause shown by the contractor) after the notice to show cause why the license should not be revoked or modified. The contractor has the right to appeal, in accordance with applicable regulations in the Federal Property Management Regulations concerning the licensing of Government-owned inventions, any decision concerning the revocation or modification of its license.

f. Contractor Action to Protect the Governments Interest

(1) The contractor agrees to execute or to have executed and promptly deliver to the Federal agency all instruments necessary to (i) establish or confirm the rights the Government has throughout the world in those subject inventions to which the contractor elects to retain title, and (ii) convey title to the Federal agency when requested under paragraph d. above, and to enable the Government to obtain patent protection throughout the world in that subject invention.

(2) The contractor agrees to require, by written agreement, its employees, other than clerical and non-technical employees, to disclose promptly in writing to per-

Interest

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(2) The contractor agrees to require, by written agreement, its employees, other than clerical and non-technical employees, to disclose promptly in writing to per-

sonnel identified as responsible for the administration of patent matters and in a format suggested by the contractor each subject invention made under contract in order that the

information required by c.(1) above. The contractor shall instruct such employees through employee agreements or other suitable educational programs on the importance of reporting inventions in sufficient time to permit the filing of patent applications prior to U.S. or foreign statutory bars.

(3) The contractor will notify the Federal agency of any decision not to continue the prosecution of a patent application, pay maintenance fees, or defend in a reexamination or opposition proceeding on a patent, in any country, not less than thirty days before the expiration of the response period required by the relevant patent office.

(4) The contractor agrees to include, within the specification of any United States patent application and any patent issuing thereon covering a subject invention, the following statement, "This invention was made with Government support under (identify the contract) awarded by (identify the Federal agency). The Government has certain rights in this invention."

g. Subcontracts

(1) The contractor will include this clause, suitably modified to identify the parties, in all subcontracts, regardless of tier, for experimental developmental or research work to be performed by a small business firm or domestic nonprofit organization. The subcontractor will retain all rights provided for the contractor in this clause, and the contractor will not,as part of the consideration for awarding the subcontract, obtain rights in the subcontractor's subject inventions.

(2) The contractor will include in all other subcontracts, regardless of tier, for experimental, developmental or research work the patent rights clause required by (cite section of agency implementing regulations, FPR, or DAR).

(3) In the case of subcontracts, at any tier, when the prime award with the Federal agency was a contract (but not a grant or cooperative agreement), the agency, subcontractor, and the contractor agree that the mutual obligations of the parties created by this clause constitute a contract between the subcontractor and the Federal agency with respect to those matters covered by this clause.

h. Reporting on Utilization of Subject Inventions

The contractor agrees to submit on request periodic reports no more frequently than annually on the utilization of

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h. Reporting on Utilization of Subject Inventions

The contractor agrees to submit on request periodic reports no more frequently than annually on the utilization of

a subject invention or on efforts at obtaining such utilization that are being made by the contractor or its licensees or assignees. Such reports shall include information regarding the status of development, date of first commercial sale or use, gross royalties received by the contractor, and such other data and information as the agency may reasonably specify. The contractor also agrees to provide additional reports as may be requested by the agency in connection with any march-in proceeding undertaken by the agency in accordance with paragraph j. of this clause. To the extent data or information supplied under this section is considered by the contractor, its licensee or assignee to be privileged and confidential and is so marked, the agency agrees that, to the extent permitted by 35 USC §202(c)(5), it will not disclose such information to persons outside the Government.

i. Preference for United States Industry

Notwithstanding any other provision of this clause, the contractor agrees that neither it nor any assignee will grant to any person the exclusive right to use or sell any subject invention in the United States unless such person agrees that any products embodying the subject invention or produced through the use of the subject invention will be manufactured substantially in the United States. However, in individual cases, the requirement for such an agreement may be waived by the Federal agency upon a showing by the contractor or its assignee that reasonable but unsuccessful efforts have been made to grant licenses on similar terms to potential licensees that would be likely to manufacture substantially in the United States or that under the circumstances domestic manufacture is not commercially feasible.

j. March-in Rights

The contractor agrees that with respect to any subject invention in which it has acquired title, the Federal agency has the right in accordance with the procedures in OMB Circular A- __ (and agency regulations at ____) to require the contractor, an assignee or exclusive licensee of a subject invention to grant a non-exclusive, partially exclusive, or

or its assignee that reasonable but unsuccessful efforts have been made to grant licenses on similar terms to potential licensees that would be likely to manufacture substantially in the United States or that under the circumstances domestic manufacture is not commercially feasible.

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exclusive license in any field of use to a responsible applicant or applicants, upon terms that are reasonable under the circumstances, and if the contractor assignee, or exclusive licensee refuses such a request, the Federal agency has the