# United States Department of Commerce Open Government Plan





he Commerce Department's mission is to help make American businesses more innovative at home and more competitive abroad.









May 2014
Version 3.0

#### **FOREWORD**

*May 2014* 

On January 21, 2009, President Obama issued the first executive memorandum of his Administration, entitled "Transparency and Open Government." This memorandum established three guiding principles for the conduct of government activities. Government should be transparent. Government should be participatory. Government should be collaborative.

The Department of Commerce (the Department) is fully committed to these principles, and we are pleased to present the 2014 Department of Commerce Open Government Plan, version 3.0 (the Plan). The Plan is updated annually, and this release represents its fifth publication. It builds on the Department's long history of information dissemination and the adoption of new tools and technology to facilitate a more transparent and accessible agency. The Department will continue to encourage and strive for increased participation and collaboration among its employees, with other government agencies and the American people.

This year's Plan provides an overview of the Department's new 2014-2018 Strategic Plan, describes Department program and functional areas which are critical to Open Government, features three (3) "flagship" Open Government initiatives, and highlights Open Government happenings of ongoing initiatives and activities across the Department's Bureaus and Operating Units (BOUs). It is available on the Department's Open Government website at <a href="https://www.commerce.gov/open">www.commerce.gov/open</a>.

We invite the American public to join in as the Department moves toward becoming a more open and effective provider of government services and information. Please feel free to provide feedback by submitting comments to <a href="mailto:open@doc.gov">open@doc.gov</a>.

Sincerely, Dr. Catrina D. Purvis Chief Privacy Officer, and Director, Office of Privacy and Open Government





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# Introduction

The Department's mission is to help make American businesses more innovative at home and more competitive abroad. Comprised of twelve (12) different agencies responsible for everything from weather forecasts to patent protection, the Commerce Department touches lives of Americans every day.

The Department fosters economic growth and opportunity by promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, competitiveness, and stewardship. For over 100 years, it has partnered with the U.S. business community to maintain a prosperous, productive America that is committed to trade, competitiveness, and environmental stewardship. The concept of open government has long been integral to the Department's mission and the Department has been an innovator and leader in the Open Government Initiative from the beginning.

The Department provides annual updates of its Plan which are posted at <a href="https://www.Commerce.gov/open">www.Commerce.gov/open</a>, and this version 3.0 represents its fifth publication. It provides an overview of the Department's new 2014-2018 Strategic Plan, describes Department programs and functional areas which are critical to Open Government, features three "flagship" Open Government initiatives, and highlights Open Government happenings of ongoing initiatives across the Department's Bureaus and Operating Units (BOUs). You can learn more about Commerce, and even find the Secretary of Commerce on social media at

- 1) Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/Commercegov),
- 2) YouTube (<a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/CommerceNews">http://www.youtube.com/user/CommerceNews</a>),
- 3) Twitter (https://twitter.com/CommerceGov), and
- 4) Flickr (https://www.flickr.com/photos/commercegov/)).

# **Background**

On January 21, 2009, President Obama issued the first executive memorandum of his Administration, entitled "Transparency and Open Government"

(http://www2.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/news/20090121/2009\_tran sparency\_memo.pdf). In his memorandum, the President established three guiding principles for the conduct of government activities: Government should be transparent, participatory, and collaborative. On December 8, 2009, the

"President Obama took office with a call for unprecedented openness in government, and we are heeding that call."

OMB issued the Memorandum M-10-06 "Open Government Directive"

(http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/memoranda\_2010/m10-06.pdf),

providing guidance on specific actions which federal agencies must take to increase





transparency, participation and collaboration in government, and establishing a requirement for agency publication of an Open Government Plan.

# **Program Oversight and the Open Government Senior Leaders Group**

The Department carries out its programmatic responsibilities through its 12 BOUs. The BOU's are identified below in "Figure 1.

Figure 1 - Commerce Bureaus and Operating Units (BOU)



Office of the Secretary (OS)
Office of the Inspector General (OIG)
Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)
Economic Development Administration (EDA)
Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA)

- Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)
- Bureau of the Census (Census)

International Trade Administration (ITA)\*
Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
(NOAA)

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

National Technical Information Service (NTIS) U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

Through their distinct missions, each of these BOUs contributes to the Department's overall objective of promoting economic growth for the nation and providing opportunities for all Americans. These organizations are driving open government through initiatives that range from improving patent processing to developing sustainable and resilient fisheries, from transforming service delivery to businesses, to expanding international markets for U.S. firms, and from creating scientific and technological innovation to advancing measurement science.

Managers and employees at all levels are called upon by the Department's Secretary to seek opportunities for greater collaboration, among the BOUs, other federal agencies, and the public. The entire workforce is challenged to bring together ongoing initiatives across the Department to form a unified, strategic approach and to pursue opportunities to collaborate, increase performance, and enhance customer service. Employees are asked to think creatively about how to work together to better harness the power of their diverse talents.

<sup>\*</sup> The President's FY 2015 budget includes a proposal to change the name of the International Trade Administration (ITA) to the International Trade and Investment Administration (ITIA).





To further strengthen institutionalization of Open Government transparency, participation, and collaboration principals and initiatives, the Department created an interdisciplinary, Department-wide leadership, planning, and execution team to guide and implement the Open Government program called the Open Government Senior Leaders (OGSL). The original membership of this OGSL group included the Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO), General Counsel (GC), Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration (CFO/ASA), as well as representatives from the Office of Public Affairs (OPA), the Office of Policy and Strategic Planning (OPSP), the Department's BOUs, and subject matter experts from key mission areas. The OGSL group provided extensive support to early <a href="Data.gov">Data.gov</a> efforts which as the central site for US Government data is essential to the Administration's overall Open Government program. Today, the OGSL group, through its designated points of contact (POC) is responsible for ensuring that the Department's Open Government efforts are integrated into the functional processes of each BOU's program and business line.

In addition, the Department's Chief Privacy Officer (CPO) who is a member of the Senior Executive Service was appointed to lead the Office of Privacy and Open Government (OPOG). OPOG is charged with ensuring that the Department is appropriately addressing all matters of Privacy, Open Government, Freedom of Information Act, Federal Advisory Committees Act, and Directives Management across all departmental initiatives.

Each Departmental Secretary has called upon managers and employees to engage proactively to continually build new and improve existing best practices for Open Government, emphasizing the importance of increasing avenues of outreach and communications. The CommerceConnect Initiative represents a success which streamlined how businesses access government services and solutions across the entire Department. Building upon the synergy from CommerceConnect and its ability to reach across and connect businesses with multiple programs and agencies, the government used CommerceConnect as a model for <a href="BusinessUSA.gov">BusinessUSA.gov</a>. The <a href="BusinessUSA">BusinessUSA.gov</a>. The <a href="BusinessUSA">BusinessUSA</a> program is an intergovernmental effort focused on the provision of outstanding customer service to America's small businesses and exporters in order to make it easier for them to grow and hire. This inter-agency program is led by an executive committee which is made up of the Federal Chief Information Officer (CIO), Chief Technology Officer (CTO), CPO, and the Department's Small Business Administration.

The Department is continuing to develop its Open Government efforts through interagency initiatives, in-person and online public engagements, and internal programs that include training, collaboration, and modification of existing internal processes. Commerce has fully embraced the President's command to ensure a transparent and open government in spirit and in practice.





# **Building for Tomorrow - An Overview of the 2014-2018**

# **Strategic Plan**

A merica is Open for Business. The vision laid out in the Department's new 2014-2018 Strategic Plan will ensure that this message continues to resonate across the country and throughout the world. The Department's new five-year strategic plan provides a broad foundation for economic growth and opportunity by focusing on five key priorities:





**Trade and Investment:** Expanding the U.S. economy through increased exports and foreign direct investment that leads to more and better American jobs.

**Innovation**: Fostering a more innovative U.S. economy—one that is better at inventing, improving, and commercializing products and technologies that lead to higher productivity and competitiveness.

**Data:** Improve government, business, and community decisions and knowledge by transforming Department data capabilities and supporting a data-enabled economy.

**Environment**: Ensuring communities and businesses prepare for and prosper in a changing environment.

**Operational Excellence:** Delivering better services, solutions, and outcomes that benefit the American people.

The Department and its BOUs will work together to drive progress in these five goals and priorities. Open Government is tightly woven into each. The strategic plan emphasizes that the foundation to all of the Department's goal areas is data. Data which is also key to Open Government is recognized in the strategic plan as the fuel that powers the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy. Whether it is ITA determining which foreign markets to target, EDA understanding a regional economy, NOAA's terabytes of weather and climate data helping predict severe events and enabling weather forecasts, or NIST data and models catalyzing advanced manufacturing, The Department's data enables the Department to set the conditions for economic growth. It touches every American and informs daily business decisions. The Department's data enable start-ups, moves markets, protects life and property, and powers both small and multi-billion dollar companies. The BEA produces estimates of gross domestic product (GDP), a key indicator of





the health of the economy. The Census Bureau carries out the constitutionally mandated decennial census, which determines the allocation of billions in federal dollars to states and the drawing of Congressional districts. Data is not only a means of advancing the trade, innovation, and environment goals; it is also a national asset with untapped potential. The ESA will work with the private sector to harness Big Data and accelerate a data-enabled economy.

The Department's Strategic Plan fully incorporates the Open Government charge for a more transparent, participatory, and collaborative government supported by the production and publication of high value information in data formats which are more consumable by the American public. The full Strategic Plan can be found at Commerce Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018.

# **Program and Functional Area Updates**

# **Open Data**

OMB Memorandum M-13-13 (*M*–13–13, *Open Data Policy* – *Managing Information as an Asset*) requires agencies to manage information they produce from data as an asset throughout its life cycle and to create an Information Asset Inventory (IAI) of all agency assets. The IAI is to include public, non-public and restricted assets. Agencies must evaluate all assets not made publicly available to determine the reasonableness of potential future release. M-13-13 also requires agencies to collect or create information in a manner that supports downstream information processing and dissemination. This includes using machine-readable and open formats, data standards, and common core and extensible metadata for all new information creation and collection efforts. Agencies must ensure information stewardship through the use of open licenses and review of information for privacy, confidentiality, security, or other restrictions prior to release. M-13-13 applies to all new information collection, creation, and system development efforts as well as major modernization projects that update or re-design existing information systems.

The Department's baseline IAI is published as a part of the <u>Data.gov</u> catalog along with all other federal agencies. The Department's baseline inventory at <u>Data.gov</u> includes raw data, tools, and application program interfaces (API). The amount of information contained in the Department's baseline IAI currently exceeds 300,000 catalog entries. The initial goal of publishing to <u>Data.gov</u> was to provide a single location for the public to find information about the data produced by the government. The information contained in <u>Data.gov</u> is metadata on the various datasets and tools produced. The IAI serves the same purpose as the <u>Data.gov</u> metadata catalog. The current method for <u>Data.gov</u> to populate its catalog is using the <u>Commerce IAI file</u>. This inventory provides the public a means to identify the Department's sources of data and tools. Table 1 provides a snapshot of the number of RAW datasets currently provided to the <u>Data.gov</u>





catalog. Table 2 provides a snapshot of APIs, Tools, and GEO Data Sets Released to <u>Data.gov</u> catalog.

Table 1 - Commerce RAW Datasets Published to <u>Data.gov</u>

Department of Commerce RAW Data Sets Released to Data.gov as of 05/10/2014				
Commerce /				
Bureau/Operating Unit (BOU)	Datasets	Latest Entry		
Department of Commerce	36,234	05/10/2014		
Department/Agency Level (OS)	3	01/12/2014		
Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)	2	01/12/2014		
Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)	2	01/22/2014		
International Trade Administration (ITA)	31	01/12/2014		
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)	3	01/22/2014		
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	32,428	05/10/2014		
(NOAA)				
National Technical Information Service (NTIS)	1	01/12/2014		
National Telecommunication and Information	30	01/22/2014		
Administration (NTIA)				
<u>US Census Bureau</u> (Census)	3,694	05/05/2014		
US Patent and Trademark Office	40	01/12/2014		

Table 2 - Commerce APIs, Tools, and GEO Data Sets Published to Data.gov

Department of Commerce APIs, Tools, and GEO Data Sets Released to Data.gov as of 05/10/2014					
Commerce / Bureau/Operating Unit (BOU)	APIs	Tools	Geo-data	Total	
<b>Department of Commerce (DOC)</b>	21	312	263,257	263,590	
Department/Agency Level (DOC)	0	1	0	1	
Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)	1	2	0	3	
International Trade Administration (ITA)	0	28	0	28	
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)	1	3	0	4	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	14	112	24,102	24,228	





Department of Commerce APIs, Tools, and GEO Data Sets Released to Data.gov as of 05/10/2014					
Commerce / Bureau/Operating Unit (BOU)	APIs	Tools	Geo-data	Total	
National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA)	1	29	0	30	
<u>US Census Bureau</u> (Census)	3	112	239,155	239,270	
US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)	1	25	0	26	

The Department's OPOG, OPA and OCIO will continue working with the <a href="Data.gov">Data.gov</a> POCs within the BOUs to improve the baseline inventory. The OCIO is responsible for developing guidelines and implementing procedures to build the complete IAI. Each BOU CIO will work with their business/program offices and data stewards to develop procedures for fully identifying information assets and determining if the information assets are public, non-public, or restricted. As information assets are identified any flagged as nonpublic or restricted, will be confirmed as such by the BOU CIO to ensure appropriateness of the determination as consistent with M13-13guidance. The ultimate goal is to make the information asset available to the public, wherever possible. Each BOU and its program offices have been directed to catalogue, document, and assess whether each identified information asset can be made available for public consumption. Each BOU CIO is responsible for constructing a system to best distribute the data. To assist, the Department provides a page for program developers at the <a href="Department of Commerce Developer">Developer</a> web page which can be used to enhance the public's ability to utilize the information published.

Once data is available to consumers, each BOU will solicit feedback on the information they publish. The <u>U.S. Census Bureau's developer hub</u> is identified as a best practice for efforts in obtaining feedback from customers. There are other examples, such as, industry-led consultation groups run by the <u>International Trade Administration</u> National Export Initiative (NEI) Next program (<u>NEI NEXT</u>) that provide venues for constructive conversations about data and improving consumability across multiple environments.

Commerce is moving forward in opening access to information produced. We continue to innovate ways to make information and data more consumable for our customers. One such innovation is BEA <u>Interactive Data Tables (iTables)</u>. The <u>iTables</u> have been widely used by the public and media. <u>iTables</u> allow customers to perform online analysis of current and historical economic information. BEA has updated its interactive data service to make it easier to access and use BEA statistics. The goal is to provide a common look and feel for users accessing national, international, regional or industry statistics; to make the information easier to print, save and export; to make the charting features more robust and visually appealing; and to make the information easier to share with others via a variety of methods.





More detailed information on what each BOU is doing to improve information dissemination, including how consumable information models are evolving along with planned future enhancements to BOU business line programs is in the Ongoing Initiatives at the BOUs section of this plan.

For more information visit: Commerce on Data.gov

# **Privacy**

**T**he Department assigns high priority to privacy considerations in all systems, programs, and policies. The Department recognizes that individual trust in the privacy and security of personally identifiable information (PII) and Business Identifiable Information (BII) is a foundation of trust in government and commerce in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. As an employer, a collector of data on millions of individuals and companies, the developer of information-management standards and a federal advisor on information management policy, the Department strives to be a leader in best privacy practices and privacy policy.

OMB Memorandum M-13 – 13 requires departments and agencies to review information assets for privacy, confidentiality, security, or other restrictions on information released. The Department has a robust Privacy Program charged to assist the Department and BOU CIOs with meeting this requirement. The necessary balance between the "presumption in favor of openness" and the duty to protect and safeguard PII and BII is well understood. The Department's OPOG works with the OGC, OCIO and across BOUs to ensure that information is appropriately secured to prevent information loss or erroneous release.

Authorities and requirements for the Department's Privacy Program include:

- The Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a
   <a href="http://www.opm.gov/investigations/requesting-investigation-copies/freedom-of-information-and-privacy-act/">http://www.opm.gov/investigations/requesting-investigation-copies/freedom-of-information-and-privacy-act/</a> provides privacy protections for records containing information about individuals (i.e., citizen and legal permanent resident) that are collected and maintained by the federal government and are retrieved by a personal identifier. The Act requires agencies to safeguard information contained in a system of records;
- The Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. § 3541, <a href="http://csrc.nist.gov/drivers/documents/FISMA-final.pdf">http://csrc.nist.gov/drivers/documents/FISMA-final.pdf</a> requires agencies to develop, document, and implement an agency-wide program to provide information security for the information and information systems that support the operations and assets of an agency;





- OMB Memorandum M-03-22, Guidance for Implementing the Privacy Provisions of the E-Government Act of 2002 (September 26, 2003),
   <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda\_m03-22">http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda\_m03-22</a> requires agencies to conduct reviews of how information about individuals is handled when information technology (IT) is used to collect new information, or when agencies develop or buy new IT systems to handle collections of personally identifiable information, and to describe how the agency handles information that individuals provide electronically;
- OMB Memorandum M-06-15, Safeguarding Personally Identifiable Information (May 22, 2006),
   <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2006/m-06-15.pdf">http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2006/m-06-15.pdf</a> reiterates and emphasizes agency responsibilities under law and policy to appropriately safeguard sensitive PII and train employees regarding their responsibilities for protecting privacy;
- OMB Memorandum M-06-16, "Protection of Sensitive Agency Information" (June 23, 2006),
   <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2006/m06-16.pdf">http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2006/m06-16.pdf</a>
   requires agencies to implement encryption protections for PII being transported and/or stored offsite;
- OMB Memorandum M-06-19, "Reporting Incidents Involving Personally Identifiable Information and Incorporating the Cost for Security in Agency Information Technology Investments" (July 12, 2006), <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2006/m06-19.pdf">http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2006/m06-19.pdf</a> requires agencies to report all incidents involving PII to US-CERT within one hour of discovery of the incident;
- OMB's Memorandum entitled "Recommendations for Identity Theft Related Data Breach Notification" (September 20, 2006)
   <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2006/task force theft memo.pdf">http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2006/task force theft memo.pdf</a> outlines recommendations to agencies from the President's Identity Theft Task Force for developing agency planning and response procedures for addressing PII incidents that could result in identify theft;
- OMB Memorandum M-07-16, "Safeguarding Against and Responding to the Breach
  of Personally Identifiable Information" (May 22, 2007),
  <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2007/m07-16.pdf">http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2007/m07-16.pdf</a>
  identifies existing procedures and establishes several new actions agencies should
  take to safeguard PII and to respond to Privacy Incidents;





OMB Memorandum M-11-02, "Sharing Data While Protecting Privacy" (November 3, 2010),

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2011/m11-02.pdf requires agencies to develop and implement solutions that allow data sharing to move forward in a manner that complies with applicable privacy laws, regulations, and policies;

The Department's PII incident reports are submitted to the U.S. - Computer Emergency Readiness Team (CERT) within one hour of discovery/detection, in addition to the Department's CPO and the Department's Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT). The Department produces and submits Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) Senior Agency Official for Privacy (SAOP) reports in accordance with OMB guidance

For more information visit: Commerce Privacy Program

#### **Whistleblower Protection**

The Department recognizes that the effectiveness of its Whistleblower Protection Program is critical to ensuring transparency in government operations. The Department does not tolerate retaliation against whistleblowers. It is prohibited to take or fail to take, or threaten to take or fail to take, a personnel action against an employee or applicant because of disclosure of information that an individual reasonably believes to evidence violation of law, rule or regulation; gross mismanagement; gross waste of funds; an abuse of authority; or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, unless disclosure of such information is specifically prohibited by law or specifically required by Executive Order (EO) to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

The provisions of the Department's nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or EO relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling EO and statutory provisions are incorporated into the Department's agreements and are controlling. See

- Executive Order No. 13526;
- Section 721 1 of Title 5, United States Code (governing disclosures to Congress);





- Section 1034 of Title 10, United States Code, as amended by the Military Whistleblower Protection Act (governing disclosure to Congress by members of the military);
- Section 2302(b)(8) of Title 5, United States Code, as amended by the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 (governing disclosures of illegality, waste, fraud, abuse or public health or safety threats);
- Intelligence Identities Protection Act of 1982 (50 U.S.C. 421 et seq.) (governing disclosures that could expose confidential Government agents);
- the statutes which protect against disclosure that may compromise the national security, including sections 641, 793, 794, 798, and 952 of title 18, United States Code; and
- Section 4(b) of the Subversive Activities Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 783(b)).

For more information visit:

http://www.commerce.gov/Whistleblower%20Protection%20Enhancement%20Act

#### Websites

The Department greatly leverages its websites for Open Government. A Departmental Web Advisory Council (WAC) ensures policies are in place for consistency and ease of use of all Departmental websites. The WAC website is provided to web managers and developers to ensure that they are aware of all mandatory policies and recommended Best Practices. The website also provides links to resources and guidance on how to comply with the Department's Policies and Best Practices. All Departmental websites must comply with the policies listed on this site. Each BOU CIO is required to certify annually that all websites comply with the Policies published on this site.

The Department is using the guidance provided in the Digital Strategy to redesign its web presence. This guidance along with input gathered from public and internal consultations has been provided to a website redesign team. Using qualitative and quantitative analytics, the team created a new design that was focused on consumer demand, specifically a topic-based navigation and responsiveness design to ensure usability across multiple screens, including mobile devices.

In September 2013, a beta was launched (<a href="http://beta.commerce.gov/">http://beta.commerce.gov/</a>) and well received by users who have visited the site and made comments. These comments were generated using one of the most prominent new features a "provide feedback" button for users.

Several BOU websites are also being redesigned along the principles of customer-first, mobile-friendly. They have built-in feedback mechanisms to help improve the website. One





example is USPTO who provides a comment link on each of their Blog post "comment." These feedback links ensure that any person can submit comments.

For more information visit: <a href="http://www.osec.doc.gov/webresources/">http://www.osec.doc.gov/webresources/</a> or <a href="http://www.commerce.gov/digitalstrategy">http://www.commerce.gov/digitalstrategy</a>

# **Transparency**

The Department improves transparency by proactively participating in and posting its information publicly at <a href="Data.gov">Data.gov</a>, <a href="eRulemaking.gov">eRulemaking</a>, <a href="IT Dashboard">IT Dashboard</a>, <a href="Recovery.gov">Recovery.gov</a>, and <a href="USAspending.gov">USAspending.gov</a> initiatives. See Tables 1 and 2 of this document for a list of Commerce publications to <a href="Data.gov">Data.gov</a>. It participates in the eRulemaking initiative <a href="Regulations.gov">Regulations.gov</a> for all Departmental generated regulations to ensure full public disclosure and collection of comments are addressed appropriately. The latest information on the Department's Information Technology (IT) investments can be found by clicking this link <a href="Commerce IT Dashboard submission">Commerce IT Dashboard submission</a>. The Department also participates in utilizing the <a href="FOIAonline">FOIAonline</a>, a government partnership that provides shared services for FOIA processing along with providing public access to many requested and released documents.

#### **Public Notice**

The Department has an extensive outreach program to ensure that the public is fully informed and up-to-date on agency actions and business including public meetings, stakeholder meetings, online press conferences, and numerous technology-enabled public engagement forums which promote transparency, participation and collaboration. The new Office of Digital Engagement within the Department's OPA specifically focuses on outreach efforts and ensuring effective two-way communications with the public about the Department's services. In addition, the Department is working through the BOUs to enable outreach to the appropriate communities of practice and interest (COPs/COIs) within the various business lines. You can read more about the Office of Digital Engagement in the Flagship Initiatives section of this document.

Below are BOU public outreach links:

Bureau of the Census (Census)

Census Advisory Committees (CAC)

Foreign Trade Outreach and Education

International Trade Administration (ITA)

AES Meetings and Presentations AES Town Hall Meetings

Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)





#### National Advisory Council on Minority Business Enterprise

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

**NIST Events** 

Energy Sector Identity and Access Management Use Case

National Conference on Weights & Measures (NCWM) Related Reports & Meeting Agendas

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Florida Keys - Sanctuary Advisory Council Meetings. Announcements and Actions National Weather Service - Climate protection Center Meetings

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

<u>FirstNet Meetings Documents</u> <u>Internet Policy Task Force</u>

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

**Public Advisor Committees** 

# **Records Management**

The Department implements the largest portion of the records management program through the BOUs. This allows those who are closest to the mission and understand mission unique needs to determine the appropriate record schedules. There is a Records Officer at each BOU who leads its program, is responsible for reporting directly to NARA, and is responsible for the implementation of OMB Memorandum M-12-18

(<u>http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2012/m-12-18.pdf</u>) for their BOU. At an enterprise level, the Department is in the early stages of building a supporting program for the BOUs to leverage.

The Department established a network of Records Officers to promote collaboration, sharing of tools and templates, and to provide in-person and virtual collaboration space for issue resolution. The Department teamed with the Department of Transportation to establish and serve on the Core Team for the Federal Records Officer Network (FRON). The Department uses the FRON to meet M-12-18 by leveraging best practices, tools, and templates across the federal agencies, as well as a forum to address M-12-18 issues.

USPTO is developing a series of virtual training courses for All-Hands. These training courses will focus on providing lessons and materials which target skillset improvement in records management from the user and trainee point of view and appropriate for the Senior Executive as well as the loading dock clerk. In addition, the Department has identified 39 areas of practical application to be developed into a future online resource that dovetails with the virtual training. These resources are being written so that they can be leveraged by any BOU. The





Department is folding in the recommendations flowing from the FRON during this development period.

Each BOU is moving towards email management by 2016 and electronic records management by 2019. The Department is pursing policy and other actions to support the BOU efforts.

The Department has utilized a series of meetings to bridge the BOUs and the Federal Records Centers (FRCs) to identify records ready for disposition, removal of freezes (when appropriate), and ensure schedules are established for unscheduled records.

Through the Federal Records Council (FRC), OPM, and the FRON, the Department has been active in providing guidance and feedback on the development of the professional Records Management job series.

As the Department moves forward in refining the records management process and procedures, updates will be provided for the Open Government Plan. One of the first steps will be rebuilding the public facing records management website from the ground up. This will create a  $21^{st}$  - century interface following the guidance set forth within the strategic plan.

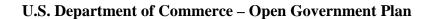
# Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests



Within the last year, the Department has improved the efficiency of its FOIA program by successfully moving from a paper based records system to nearly an entirely electronic system. It continually reviews and updates its FOIA business processes to determine where changes, if any, can be made to help its FOIA program run more efficiently and effectively. Department-wide backlog reduction goals are measured

through Balanced Score Card reporting to management.

The Department utilizes a multi-track processing system. The three tracks are simple, complex, and expedited. Requesters can track the status of their request to the USPTO by going to <a href="https://foia.uspto.gov/palMain.aspx">https://foia.uspto.gov/palMain.aspx</a> and click the link "Check FOIA Request Status" and for all other Commerce BOUs, requesters can track the status of their request by going to <a href="https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home">https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home</a>. Requesters can see the stage of their request submitted to USPTO, which may be any of the following: Received; Assigned for Processing; On Hold-Need Info/Clarification; In Process; Cost Estimate Sent; Completed; or Closed. Requesters also see a key to explain what each of these statuses means. For requests submitted through <a href="https://foiaonline.point.new.org.">FOIAonline</a>, requesters will know where in the course of processing their requests stand through notifications. Requesters will be notified when they submit their request, when it is being evaluated (scope, fee waiver, expedited processing issues), assigned, processed, and finally closed.







You can find more information on the Commerce FOIA program at <u>Commerce FOIA webpage</u> and in our <u>Electronic Library</u> (Formerly e-Reading Room).

#### **Proactive Disclosures**

All FOIA Officers routinely review FOIA requests to identify types of frequently requested records and other records of interest for proactive posting. Additionally, the Department is proactively posting documents responsive to FOIA requests in electronic format through FOIAonline, an automated online tracking and records management system. Released documents are uploaded to FOIAonline, where they are fully available at no cost, to the general public at <a href="https://FOIAonline.regulations.gov">https://FOIAonline.regulations.gov</a>. Additionally, all FOIA professionals provide guidance and training to encourage proactive disclosures whenever possible. All component subject matter experts (SME) in various business units routinely identify records to be made publicly available. Once identified, these records are uploaded to websites.

# **Congressional Requests**

The Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (OLIA) supports the Department's Secretary on matters pertaining to legislative issues, congressional relations, and on the Department's relationship with state, county, municipal and tribal governments and their associations. OLIA is the focal point within the Department for coordinating all activities involving legislative and congressional relations and activities. The Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental affairs is delegated authority to provide policy guidance and oversight of Department legislative and congressional relations and activities. The OLIA Assistant Secretary also develops an integrated Department plan to collect, coordinate and distribute timely and accurate information relating to those relations and activities to the Secretary and the Department. OLIA accomplishes these goals with the support of the legislative affairs offices in the Department's BOUs.

OLIA's authorities rest with a Department Organizational Order (DOO) 10-12 "Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs" which prescribes the top level organization, authority, functions and responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs and, therefore, OLIA. The DOO can be accessed at the following website: <a href="http://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/dmp/doos/doo10\_12.html">http://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/dmp/doos/doo10\_12.html</a>.

In addition to the DOO, other OLIA responsibilities and procedures are laid out in Department Administrative Order (DAO) 218-2 "Congressional and Legislative Affairs," which details policies and procedures for responding to Congressional and Intergovernmental inquiries and





outlines other procedures for OLIA. All of the DAOs can be accessed at the following website: <a href="http://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/dmp/daos.html">http://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/dmp/daos.html</a>.

Several other DAOs have portions that reference or relate to processes or duties to which OLIA is a party, including:

- DAO 202-334 "Details": This DAO has a section on Department of Commerce details to Congressional Committees. Office purview: Assistant Secretary for Administration;
- DAO 203-1"Appropriation Requests and Related Budget Matters." Office purview: Assistant Secretary for Administration. It details how Office of Budget (OB) interacts with Congress on issues related to appropriations. In practice, OLIA supports OB in their efforts;
- DAO 218-3 "Reports to Congress Required by Law." Office purview: the Office of the General Counsel. It prescribes the procedures and responsibilities for sending Departmental reports to Congress. In addition, it details clearance and signature authorities. The Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs is one of the Secretarial Officers responsible for clearing Congressional reports; and
- DAO 218-1 "Legislative Activities." Office purview: the Office of the General Counsel, however, it details the duties and policies of the Department with respect to legislative activities.

## **Declassification**

The Department's information is declassified as soon as it no longer meets the standards for classification under the classification requirements of <a href="Executive Order">Executive Order</a> (E.O.) 13526, Classified <a href="National Security Information">National Security Information</a>. In some exceptional cases, the need to protect such information may be outweighed by the public interest to disclose the information, in which case the information should be declassified. When such questions arise, the Classified National Security Information (NSI) will be reviewed by the official who authorized the original classification if that official is still serving in the same position, by a successor, subject matter experts, and/or by the Director for Security (Director). For more information on classifying or declassifying Commerce information contact the Office of Security (202) 482-3944.

# **Participation**

**P**articipation is critical for the Department to achieve its strategic goals. The BOUs are actively using meetings and conferences along with their extensive outreach programs to ensure public, private, and government participation in fulfilling BOU mission. This includes issuing requests for information (RFIs) for input to building the requirements, outcomes and way ahead for programs. One such example is the <a href="BusinessUSA">BusinessUSA</a> initiative which reaches out to public,





Federal, state, local, and tribal partners to ensure that they are providing the best products in the most efficient manner.

The Department has implemented a digital strategy of shared services to gain economies of scale, while providing state of the art tools for analytics and collaboration to effectively communicate with our partners. This enables full participation without traveling. The Department's CIO is working to improve these shared services capabilities while reducing the cost.

All Departmental BOUs have similar outreach programs, many of which are linked in the Public Notice section of this document.

#### **Collaboration**

The Department will continue to work across the public/private sector and at the federal, state, local, tribal, and international government levels to build partnerships, developing and sharing best practices to create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity. This will be accomplished through various means to include the use of collaboration tools, public meetings and feedback efforts such as website comments and social media.

The Department is continuing to accomplish these objectives by:

- Including processes and best practices that improve and allow effective communication between Commerce and the public sector, ensuring openness and transparency as part of all new programs and initiatives as well as any updates to existing programs and initiatives;
- Maintaining its leadership role in the Open Government initiatives by building into the information lifecycle best practices that increase the value of information and tools made available to the American public;
- Continuing to improve existing and building new partnerships with the public and private sectors, including businesses, academia nonprofit organizations, inter-governmental at federal, state, and local, to broaden input obtained for consideration during the regulatory process;
- Improving existing and creating new online tools and processes that enhance public and private sector access to Commerce information, services, and that increase the understanding of funding opportunities; and





• Improving and increasing the use of social media and other collaboration tools to encourage the public to participate in idea-generation and to provide feedback on Commerce initiatives building an open two-way conversation.

The <u>Presidential Ambassadors for Global Entrepreneurship</u> is representative of a successful initiative in this area. It is a first-of-its-kind collaboration between eleven (11) of America's most inspiring and prominent entrepreneurs, the White House, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development partners. Another significant collaboration effort of the Department is the <u>NEI NEXT</u> initiative. <u>NEI NEXT</u> is collaboration with industry groups and the public around aimed at streamlining the export process and reducing wait times for American goods and services at ports.

# **Flagship Initiatives**

The Department now has three (3) Flagship Open Government Initiatives: <u>BusinessUSA</u>, Creation of the Office of Digital Engagement, and the <u>FOIAonline</u> Request Management and Reporting Initiative. <u>BusinessUSA</u> and <u>FOIAonline</u> were selected as key to the Presidential Management Agenda (PMA) and the Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan (NAP) 2.0. <u>BusinessUSA</u> supports the PMA by increasing America's ability to create jobs with a "No Wrong Door Approach" in "Making It Easier for America's Small Businesses and America's Exporters to Access Government Service to Help Them Grow and Hire." The <u>FOIAonline</u> system supports the OGP NAP 2.0 by streamlining FOIA request processing from request submission to document publication, while allowing full document management for the departments and agencies using the system. The Office of Digital Engagement advances Open Government because it serves as the frontline for digital communication with consumers, businesses, and other key Departmental stakeholders.

#### **BusinessUSA**

Over the last several years, the government has spoken with thousands of business owners to hear what works and what doesn't when they deal with the federal government. Entrepreneurs – especially small business owners – stated that they do not have the time or resources to navigate the complex maze of government agencies and need a one stop shop where they can locate all the assistance needed during every stage of their business development.



Figure 2 – BusinessUSA Services

On October 28, 2011, the President issued a Memorandum entitled, "Making It Easier for America's Small Businesses and America's Exporters to Access Government Service to Help





Them Grow and Hire." In response, <u>BusinessUSA</u> was initiated as an interagency effort, focused on improving the way business interacts with the federal government as a means to support growth and job creation. Figure 2 – <u>BusinessUSA</u> Services show the various services available.

The Department and the U.S. Small Business Administration were named as Co-Chairs to serve as the Executive Committee to coordinate the strategy, design, development, launch, and operation of BusinessUSA. The interagency team is supported by a group of federal agency partners including: Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), General Services Administration (GSA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Energy (DOE), OMB, Department of State, Export/Import Bank, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Treasury, Department of Justice (DOJ), National Science Foundation (NSF), U.S. Trade Development Agency (USTDA), Department of Education, Department of Labor (DOL), Department of Interior (DOI), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA). To date, there have been over 200 federal representatives that contributed to achieving the goals of the Presidential Memorandum.

BusinessUSA helps businesses and exporters of all sizes find information about available federal programs without having to waste time and resources navigating the federal bureaucracy. It streamlines and coordinates federal program assistance through easy to access points via the Business.USA.gov website and 1-800-FED-INFO contact center. These central points of access are capable of providing a full range of government programs and services including: development and training options; financing choices; federal contracting; procurement opportunities; international trade; exporting guidance; business patent and trade assistance; disaster relief assistance; services for veterans, women-owned, and minority businesses; events; workshops; services available through state, regional and local organizations; and more.

<u>BusinessUSA</u> is about providing great customer service and giving Americans the government they deserve. It is a "No Wrong Door" approach for businesses and exporters. <u>BusinessUSA</u> creates a common platform to match businesses with the services relevant to them, regardless of where the information is located or which agency's website, call center, or office they go to for help. <u>BusinessUSA</u>'s easy to find access points enable customers to get the information they need, 24 hours a day, seven days week through one central website. Customers can also communicate with staff via contact center and through email during normal hours of operation. Customers can use <u>BusinessUSA</u>'s online tool to request appointments with knowledgeable business development staff. They can also follow <u>BusinessUSA</u> through social media Twitter and Linked-In.

<u>BusinessUSA</u> fully embraces Open Government. It has published its quarterly performance through Performance.gov (http://www.performance.gov/) and discloses its investment





development plans through the OMB Exhibit 300 reporting process. Moreover, BusinessUSA is one of several smarter, more efficient government initiatives. It uses existing technology and augments that technology only when needed. It leverages shared resources as a form of cost sharing, savings and/or avoidance. It has primarily leveraged web hosting, development, security, operations and contact center services from General Services Administration (GSA). It also leverages cloud-based solutions to improve operational effectiveness. It uses Application Program Interfaces (APIs) to capture content electronically and represent Agency-originated information. It embraces the Federal digital strategy and integrates Software-as-a-Service, Platform-as-a-Service and Infrastructure-as-a-Service into its enterprise architecture. This approach minimizes the need to purchase costly hardware and expensive technology operational solutions. It uses technology to identify existing programming codes that can be adapted (at little to no charge) to meet product development needs. To date, BusinessUSA has been able to recycle and reuse over 80% of programming code. It practices an "Agile" approach to the development of technology. This approach has contributed to clearer objectives, shorter development times, frequent release schedules, better tools and a responsive website design (for mobile and desk top device usage).

Further, <u>BusinessUSA</u> has been recognized for its outstanding leadership and innovation when it comes to using recycled code in the development of its online products and tools. It was presented with the *Igniting Innovation – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle 2014 Award* by the American Council for Technology - Industry Advisory Council (ACT-IAC), a public-private partnership in the government IT community. ACT-IAC selected <u>BusinessUSA</u> from a pool of over 80 candidates representing various governmental agencies and private industries.

Since the release of the <u>Business.USA.gov</u> website on February 17, 2012 through April 18, 2014, there have been nearly 1.8M visits, with over 5.1M pages viewed, approximately 89K content subscribers, and roughly 29K Twitter followers. <u>BusinessUSA</u> greatly expanded the number of business-facing resources (programs, services, tools and data) in one central location from 297 at launch to more than 6,900 federal, state and local resources. In addition, it has promoted nearly 200 success stories and 49,000 local business-related events from partners through really simple syndication (RSS) feeds.

<u>BusinessUSA</u> is focused on expanding its social media campaign to attract attention from entrepreneurs and small businesses. Through these efforts, it anticipates continued growth in the number of social media followers, customer contacts and customer referrals to federal partner agencies.

Eliminating the necessity to navigate federal bureaucracy, <u>BusinessUSA</u> is helping to transform businesses into globally competitive enterprises by providing an efficient 'one-stop-shop' experience for America's business entrepreneurs.





# **Creation of the Office of Digital Engagement**

On February 21, 2014, Commerce announced the creation of the agency's first-ever Office of Digital Engagement. This new office – housed within the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) - serves as the frontline for digital communication with consumers, businesses, and other key Department stakeholders.



Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker stated, "I am proud to

announce the launch of the first-ever Office of Digital Engagement within Commerce. The Office of Digital Engagement is an important component of our 'Open for Business Agenda' and will help us engage in a two-way, 21<sup>st</sup> Century dialogue with America's business community, by using the power of digital media, the Department Commerce through BOUs are working together to ensure that American businesses have access to more agency information and resources that can help them grow and hire."

To further amplify the "Open for Business Agenda" and the priorities of Commerce Secretary Pritzker has used LinkedIn, Vine, YouTube and other platforms and hosted a number of digital events including Twitter and Facebook chats that attracted interest from a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including small business owners, exporters and venture capitalists. The Office of Digital Engagement also launched Secretary Pritzker's Instagram account, making her the first-ever Cabinet official to have an Instagram account.

The Office of Digital Engagement is directed by Director of Digital Strategy. The office is part of the Commerce OPA. The team also includes members from the Office of the Secretary and a Digital Engagement Council made up of representatives from the following Departmental BOUs:

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

U.S. Census Bureau (Census)

International Trade Administration (ITA)

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA)

Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)





# **FOIAonline Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request Management and Reporting**



The National Action Plan (NAP) version 2 has as a primary objective to "Modernize the Freedom of Information Act," which makes a commitment to improve internal Agency FOIA processes. FOIA request capabilities took a major leap forward within Commerce when the FOIAonline system was deployed in October 2012. Commerce partnering with EPA and NARA developed and deployed the FOIA Request Management and Reporting system called FOIAonline. FOIAonline offers

substantial cost savings and enhance capabilities over existing government FOIA systems. FOIAonline provides a single interface through which the public can submit requests to any participating agency, eliminating the need to find the contact information for multiple agencies. The system automatically assigns tracking numbers to requests, which the requester can use to automatically view the status of the request, eliminating the need to wait for manual replies from agencies. Agencies are also be able to generate e-mails to requesters through the system to seek clarifying information or send invoices for fees, reducing mail delays and postage costs. When an agency identifies records responsive to a request, it has the ability to add them to the system. Consultations and referrals to other agencies will occur within the system for participating agencies, reducing the need to send documents around. This improves the consultation and referral process for agencies using FOIAonline. The consultation and referral process is a frequent source of delays and dead-ends for FOIA requests; improvements in timeliness here have been very welcome by users. Released documents are now uploaded to a public website, and the requester is notified of their availability. This critical feature will improve transparency by making released documents fully available to the general public, rather than delivered only to the requester. It will also stop agencies from processing multiple requests for the same materials over and over. FOIAonline is supplying the participating agencies a fully compliant records management system, the ability to collect metrics throughout the workflow process as defined by the agency, and it expedites the generation of the DOJ Annual Report.

The core functionality for the <u>FOIAonline</u> can be found in Table 3 – <u>FOIAonline</u> Core Functionality.





Table 3 - <u>FOIAonline</u> Core Functionality

	FOIAonline Core Functionality
Accept Requests Online	<ul> <li>Allow requester to pre-populate their information</li> <li>Provide status to requesters</li> <li>Create communications (i.e. letters via email) between agencies and requesters</li> </ul>
Track Requests in a Case File	<ul> <li>Process and track FOIA request</li> <li>Break down requests into multiple tasks</li> <li>Multi-track processing (Simple, Complex, Expedited)</li> <li>Track time spent on requests (the list shifts from starting with –ing words to not breaking down, track, assign)</li> <li>Assign case numbers</li> <li>Start and stop the clock according to rules</li> <li>Keep an online folder of all documents related to a request (including notifications to requesters)</li> </ul>
Manage Deadlines	<ul> <li>Start/Stop the clock</li> <li>Generate backlog reports</li> <li>Monitor workload</li> <li>Notify FOIA professionals based on 10- and 20-day deadlines</li> <li>Close cases when fees are not paid (according to business rules)</li> </ul>
Calculate Fees	<ul> <li>Track fees and fee waiver processing</li> <li>Generate invoices</li> <li>Deduct what is free of charge (i.e. first 100 pages)</li> <li>Manually adjust recorded time</li> <li>Distinguish between search and review time</li> </ul>
Research and Upload Records	<ul> <li>Store consultations, referrals, and letters</li> <li>Send tasks to others with instructions about which records to search</li> <li>Upload scanned documents</li> </ul>
Publish Electronic Records	<ul> <li>Review/sign the case file to approve redactions and fee calculations</li> <li>Issue Partial/incremental releases</li> <li>Send system-generated email notifications to requesters</li> </ul>
Accept Appeals Online	<ul> <li>Track status and outcome of litigation and appeals</li> <li>Issue supplemental release after appeal</li> <li>Forward copies of processing to Appeals unit</li> </ul>
Prepare the Annual Report	<ul> <li>Prepare the report in the required format with the required data structure</li> <li>Use dashboards to display these metrics throughout the year, including trends</li> </ul>
Search and Retrieve	Searching (including metadata and full-text)





# Ongoing Initiatives at the Bureaus and Operating Units (BOU) (Sub Agencies)

The Department has published high-value data as part of its scientific, technological, and economic programs. As a result, Commerce has been able to establish best practices in the distribution and publication process that meets the ever-evolving needs of the public. This portion of the Open Government Plan identifies the various initiatives within the BOUs.







# **Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)**

**B**EA is part of the Department's Economics and Statistics Administration.

BEA is one of the world's leading statistical agencies. Although it is a relatively small agency, BEA produces some of the most closely watched economic statistics that influence the decisions made by government officials, business people, and households. BEA's economic statistics, which provide a comprehensive, up-to-date picture of the U.S. economy, are key ingredients in critical decisions affecting monetary policy, tax and budget projections, and business investment plans. The cornerstone of BEA's statistics is the national income and product accounts (NIPAs), which feature the estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) and related measures.

The GDP was recognized by Commerce as its greatest achievement of the 20th century and has been ranked as one of the three most influential measures that affect U.S. financial markets. Since the NIPAs were first developed in the aftermath of the Great Depression, BEA has developed and extended its estimates to cover a wide range of economic activities.

Today, BEA prepares national, regional, industry, and international accounts that present essential information on such key issues as economic growth, regional economic development, inter-industry relationships, and the nation's position in the world economy.

Transparency and openness have been top priorities of the BEA. The Bureau makes all of its published data publicly available on the Internet, along with detailed methodology papers that explain exactly how BEA computes the nation's key economic indicators. The Bureau publishes on the Web the names, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and areas of expertise of dozens of subject matter experts. Before implementing proposed changes to the presentation or methodology of the accounts, BEA holds user conferences to explain the changes and solicit input on the impact of the changes on data users. As a 2011 New York Times story notes, "The Bureau of Economic Analysis, an arm of the Commerce Department... emphasizes transparency and is uncommonly open to public questions."

The Bureau is continuing to explore ways to increase openness and transparency in how it produces, presents, and educates the public about its data. Over the past two years, BEA made





major improvements to the interactive tables on the BEA website, making the Bureau's vast stores of data more accessible, consumable, and shareable.

The table below shows a list of initiatives for **BEA**.

Table 4 - BEA Initiatives

Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
BEA	Enhancing Communications through Web and Social Media	Live / Operational	
	Open Data	Live / Operational	
	New Data Products	Live / Operational	

#### • Enhancing Communications through Web and Social Media

BEA is enhancing its use of Web and social media tools to make its data more accessible and useful for the public. The first prong of this project involves the next iteration of enhancements to the interactive tables portal on the BEA website. This year, BEA added a mapping capability for data sets that have a geographic component. This improvement launched in the second quarter of FY 2012. In September, the Center for Digital Government recognized BEA interactive tables with the Driving Digital Excellence Award. In the coming year, BEA will continue to make behind-the-scenes improvements to the interactive tables. BEA is also developing a redesign of BEA.gov that will make BEA data easier to find and more accessible.

The second prong of this project involves using blogs, social media, and the mobile Web to make BEA data more digestible for the public. BEA launched a blog to educate members of the public about how it might use the data to better understand the dynamics of the U.S. economy. To speed technical implementation, BEA used open-source software to support this project. Next, BEA launched twitter feeds to keep followers apprised of newly available data, BEA events, and job opportunities. BEA's twitter presence launched in the first quarter of FY 2012, while the BEA blog launched in the second quarter. Finally, BEA assisted the Census Bureau in the launch of the America's Economy mobile application, which features three key BEA data sets. In the coming year, BEA will continue to expand the use of blogs, social media, and the mobile Web to make BEA data as open and available as possible.

#### • BEA Open Data

BEA has focused its data inventory efforts on creating its public data listing of the data sets that are currently available to the public on the BEA website (<a href="http://www.bea.gov">http://www.bea.gov</a>). This





includes critical BEA data sets from all four major economic program areas of the Bureau that are made available via interactive web applications and/or via static download files. This initial effort to create an inventory is completed and is posted on the website. BEA is focus on creating an enterprise-wide inventory for other non-public data sets.

BEA's website has had for many years data sets available for download either as static files or via various interactive web applications. A few years ago BEA designed and implemented a highly successful Interactive Data Tables web application to make it easier to access and use our statistics. The goal was to provide a common look and feel for users accessing national, international, regional or industry statistics; to make the data easier to print, save and export; to make the charting features more robust and visually appealing; and to make the data easier to share with others via a variety of tools.

In addition, BEA developed and implemented an API in 2013. The API provides direct access to gross domestic product (GDP) and related national economic statistics, along with regional economic statistics. The BEA API allows developers to build a service to search, display, analyze, retrieve, or view BEA statistics. The API includes methods for retrieving subsets of BEA statistical data and the meta-data that describes it using HTTP requests. It delivers data in two industry-standard open formats: XML (Extensible Markup Language) and JSON (JavaScript Object Notation).

BEA hosts a blog on its website which has been very successful in promoting its data releases and new data offerings, including the Interactive Data Tables web application and the BEA API.

#### • BEA New Data Products

BEA will also be making several new data products available to the public this year, part of an ongoing effort to better measure the dynamic U.S. economy and give businesses, policymakers and ordinary Americans additional tools to make informed decisions. Each report will be released at 8:30 a.m. eastern time on the date indicated.

#### Real Personal Income for State and Metropolitan Areas

- Annual report covers 2012 back to 2008
- Release date: April 24, 2014
- Report provides statistics on people's incomes adjusted for inflation and broken out by state and metro area
- Adjusting regional personal income data for differences in the cost of consumer goods and services provides insight into the relative purchasing power of consumers in different states and metro areas
- BEA has previously released prototype statistics of this kind. This year, for the first time, BEA will start releasing annual reports on a regular basis





#### Quarterly GDP by Industry

- Quarterly report covers fourth quarter of 2013 back to the first quarter of 2005. Report also provides annual statistics for 2013
- Release date: April 25, 2014
- Statistics show how much how much economic activity is generated by different industries and how much individual industries contributed to overall U.S. economic growth
- For the first time, BEA is releasing GDP by industry statistics on a quarterly basis. Previously, these statistics were available only annually
- Quarterly statistics will provide a more timely snapshot of how individual industries are faring and can serve as a better barometer for potential turning points in the U.S. economy

#### Personal Consumption Expenditures by State

- Annual report covers 2012 back to 1997
- Release date: August 7, 2014
- Prototype statistic, meaning refinements in methodology may be made before this becomes a regular BEA product
- BEA, for the first time, will produce annual statistics on consumer spending broken out by state. Currently, BEA provides consumer spending figures only on the national level
- These statistics will offer for the first time a detailed look at consumer behavior in each of the country's 50 states. Report will provide a gauge of how consumers in different states are faring, offering a richer picture of economic activity across entire U.S.

#### Quarterly GDP by State

- Quarterly report covers the fourth quarter of 2013 back to the first quarter of 2007
- Release date: August 20, 2014
- Prototype statistic, meaning refinements in methodology may be made before this becomes a regular BEA product
- BEA, for the first time, will produce quarterly statistics showing overall economic activity generated by each state as well as the main forces either supporting or restraining growth. Currently, BEA provides GDP-by-state statistics only at the national level
- These statistics will offer a more up-to-date picture of how states' economies are
  faring and will provide a more detailed view of economic activity across the entire U.
  S. The statistics will also serve as a better barometer for potential turning points for
  the overall U.S. economy







# **Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)**

**B**IS is to advance U.S. national security, foreign policy, and economic objectives by ensuring an effective export control and treaty compliance system and by promoting continued U.S. strategic technology leadership.

#### **Primary BIS Activities:**

Maintain and strengthen an adaptable and effective U.S. export control and treaty compliance system: BIS administers and enforces controls on exports of dual-use goods and technologies to counter proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), combat terrorism, and pursue other national security and foreign policy goals.

Integrate non-U.S. actors to create a more effective global export control and treaty compliance system: The effectiveness of U.S. export controls is enhanced by strong controls in other nations that export, or transship sensitive goods and technologies. BIS works to improve the participation and compliance of existing members of multilateral export control regimes and cooperates with other countries to help them establish effective export control programs. As part of policy formulation and implementation toward key trading partners and transshipment countries, BIS utilizes an end-use visit program.

Ensure continued U.S. technology leadership in industries that are essential to national security: BIS works to ensure that the U.S. remains competitive in industry sectors and sub-sectors critical to national security. To this end, BIS analyzes the impact of export controls and trade policies on strategic U.S. industries, administers the Federal Government's Defense Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS), reports on the impact of defense trade offsets, and evaluates the security impact of certain proposed foreign investments in U.S. companies.

The table below shows a list of initiatives for **BIS**.





Table 5 - BIS Initiatives

Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
BIS	Website transformation	Live / Operational	

#### • Project – Website transformation

In response to the feedback from our many stakeholders, the BIS website is continually being enhanced to meet Open Government requirements. The new site is fully operational and can be accessed with the following link: <a href="www.bis.doc.gov">www.bis.doc.gov</a>. By clicking either picture or icon users can explore the new site and continue to provide comments and recommendations as BIS continues to enhance our outreach efforts.







## **Bureau of the Census (Census)**

Census is the premier source of information about the American people and the economy. More than just numbers, this information shapes important policy decisions that help improve the nation's social and economic conditions.

Four principles form the foundation for the work done at Census: openness to user and respondent concerns, independence and neutrality, strong statistical standards, and confidentiality. Through these principles, Census is inherently aligned with the cornerstone principles of the Open Government Directive: transparency, participation, and collaboration.

Census aims to build a 21<sup>st</sup> Century digital platform to serve the American people with greater transparency, participation, and collaboration. As a government leader in providing digital products and services, Census fully embraces the opportunity to unlock data and promote transparency with the American public through digital means. The open data API is an integral part of Census's response to the comprehensive Federal Digital Strategy, of providing data and services that are available "anywhere, anytime, on any device."

Guided by customer-centricity, information-centricity, shared services, and security and privacy, Census will continue to drive towards a 21st century digital platform by executing projects and initiatives across the Bureau.

The table below shows a list of initiatives for *Census*.

Table 6 - Census Initiatives

Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
Census	Improving Operational Efficiency	Live / Operational	
	Improving the Census History Website	Live / Operational	
	Add High Value Datasets to Data.gov	Live / Operational	





Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
	Improving Access to Economic Programs	Completed (December 2011)	
	Improving Access to Economic Indicators via the Central Indicator Data Repository (CIDR)	Completed (July 2012)	
	Publishing Automated Export Systems Best Practices Online	Completed (August 2012)	
	Implementing Local Employment Dynamics (LED)Program	Completed (September 2011)	
	Improving LED Data Visualization	Ongoing / Continuous	
	Modernizing Business Help Site	Completed (December 2012)	
	Re-engineering State and Local Governments Statistical Programs and Improving Data Presentations	Live / Operational	
	Adding Web-based Learning Tools to Improve Access to Economic Programs	Completed (October 2013)	
	Using Mobile Technology to Improve Data Dissemination, Data Collection, and Employee Productivity	Live / Operational	
	Application Programming Interface	Live / Operational	
	Implementing the Federal Digital Strategy	Live / Operational	
	A Mobile Strategy to Address Internal and External Market Segments	Completed (October 2012)	
	Establishing the 2012 Account Manager Program	Completed (September 2013)	
	Implementing the Advance Mailing to 80,000 Businesses that the Census is Coming	Completed (June 2012)	
	Installing Economic Directorate Change Management and Succession Management Training Program	Completed (September 2012)	
	Testing of Interactive On-line Electronic Tools with the Business Community for the 2012 Economic Census	Completed (December 2012)	
	Accelerating Release of the FT-900: U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services (FT900)	Completed (March 2013)	
	Improving the Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR)	Completed (June 2013)	
	Seasonal Adjustment of International Trade Statistics by Geography	Completed (March 2014)	
	Indicator Release Improvement Project (IRIP)	In Progress	March 2015





Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
	Economic Indicators Made Available through Census API	Completed (February 2014)	

#### • Project - Improving Operational Efficiency

Census Improving Operational Efficiency (IOE) 2010 program was a tremendous success. Census's staff submitted over 650 proposals. Suggestions included ideas to eliminate duplicative or unnecessary activities, re-engineer processes, and implement standardized tools. Senior management selected 20 proposals for business case development, of which 10 were funded. In addition, 14 original proposals that required few, if any, additional resources were implemented immediately.

The 2011 IOE process began in February 2011 by incorporating lessons learned from the first year. Improvements included developing a social media forum that allowed employees with Intranet access to use a streamlined process to submit proposals, and to vote and comment on other proposals. The social media forum was extremely important in providing feedback for senior managers to use during both the initial and final proposal assessment phases. Additionally, a new Internet site was developed to facilitate submission of proposals from field representatives throughout the country who did not have access to Census's Intranet.

These enhancements, along with the continued enthusiasm of Census staff, generated over 800 proposals in the 2011 IOE program. The goal is to institutionalize this innovative process by making it an annual event so that Census staff develop and implement innovative changes and efficiencies as a regular part of their ongoing work.

The 2012 IOE process began in late November 2011 and incorporated a number of improvements from lessons learned in previous years. Improvements included a new social media tool with significant enhancements over the 2011 version providing staff more options to track ideas, provide comments, and participate more in developing ideas. The 2012 IOE process also started almost three months earlier allowing employees' additional time to develop their proposals and seek input from staff to ensure ideas were fully considered across the entire agency.

Over 750 ideas were received from staff located at headquarters and the regional offices for the 2012 IOE program. Seven ideas moved forward to the business case phase and senior managers selected four of those ideas for implementation. A significant number of other ideas that required few if any additional resources are being implemented immediately.

The 2013 IOE process will be refined from previous years, as the focus will shift to request proposals addressing several very specific challenges faced by Census. As the IOE program





matures, it is necessary to align the current projects with our strategic initiatives and direct the resourcefulness of our employees to address new specific or technical challenges faced by the agency with the 2013 call.

After three highly successful years for the IOE program, Census has implemented these improvements in FY 2013 allowing the program to continue its success with a new more focused approach.

#### • Project – Improving the Census History website

What's new – Promoting the History website and Improving Functionality for Mobile Devices

Census History Staff's website (census.gov/history) witnessed 50 percent annual growth in visitation between 2011 and 2012. To continue this growth, the History staff will work with Census's Public Information Office (PIO) and Center for New Media and Promotions (CNMP) to promote the History website and study enhancements that incorporate mobile device technology into the data user experience.

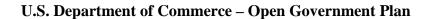
The History Staff will highlight important anniversaries, events, and newsworthy information through Census's Facebook, Twitter, and blog pages. Visitors to the agency's social media pages will be encouraged to learn more by following links to relevant History website pages. Examples include "This day in Census history" entries highlighting the anniversary of 1790's "Census Day" to interesting facts related to the Civil War, Women's History, or important census legislation.

Recognizing the boom in mobile computing, the history staff will seek to enhance and improve mobile data users' experience at the History website. The history staff intends to study a variety of options, including: 1) the use of Quick Response (QR) codes on posters, promotional materials, and webpages; 2) the development of mobile device "apps" that encourage visitation to the history website; and 3) introduction of audio and video on select webpages to enhance text and imagery.

#### • Project -- Add High Value Datasets to Data.gov

What's New – Providing important data series through Data.gov using the ODP New IAI

Census is publishing current datasets to <u>Data.gov</u> as identified on a flow basis. Previously published records for Census products are reviewed regularly for date of last update and link validation.







#### • Project – Improving Access to Economic Programs

Census's Economic Programs cover a myriad of topics and, over the years, we have published information relating to them on various dissimilar Internet pages. Even the veteran users have found it difficult to find information they need, and new or unsophisticated users are even more challenged. The goal is to ease access to these data by adopting standard Web page designs and standard access cues. An integrated search tool, linked to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) keyword search, provides for each industry a list of all available reports as well as available geographic area data. To assist novice users of the data and access tools, a series of brief instructional videos provide step-by-step instructions.

More information can be found at <a href="http://www.census.gov/business">http://www.census.gov/business</a>.

## • Project – Improving Access to Economic Indicators via the Central Indicator Data Repository (CIDR)

Census produces 13 principal economic indicators covering retail trade, wholesale trade, services, manufacturing, business inventories, manufacturers' and retailers' profits, construction, and international trade. These monthly and quarterly reports are among the most closely watched statistics published by Census. The reports have been published in a variety of dissimilar formats and layouts. Census has developed a database-driven access system that provides access to current and historic data from each report using a single user interface. Users can now easily select the data they want, along with supporting graphics, making it easier than ever to see economic trends.

Census has activated the system for all of the - principal economic indicators, with the exception of the Advanced Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders, the only economic indicator not planned for CIDR inclusion since this is a preliminary release of the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders, which is already activated in the CIDR. <a href="http://www.census.gov/econ/currentdata/">http://www.census.gov/econ/currentdata/</a>

#### • Project – Publishing Automated Export Systems (AES) Best Practices Online

The AES Best Practices Manual shares with AES filers a variety of methods that can be implemented to stay compliant with the Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR) reporting requirements. The content of the Manual ranges from suggestions on training material and training staff to export checklists, technical documentation references, and links to other government agency resources. The Manual also provides several excellent examples of best practices that could assist exporting companies in meeting the FTR compliance standards. The Census obtained the best practices from visits to AES filers that maintained a





compliance rate greater than 95 percent. The Manual is revised and updated as regulatory changes occur. More information can be found at:

http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/aes/documentlibrary/bp/aes\_bestpractices.html and http://www.census.gov/foreign-trades/aes

#### • Project – Implementing Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Program

LED is a voluntary partnership between state labor market information agencies and Census to develop new information about local labor market conditions. LED uses modern statistical and computing techniques to combine federal and state administrative data on employers and employees with core Census censuses and surveys while protecting the confidentiality of people and firms that provide the data. It includes the Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI), a set of economic indicators – including employment, job creation, wages, and worker turnover – available at different levels of geography (state, county, metropolitan/micropolitan, and workforce investment area) and by detailed industry, sex, and age of workers. Starting in 2006, Census also began to release OnTheMap, a web-based mapping and reporting application that shows where workers are employed and where they live, based on the same jobs frame as the QWI. OnTheMap and QWI provide powerful tools and entirely new ways to explore, analyze, and understand the American economy.

LED reached a milestone in 2010 when Massachusetts and New Hampshire joined the LED Partnership, completing a historic national partnership that now includes 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 2011, QWI was expanded to include additional demographic information on worker educational attainment, race, and ethnicity. In 2012, personnel data on federal jobs from OPM was integrated into QWI. In 2012, QWI was also expanded to include new information on the age and size of firms. More information can be found at http://lehd.ces.census.gov.

#### • Project – Improving LED Data Visualization

What's New – Presentation tools improve understanding and use of Census data

Data visualization tools are an important and necessary means by which statistical information can be made more understandable to data users. Census's LED partnership (or LEHD program) has pioneered this effort with its public OnTheMap web application, which allows graphical analysis of the relationship between residence and workplace locations on user-defined maps. The latest version will include additional data and functionality, including querying employment trends by firm age and firm size, as well as improved visuals within the available exports. In June 2012, Census released version 3 of OnTheMap for Emergency Management. First introduced in 2010, this is a public data tool that provides unique, real-time information on the workforce for U.S. areas affected by hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and other emergency events. It now includes FEMA Disaster Declaration Areas.





LEHD has successfully completed two pilot data visualization projects for displaying the Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) data. In 2013, a new data cutting tool was released that allows access to all 23 indicators of the QWI. This will be followed in 2014 by a new analysis tool that visualizes the QWI through dynamic maps, charts, and tables. More information can be found at <a href="http://lehd.ces.census.gov">http://lehd.ces.census.gov</a>.

#### • Project – Modernizing Business Help Site

Census introduced the Business Help Site (BHS) to provide information to aid businesses in completing census and survey questionnaires. The BHS includes "frequently asked questions," access to regulations, online services such as form re-mails and time extensions, company reporting calendars, and other types of assistance. A Secure Message Center allows respondents to communicate with Census electronically via secure e-mail.

Phase I provided a new modernized BHS look, feel and functionality that improve its effectiveness in providing assistance to data providers. Phase 2 of the BHS introduced a survey portal that will be used for some annual surveys and the Economic Census. The portal allows respondents to access their electronic instruments, online services and the Secure Messaging Center (SMC). However, they need to login again to report online or communicate using the SMC. The BHS continues to be improved to include a Single Sign-on approach. This approach allows respondents to login once to the BHS for access to online services (including electronic reporting) and the SMC.

More information can be found at http://econhelp.census.gov.

## • Project – Re-engineering State and Local Governments Statistical Programs and Improving Data Presentations

What's New – Improved integration of census and current governments programs, and improved data products

Based on extensive consultation with public and private sector data users in a series of workshops, Census is re-engineering the government statistics programs. The effect will be better integration of Census of Governments with associated annual and quarterly tax, finance, pensions, and employment surveys. In addition, tabulations will be improved to better address data user needs. Several improvements already have been introduced, including:

- summary briefs, issued quarterly, covering government taxes and pensions;
- annual reports accompany the release of data products, covering government finance, taxes, pensions, and employment;





- an informational flyer for the Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenues included in the component surveys' mailing package in October 2013 to encourage response;
- making data more accessible through a variety of modes. Specifically, all state and local governments statistical programs' data are now available through <a href="Data.gov">Data.gov</a>; the Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenues and the Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions data are included in the Central Indicators Data Repository (CIDR); and the 2012 Census of Governments: Finance Survey of State Government Tax Collections, Census of Governments: Finance Survey of Public Pensions (state product), Census of Governments: Organization, and Census of Governments: Finance Survey of State Government Finances data were released in American FactFinder.
- a national map of local governments based on results from the 2012 Census of Governments: Organization. In addition, Commerce published a graphical summary report of the 2007 Census of Governments;
- a data user workshop and technical workshop were held in February and March 2012, in which Commerce staff met with over 60 external stakeholders to discuss data user needs and validate technical methodologies;
- data visualizations accompanied blog posts published about data releases including the 2009 Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances in October 2011, the 2010 Annual Survey of School System Finances in June 2012, the 2011 Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll in August 2012, the 2012 Census of Governments: Finance – Survey of State Government Tax Collections in April 2013, and the 2011 Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances in July 2013;
- public webinars hosted jointly with the Association of Public Data Users to discuss various data products including data about taxes, public pension systems, and special districts;
- preliminary counts of governments were released in August 2012 as part of the 2012 Census of Governments. In addition to a national map of local governments, Commerce released two animated maps depicting the change in counts of special district and school district governments over time; and
- slide rulers providing data from the 2011 Annual Survey of Public Pensions and 2012 Census of Governments: Finance Survey of State Government Tax Collections.

Additionally, Commerce plans to continue making improvements to these programs, including:





- increasing the number of data visualizations included in publications; and,
- increasing the number of new products including informational flyers and slider rulers.

## • Project - Adding Web-based Learning Tools to Improve Access to Economic Programs

Census's Economic Programs incorporate vast, complex topics and employ dissemination and collection tools that require some sophistication on the parts of the data user and respondent. New Web-based tools make it easier to understand and use the data and comply with regulations.

- Videos Web-based videos explain tools and regulations. The Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) video shows respondents how to select a sample of shipment records for reporting on the survey "http://bhs.econ.census.gov/bhs/cfs/surveytools.html." Foreign trade videos show how to find and use trade data, submit accurate reports, and comply with trade regulations "http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/aes/exporttraining/videos/." The Secure Messaging Center (SMC) video shows how to register and communicate on the SMC "http://bhs.econ.census.gov/ec12/pages/videos.html." We plan to offer additional videos.
- Export Compliance and Automated Exports System (AES) Webinars The Foreign Trade Division conducts a series of online conferences to help exporters comply with mandatory filing requirements <a href="http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/aes/meetingsandpresentations/index.html">http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/aes/meetingsandpresentations/index.html</a>.
- Social Media The Foreign Trade Division has introduced a blog to show how to find and use trade data, submit accurate reports, and comply with trade regulations. The blog is updated three times a week and has over 17,000 users <a href="http://blogs.census.gov/globalreach">http://blogs.census.gov/globalreach</a>.

## • Project – Using mobile technology to improve data dissemination, data collection and employee productivity

What's new – America's Economy app added 3 new indicators available on the iOS and Android platforms

Census released its first mobile application called America's Economy in August 2012. The app added 3 new indicators in July 2013 and now makes 19 leading economic indicators available to the public via mobile devices. Census collaborated with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The app provides easy access to the indicator data, trend information, up to 24 months of historical data (where available), and a regional breakdown (where available). The app has been very popular since its release and





has had almost 105,000 downloads. In December 2012 the bureau was an honorable mention recipient of the Walter Gellhorn Innovation Award for the agency's development of the "America's Economy" mobile app.

Census's OnTheMap application, which provides access to data that shows where workers are employed and where they live, was enhanced to allow easy access from mobile devices. The application (OnTheMap Mobile) can be accessed by Android and iOS devices at <a href="http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/m/">http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/m/</a>.

Census is currently in the process of enhancing its home page http://www.census.gov to make it more mobile friendly. The enhanced version of the home page will detect where the request is coming from (what type of device) and respond with an appropriately formatted page.

Census is engaged in building several prototypes to determine ways of using mobile devices to improve field data collection activities, as well as to increase employee productivity. Census is also in the process of formulating a mobile computing strategy that will guide all future efforts related to mobile technology within the Bureau.

#### • Project – Application Programming Interface (API)

The Application Programming Interface (API) project provides a new online service that makes key demographic, socioeconomic, and housing statistics more accessible than ever before. Census's first ever public API allows developers to design Web and mobile apps to explore or learn more about America's changing population and economy.

The new API lets developers customize Census statistics into Web or mobile apps that provides users quick and easy access from popular sets of statistics:

- 2010 Census (Summary File 1), which includes detailed statistics on population age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, household relationship and owner/renter status, for a variety of geographic areas down to the level of census tracts and blocks.
- 2006-2012 American Community Survey (five year estimates), which includes detailed statistics on a rich assortment of topics (education, income, employment, commuting, occupation, housing characteristics, and more) down to the level of census tracts and block groups.

The API aligns with the federal digital strategy and supports the goals of Open Government.

# Open Government Transpursory Participation Collaboration

## **U.S. Department of Commerce – Open Government Plan**



#### • Project – Implementing the Federal Digital Strategy

What's New – Census is fully embracing the business intent of the Federal Digital Strategy for open data, a cost effective mobile strategy, and improving the enterprise architecture and infrastructure to manage the complete data lifecycle.

The Digital Government Strategy, released in May 2012, presented a 12-month roadmap for agencies to follow to release better digital services to the American people.

The Digital Strategy is a critical part of the Open Government initiative, leveraging technology to unlock data and promote transparency with the American public. As a government leader in providing digital products and services, Census fully embraces this opportunity and has been working diligently towards a new 21<sup>st</sup> century digital ecosystem. In the last year, Census has made great strides in delivering on the Digital Government Strategy. As of October 2012, Census identified the Census Summary File 1 and American Community Survey datasets as first-move candidates to make compliant with new open data, content, and web API policy. This data was made available to the public via a standard web API in July 2012. In December, The API was named a Computerworld Honors Laureate in April 2013.

While Census remains a government leader in digital products and services, leadership at the bureau realizes there is even greater potential in connecting existing initiatives and further expanding how citizens access information about our people, economy, and nation as a whole. In late November 2012, Census leadership agreed that the Digital Government Strategy should serve as a vehicle for digital transformation at Census – a charge that challenges Census to envision a future Census digital ecosystem and a path to achieving it. Census implementation of the Digital Strategy is based on the fundamental tenet that information is a strategic public asset that must be managed through the complete lifecycle from data collection through data dissemination. Census will continue to evolve the Bureau's Digital Strategy to ensure openness and application interoperability through shared services and to address heightened awareness of the challenge of maintaining security standards and infrastructure for the growing variety of digital efforts being planned.

There are three foundational elements critical to the success of a future Digital Strategy at Census.

- Interoperable systems Improving how our systems exchange data with one another
- Mobile Flexibility Strengthening IT infrastructure through modern, scalable tools and software
- Service Oriented Architecture Publishing consistent standards to enable reuse and savings





#### • Project – Establishing the 2012 Account Manager Program

The 2012 Account Manager Program is designed to support Economic Programs Directorate Strategic Plan Goal 4: "Limit Respondent Burden." The program looks at large companies across the directorate programs and finds ways to reduce total burden for data providers and to provide expert resources to assist data providers in completing questionnaires. The 2012 program will advance these goals and improve quality and timing of the Economic Census response by providing improved information and individual assistance to a selected group of the largest companies.

## • Project – Implementing the Advance Mailing to 80,000 Businesses that the 2012 Economic Census is Coming

The Advance Mailing is the first major 2012 Economic Census activity. Census mailed a letter to 80,000 companies in March 2012, explaining the 2012 Economic Census and requesting contact information via the Census's Business Help Site. For 2,000 of those companies, we included an Account Manager's name and contact information.

## • Project – Installing Economic Directorate Change Management and Succession Management Training Program

In an effort to meet the new strategic vision of being the leader and trusted source in providing comprehensive and timely data that tell the story of the changing economy, the Economic Directorate has developed two new training initiatives. The change management and succession management training programs provide the means for the Economic Directorate to skillfully and effectively handle change and help identify, manage, and integrate key positions and key talent in a series of steps that form an ongoing channel of developing resources, matching supply to demand, and evaluating results to achieve our business goals and priorities. These programs design, develop, deliver and evaluate effective, efficient, and cost-effective change management and succession planning training to provide the means for Economic Directorate leadership to implement their succession plan process within the Economic Directorate. Over the course of FY12 Census offered a broad range of change management and succession planning learning opportunities and exposure of the individuals to as much of the working environment as possible so that they gain a good understanding of what the Economic Directorate requires to remain successful.

## Project – Testing of Interactive On-line Electronic Tools with the Business Community for the 2012 Economic Census

Census staff worked with the business community to present the best electronic tools to complete the 2012 Economic Census. Electronic tools include online reporting, requests for time extensions, form re-mails, reporting calendars, and filing status. Usability testing was performed with the business community to provide feedback on the electronic tools. The





Census used suggestions from the testing to improve the software, making it more user-friendly and further reducing respondent burden. Respondents have the flexibility to manage their time to complete a survey or census. Electronic reporting also helps to improve the quality of statistical data by using built-in edits. Respondents can communicate confidential information electronically through the Secure Messaging Center (SMC) to get assistance with completing their forms. For the 2007 Economic Census, 54 percent of multiunit establishments reported electronically. In 2012, the expectation is that an even greater number of respondents will submit their data electronically.

## • Project – Accelerating the release of the FT-900: U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services and related releases and data products.

In response to having more relevant and timely statistics that adhere to the Office of Management and Budget's Statistical Policy Number 3, the Foreign Trade Division accelerated the release of the *FT-900: U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services* (FT900) beginning with January 2013 statistics. Working together with the partners at the Bureau of Economic Analysis and Statistics Canada, we reached the goal of releasing the FT900 accompanied with all underlying detailed statistics on average five days earlier than the current schedule. This translates to providing the Foreign Trade statistics 34 - 36 days after the reference month has ended. By accelerating the release of the Foreign Trade statistics, other government agencies and private industry can incorporate the data for more efficient economic analysis and decision-making. It also allows the U. S. to be more in-line with other major trading partners such as China and Japan, who currently release their trade statistics earlier than the U.S.

#### • Project – Improving the Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR)

What's New- The Census is amending its FTR to reflect new export reporting requirements.

The Census is responsible for collecting, compiling, and publishing U.S. International trade in goods. The Census amended the Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR) to reflect new export reporting requirements. The FTR contain the definitions and requirements for reporting export information in the Automated Export System (AES). Specifically, the Census requires mandatory filing of export information through the Automated Export System (AES) or through AESDirect for all shipments of used self-propelled vehicles and temporary exports. In addition, the Census modified the required reporting timeframe within the post departure filing program, adding additional security requirements, and making changes to improve clarity.

More information can be found at:

http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/regulations/npr\_ftr\_rewrite.pdf





#### • Project - Seasonal Adjustment of International Trade Statistics by Geography

The Census currently adjusts monthly international merchandise trade statistics for seasonality by summarized commodity groupings. Working together with partners at the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Census will also begin publishing seasonally adjusted trade value (goods only) by selected countries and geographic areas effective with the *FT-900: U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services* press release for January 2014 statistics. The Census currently publishes tables in the FT-900 that include trade value by country, but none are adjusted for seasonality. In addition, the Bureau of Economic Analysis plans to publish seasonally adjusted trade in goods and services on a balance of payments basis by selected countries and geographic areas in June 2014. The implementation of geographic seasonal adjustments will improve the relevance and usefulness of published trade statistics by providing data users with an ability to assess underlying patterns in time series value data for select countries and world areas.

#### • Project – Indicator Release Improvement Project (IRIP)

The Census currently produces 13 principal economic indicators that provide relevant, timely, and high quality information to a wide variety of public and private sector data users. These monthly and quarterly reports are among the most closely watched statistics published by the Census. At an economic indicator release time, the process of transferring secure information from an internal server to a public web server can take up to 45 seconds for standard exhibits to become available for data users. In addition, the latency of the Census's economic indicator release in comparison to the Department of Commerce lockup release poses a problem regarding equal access to the economic indicator data. IRIP entails a threephase approach that will increase efficiency in releasing economic indicator data by minimizing, if not eliminating, the manual steps and reducing the time it takes to post economic indicator data to the public website to within five seconds, but as close as possible to one second, after the official release time. Upon the completion of this project the benefits will include: 1) the elimination of entering and storing similar data in different areas; 2) a complete redesign of the Briefing Room to match the Economic Indicator Dashboard and America's Economy mobile application; 3) the facilitation of quicker and equal access to indicator data after the official release time; 4) the ability to update all data driven applications simultaneously; and 5) an additional layer of security.

#### Project – Economic Indicators Made Available through Census API

What's New – The Economic Indicator Time Series Database is now available via the Census API and includes statistics primarily at the national level for measuring key sectors of the U.S. economy.

The U.S. Census's economic indicators provide monthly and quarterly data that are timely, reliable, and offer comprehensive measures of the U.S. economy. These critical data cover a





wide variety of key economic sectors including construction, housing, international trade, retail trade, wholesale trade, services and manufacturing. The goal of this endeavor is to make vital economic data available through the Census API and assist data users and developers by providing access to analyze economic performance and help make informed business investment and policy decisions. Other data included, which are not considered principal economic indicators, are the Quarterly Summary of State & Local Taxes, Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions, and the Manufactured Homes Survey.

More information can be found at <a href="http://www.census.gov/developers/econ/">http://www.census.gov/developers/econ/</a>

## **Census Featured Initiative – Open Data API**

Like many federal agencies and bureaus facing continued budget reductions and limited resources, the Census is adapting its operating model to be a smarter, faster, and leaner 21st century organization. As the authoritative source for statistical data about the US and its citizens, the Census collects, analyzes, and disseminates massive amounts of information to a widely diverse audience spanning localities, companies, even countries. These large volumes of data, coupled with the rapid

#### **API Facts**

Launched in July 2012
5,072 Key requests since it was launched
321,803,259 API accesses since it was launched
<a href="http://www.census.gov/developers/apps/">http://www.census.gov/developers/apps/</a>

pace, democratization of technology presented the Census with a challenge in how it should expand access to its data while ensuring quality and security, and minimizing costs.

To address this complex challenge the Census launched the Open Data Strategy project. The project aimed to deliver an application programming interface (API) to the public that can provide building blocks for third-party developers to design online and mobile applications using Census statistics. The API empowers developers with easy web-access to a single pipeline of data with full flexibility, and control over which data variables to request and receive, without the need to create copies or download potentially massive files, requiring additional infrastructure to store them. To achieve this, Census had to develop innovative approaches to harnessing data from two of the largest federal statistical datasets available for public consumption, comprising nearly 400GB of storage. A key challenge was the ability to improve performance given the API needed to handle up to a thousand concurrent users and return data requested with an acceptable response time (sub-second more than ninety-nine percent of the time).

While APIs help expand computing potential at Census, their real value comes through enabling innovation and fostering a 21st century economic model. The Census Open Data





API allows developers both inside and outside the agency to create new, and perhaps unexpected, applications based on Census statistics, thereby extending their reach.

The Census Open Data API was implemented in July 2012 with the release of the 2010 Decennial Census data and the 2006-2010 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS) Summary File (SF). The API currently serves up ACS 5yr SF for 2006-10, 2007-2011, 2008-2012; ACS 3yr SF for 2010-2012; ACS 1yr SF for 2012; ACS Data Profiles for 5yr SF 2008-2012, 3yrSF 2010-2012, 1yr SF for 2012; Decennial SF1 2010, SF3 2000 and SF1 and SF3 1990; the 2011 112<sup>th</sup> Congressional District data; and the Economic Indicators The U.S. Census Bureau's economic indicator surveys provide monthly and quarterly data that are timely, reliable, and offer comprehensive measures of the U.S. economy. These surveys produce a variety of statistics covering construction, housing, international trade, retail trade, wholesale trade, services and manufacturing. The survey data provide measures of economic activity that allow analysis of economic performance and inform business investment and policy decisions. Other data included, which are not considered principal economic indicators, are the Quarterly Summary of State and Local Taxes, Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions, and the Manufactured Homes Survey. The Census Open Data API has incorporated continuous updates and enhancements as suggested by our user community of developers. For example, when the Census open data API was originally deployed, there was a limitation of five variables, which could be obtained per request. Several users asked if it could be increased, despite the fact that it could severely affect the performance of the API. The development team modified the API to handle fifty variables in a request, and avoided the performance issue by mimicking the action of making multiple requests. This modification improved the overall performance to the user community by eliminating the network lag from making multiple requests from the client. In addition, a machine-readable dataset discovery service is now available in response to user need for easier search and discover of available data in the API. Content is largely based on the Open Project Data Common Core Metadata Schema, and extended to include metadata specific to Census datasets. There are four phases to this project including the remainder of Phase I: Incorporating additional aggregate datasets; Phase II: Normalizing time series datasets; Phase III: Normalizing public use micro data datasets; and Phase IV: Normalizing longitudinal datasets so that the complexity of their use is transparent to the developer/user community. The project is currently in maintenance of Phase I and Phase II, where additional aggregate datasets are being included, and in the design stage of Phase III.

One example of how the open data API has benefited an organization is the Sunlight Foundations' Sitegeist application, the goal of which is to show how government data can be useful to the average person. "The (sic) majority of the data used in Sitegeist comes from the U.S. Census Bureau and their wonderful API...I've never worked with the Census bulk downloads, but I hear from colleagues that it can be a daunting task. Their API makes it incredibly easy to slice and dice the numbers as needed; combining data across "tables" for any geography you are working with." Other examples include platitudes from general public





developers: "Having used these APIs for a while, I find them very useful and working well. Thank you." and, "First, let me applaud the Census Bureau for doing this, it's an awesome project. I'm glad to see JSON as the response format for the API."

The Census Open Data API is considered a notable advancement that could be adopted by or tailored for other organizations, especially smaller federal agencies that may not have the resources or funding to establish the necessary infrastructure to fully support the potential users of their data. The open data API is an integral part of the Census's response to the comprehensive federal Digital Government Strategy, of providing data and services that are available "anywhere, anytime, on any device."

In addition to the ability to allow external developers to create new applications, internal developers are leveraging the same technology and analysts are using the open data API to disseminate complex information to the public in an easily digestible format through web and mobile applications and newly developed data visualizations.







## **Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA)**

**E**SA plays three key roles within the Commerce. ESA provides timely economic analysis, and disseminates national economic indicators. ESA's expert economists and analysts produce indepth reports, fact sheets, and briefings on policy issues and current economic events. The Department and the White House policymakers rely on these tools, as do American businesses, state and local governments, and news organizations around the world.

ESA also oversees the U.S. Census Bureau (Census) and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). In this role, ESA works collaboratively with BEA and Census leadership on high priority management, budget, employment, and risk management issues, integrating the work of these agencies with the priorities and requirements of Commerce and other government entities.

The table below shows a list of initiatives for *ESA*.

Table 7 - ESA Initiatives

Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
ESA	Economic Indicators	Live / Operational	
	The Competitiveness and Innovative Capacity of the United States	Completed (January 2012)	
	Digital Economy and Cross-Border Trade: The Value of Digitally-Deliverable Services	Completed (January 2014)	
	Web Based Briefs	Live / Operational	





#### • Project – Economic Indicators

ESA releases 12 monthly and quarterly Principal Federal Economic Indicators collected by its constituent bureaus: the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Businesses rely heavily upon these indicators to make decisions every day. In their public comments, the Secretary and ESA's Under Secretary and Chief Economist put the indicators into a national and global economic context.

#### Project – The Competitiveness and Innovative Capacity of the United States

On January 4, 2011, President Barack Obama signed into law the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (COMPETES). Section 604 of COMPETES mandates that the Secretary of Commerce complete a study that addresses the economic competitiveness and innovative capacity of the U. S. (see Supplemental Materials). Congress directed that this report address a diverse array of topics and policy options, including: tax policy; the general business climate in the U.S.; regional issues such as the role of state and local governments in higher education; barriers to setting up new firms; trade policy, including export promotion; the effectiveness of Federal research and development policy; intellectual property regimes in the U.S. and abroad; the health of the manufacturing sector; and science and technology education.

In conducting this study, COMPETES specified that the Secretary of Commerce establish a process for obtaining comments. One part of that process was to establish a 15 member Innovation Advisory Board (IAB) "for purposes of obtaining advice with respect to the conduct of the study." The Department of Commerce announced the members of the IAB (listed in the Supplementary Materials section of this report) on May 4, 2011, and the inaugural meeting of the IAB was on June 6, 2011, in Alexandria, Virginia. A second meeting of the IAB was held September 23, 2011, in Boulder, Colorado. IAB members provided input into the process throughout the summer. Additionally, some IAB members generously hosted COMPETES-related events in Washington, D.C.; Youngstown, Ohio; Morgantown, West Virginia; Philadelphia, PA; and New York, NY. These events brought together community and business leaders, and experts in a wide variety of areas, to share their ideas on competitiveness. Department of Commerce and Administration staff attended all of these meetings.

Additionally, we received input from a number of other groups at various events. These included an all-day event with a group of prominent academic economists in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and a conference at the Silicon Flatirons' Center for Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship at the University of Colorado. Other groups, as well as the general public, provided additional input.





## Project – Digital Economy and Cross-Border Trade: The Value of Digitally-Deliverable Services

Commerce has played an instrumental role in developing policies that facilitate the digital economy. Commerce's Internet Policy Task Force identifies leading public policy and operational challenges in the Internet environment. The Task Force is committed to maintaining the global free flow of information online. ESA's *Digital Economy and Cross-Border Trade* report provides a framework for understanding the size and nature of some cross border data flows. There is a great deal of interest in understanding the economic value related to digitally-enabled data and services delivered to users at no price. An exact number of bytes associated with these data flows may not be known, but the number is large and growing.

ESA conducted analysis using digitally-enabled services categories identified in previous research as a starting point for identifying "digitally-deliverable" services—i.e., services that may be, but are not necessarily, delivered digitally. These service categories are the ones in which digital technologies present the greatest opportunity to transform the relationship between buyer and seller from the traditional in-person delivery mode to a digital one. Digitally-deliverable services are an important contributor to U.S. trade and help to improve the overall trade balance. When these services are considered as inputs throughout the production process, their value is even more apparent. Virtually no good or service is produced in the U.S. without input from one of the digitally-deliverable services studied in the report.

The report concludes that to fully understand how the U.S. economy is adapting to these changes and how to properly implement policies on international trade and other economic matters, the Federal government must continue to adapt and expand its statistics to capture these changes.

#### • Project - Web Based Briefs

ESA produces short, understandable briefs on timely economic topics at the rate of about once a month.







## **International Trade Administration (ITA)**

TA's mission is to enable U.S. firms and workers to compete and win in the global marketplace. Through our use of partnerships, technology and key sector analysis, ITA provides the gold standard of service for businesses and client-focused organizations. ITA's goals are to strengthen the competitiveness of U.S. industry, promote U.S. exports and business investment in the U. S., and ensure fair trade through the rigorous enforcement of our trade laws and agreements.

Attracting more foreign investors to the U. S. and retaining investment has a positive impact on our economy and creates and supports millions of jobs. ITA's efforts to promote exports and business investment support President Obama's National Export Initiative (NEI) and our nation's sustained economic growth. We are laser-focused on helping more U.S. exporters reach more markets and making trade a bigger part of the DNA of our economy.

The table below shows a list of initiatives for *ITA*.

Table 8 - ITA Initiatives

Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
ITA	Developing a 21st Century Digital Presence to Better Serve our Customers	In Progress	FY2014-2015
	Raising awareness of the SelectUSA program and its available services	In Progress	FY2015-2016
	Providing industry-specific information on global market opportunities and challenges	In Progress	FY2015
	Educating U.S. companies on the export opportunities created by U.S. free trade agreements	In Progress	FY2014-2015

## • Project – Developing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Digital Presence to Better Serve our Customers

What's New – Improving communications with the public by utilizing all available online and social media platforms and channels





ITA is continuing to make great strides toward developing a 21<sup>st</sup> century digital presence that will better serve our customers and stakeholders. Currently, ITA's digital communications are conducted through three primary vehicles – websites, social media/third-party services, and e-mail.

In March 2014, ITA approved the establishment of a digital communications team within the ITA Office of Public Affairs that will be led by a Director of Digital Communications. The team's mandate will be to help all ITA staff better utilize digital communication tools, including web pages, social media, and open data to communicate with the general public. ITA has established a Digital Council comprised of representatives from each of the business units, the Office of the Chief Information Officer, and public affairs to advise and consult with the Director.

Beginning in FY2015, a full team will be assembled under the Director of Digital Communications to develop and implement a digital communications strategy in support of a broader ITA communications strategy. The team will focus on three principal areas: technology, content management and outreach/promotion.

Public website channels have traditionally been split into Trade.gov and Export.gov. Trade.gov has been more trade-policy focused, and Export.gov has targeted businesses and other organizations interested in exporting. As a first step in an ITA-wide digital strategy, Export.gov will be consolidated into Trade.gov, and ITA's content will be made directly available to our partners via <a href="Data.gov">Data.gov</a> tools, thus expanding ITA's public engagement. Reducing the number of websites ITA supports will allow us to develop a high-quality, customer-friendly website experience. The goal is to have the consolidation completed by the end of 2014.

#### • Project – Raising awareness of the SelectUSA program and its available services

What's New – Expanding online access to the SelectUSA program and Federal government resources to attract and retain business investment in the United States

President Obama and Secretary Pritzker have prioritized U.S. government efforts to attract and retain business investment in the U. S. through ITA's SelectUSA program. SelectUSA is the first federal-wide effort to promote and facilitate business investment in the U. S. as an engine for job growth and economic development. SelectUSA provides information and assistance to businesses on how to take advantage of the U. S.' business-friendly environment, and to ensure that we maintain our leadership role in an increasingly competitive environment for new investment. The initiative coordinates investment-related resources across U.S. federal agencies, and is the single point of contact at the national level to help international and domestic firms grow and invest in the U. S..





SelectUSA is also increasing efforts to raise awareness of best practices and opportunities for reshoring. SelectUSA offers an ombudsman service regarding federal rules and regulations for any company considering making an investment in the U. S., including U.S. companies that could re-shore. SelectUSA also offers assistance to U.S. economic development organizations (EDOs) as they seek to attract investment and promote reshoring. Commerce is hosting a SelectUSA Summer Forum with the theme "Reinvesting in America, Creating Jobs at Home," to promote awareness of reshoring.

Throughout FY2014, SelectUSA is conducting consumer needs analysis to determine the optimal way to meet the needs of SelectUSA clients, including U.S. state and local governments and investors. This effort provides follow up activities to the inaugural SelectUSA Investment Summit, held in Washington, D.C., October 31-November 1, 2013. Approximately 1,300 business and government leaders from nearly 60 countries and economic development organizations from 48 states, the District of Columbia, and four territories met at the SelectUSA Investment Summit to learn about the advantages of doing business in the U. S. and to explore investment opportunities. Planning for the 2015 SelectUSA Investment Summit is underway.

In 2014, SelectUSA is hosting a series of Road Shows and trade show pavilions internationally to bring U.S. economic development organizations face-to-face with investors. Events are being held in Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, Korea, China, Mexico, Israel, Switzerland, Austria, Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Australia, New Zealand, and other locations. Events are planned into FY2015 and beyond.

SelectUSA has launched a series of webinars – some co-branded with various stakeholders and clients – that provide detailed information about SelectUSA programs and services available to retain and attract business investment. Up to 20 of these webinars are scheduled to be completed by the end of FY2014.

SelectUSA is working to update the information, tools, and resources available through the <a href="https://www.SelectUSA.gov">www.SelectUSA.gov</a> website. A complete redesign of the site is underway and should be completed by mid-FY2015. The website provides industry reports and economic trends outlining the key reasons why the U. S. is the premier international investment destination, describes the Federal government resources available to businesses looking to invest, and highlights upcoming events hosted by SelectUSA and its partners to promote investment in the U. S..

A major component of the website redesign will be the launch of new data tools that will greatly expand public access to research databases and other resources. These new tools will enable potential investors, economic development organizations, and the general public to quickly identify opportunities for investment within the U. S.. In FY2014, SelectUSA is reviewing deployment of four potential data tools with the goal of these major projects coming online by the end of FY2015:





- Nationwide Investment Incentives: Provides companies, U.S. economic development organizations (EDOs), service providers, and policy-makers a comprehensive, comparable and up-to-date collection of federal-level and state, county, and city incentives.
- Nationwide Investment Sites: Allows firms to search and identify optimal sites available
  across the U. S. through a comprehensive, Geographic Information Systems-based
  depository of available greenfield, brownfield, office, warehouse, industrial, and other
  available commercial sites.
- *Nationwide Investment Projects*: Offers U.S. EDOs a place to post and share public tenders and other investment opportunities, and allows firms and investors to identify opportunities for expansion.
- ServiceSolutionsUSA: Enables investors to directly connect with U.S. companies that provide services, and offers service providers an open opportunity to reach new clients. This will facilitate investment while also increasing U.S. service exports.

The expanded access to these databases – once operational – will help fulfill Secretary Pritzker's pledge to increase availability of Commerce data.

## • Project – Providing industry-specific information on global market opportunities and challenges

What's New – Introducing industry-specific exporting opportunities to U.S. companies through sector spotlights posted to Trade.gov

ITA's Industry and Analysis (I&A) unit focuses on helping U.S. businesses become more competitive in the global marketplace. I&A industry analysts ensure that federal government trade policy and promotion agencies have access to industry-specific information on global trends and opportunities. Many agencies provide technical assistance to U.S. companies, as well as develop and implement policies. I&A has developed specific industry sector spotlights to help U.S. government agencies focus and prioritize efforts that could significantly improve U.S. export performance.

I&A works closely with ITA's industry advisory groups – comprised of private sector representatives – in the development of these strategies. We also prepare public versions of this information that companies can use to help guide in their strategic planning process and aid in identifying potential export opportunities.

Public spotlights are currently available for the following sectors: Aerospace; Agricultural & Food Machinery; Automotive Parts; Building Products; Chemicals; Construction Machinery; Environmental Technologies; Health Information Technology; Oil & Gas Equipment;





Processed Foods; Professional Services; Recreational Transportation; Renewable Energy; the U.S.-European Union Safe Harbor Framework (consumer data protection); and Travel & Tourism.

By the beginning of FY2015, I&A plans to make the following additional sector spotlights publicly available: Architecture, Construction, and Engineering; Civil Nuclear; Express Delivery/Distribution; Insurance; Intellectual Property protection; Semiconductors; and Smart Grid technologies.

Sector strategy reports are available at <a href="http://trade.gov/industry/newita.asp">http://trade.gov/industry/newita.asp</a>.

## • Project – Educating U.S. businesses on the export opportunities created by U.S. free trade agreements

What's New – Provide updated fact sheets that highlight the economic impact of free trade agreements on individual states and sectors

The International Trade Administration (ITA) produces reports that highlight the benefits of trade agreements for the U. S.. In particular, ITA prepares fact sheets that explain the benefits and opportunities from trade agreements for companies and workers in each of the 50 states. These fact sheets include a selection of state export trends, an overview of export-supported jobs, and a summary of the major commitments from a trade agreement. The fact sheets also provide details of all pending trade negotiations.

In addition, ITA prepares a series of industry-specific sector reports that outline the effects of an agreement on the market access opportunities in the partner market for each industry. The sector reports profile the current trade and tariff environment for U.S. exporters, summarize the sector-specific market access results of the agreement, assess foreign competition in the partner market, and describe non-tariff barriers addressed by the agreement that are critical for exporters in each sector. This information is critical to U.S. companies as they decide how to take advantage of these free trade agreements.

These products are available at <a href="www.trade.gov/fta">www.trade.gov/fta</a>. ITA will continue to update these state fact sheets as negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, and the Trade in Services Agreement progress.







## **Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)**

**M**BDA is an entrepreneurially focused organization committed to wealth creation in minority communities. MBDA was created to foster the growth and global competitiveness of U.S. businesses that are minority-owned.

MBDA actively coordinates and leverages public and private-sector resources that facilitate strategic alliances in support of its mission. MBDA's vision is economic prosperity for all American business enterprises.

MBDA provides funding for a network of Minority Business Centers located throughout the Nation. The Centers provide minority entrepreneurs with one-on-one assistance in writing business plans, marketing, management and technical assistance, and financial planning to assure adequate financing for business ventures.

The Centers are staffed by business specialists who have the knowledge and practical experience needed to run successful and profitable businesses. Business referral services are provided free of charge. However, the network generally charges nominal fees for specific management and technical assistance services. The Centers are located in areas with the largest concentration of minority populations and the largest number of minority businesses. Locate a center near you.

The table below shows a list of initiatives for *MBDA*.

Table 9 - MBDA Initiatives

Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
MBDA	Support of SelectUSA.gov Project	On-Going / Continuous	
	Support of BusinessUSA.gov Project	On-Going / Continuous	
	Business Development Tools Modernization Project	In Progress	August 2014





#### • Project – Support of SelectUSA.gov

What's new –Integration of information regarding SelectUSA.gov

In a continuing effort to increase the awareness of business programs and services, MBDA promotes SelectUSA.gov initiatives on the MBDA.gov website and participates in all SelectUSA events. MBDA promoted the 2013 SelectUSA Summit on the MBDA.gov website and maintains a blog page that references all SelectUSA activities with active hyperlinks.

## • Project - Support of Business USA.gov Project

What's new –Integration of MBDA programs and services with BusinessUSA.gov

MBDA is continuing its participation on the <u>BusinessUSA.gov</u> steering committee to provide a one stop destination of all federal programs that support small businesses. MBDA's role in this effort has been to ensure that its programs and other information specific to minority business enterprises are included in the <u>BusinessUSA.gov</u> portal. The first iteration of <u>BusinessUSA.gov</u> was released on February 17, 2012. Since its release MBDA and the <u>BusinessUSA</u> steering committee have been working on functionality and enhancements to improve the user experience for the portal.

#### • Project – Business Development Tools Modernization Project

What's new – Enhancement and redesign of MBDA's business development Applications

MBDA has identified technology that can be used to enhance or replace the suite of business development applications that reside on the MBDA portal. Historically, these tools have been used by Minority Business Enterprise's (MBE), and MBDA Business Centers to support activities associated with their business. Although visitors to MBDA's portal actively use these tools, the agency has determined that there are more modern tools that could be used to improve the effectiveness of and ensure a first class experience for visitors to the site. Newer tools will provide visitors with access to a virtual space that can be used to grow their businesses and will also allow visitors to tailor the site to their individual business needs. The ultimate vision for the initiative will be to increase MBE access to financing and procurement opportunities existing within the public and private sector. The requirements document for obtaining a contractor to host the new services is expected to be complete by mid-summer 2014.





## **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)**

**N**IST founded in 1901 is a non-regulatory federal agency within the <u>Commerce</u>. NIST's mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

The table below shows a list of initiatives for *NIST*.

Table 10 - NIST Initiatives

Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
NIST	Improving Dissemination of Basic Research Results via the NIST and other websites	Live / Operational	
	Improving access to NIST research results through social media including Wikipedia, Facebook, YouTube, Flickr, and Twitter	Live / Operational	
	Improving Access to the Digital Data Repository of NIST Collections, including Publications, Artifacts, and Photographs Relating to Measurement Science	Live / Operational	
	Making Photos and Videos from the 9/11 Investigation available to the public	Completed (August 2011)	

## • Project - Improving Dissemination of Basic Research Results via the NIST and other websites

Several years ago, as part of an effort to broadly disseminate its research results, NIST implemented a content management system, which included access to an improved database of research papers authored or co-authored by NIST researchers. Content is "tagged" by topic, enabling the public to subscribe to receive new information posted on the website on specific topics of interest such as nanotechnology or energy-related research. Currently, there are more than 60,000 subscribers who receive information on approximately 160 different topics. The website also allows members of the public to comment or ask questions





about posted research articles and to easily share content from the NIST site with their own websites (more than 3,000 "shares" in just 4 months of this fiscal year).

In the last 110 years, NIST published hundreds of technical reports such as NIST Interagency or Internal Reports (NISTIRs) and Technical Notes – which were targeted to very specific audiences. Some of these topics are of interest to a broader audience, so NIST is republishing them electronically as papers in the Journal of Research of NIST. Because the Journal of Research is indexed in major scientific/technical databases, these republished reports will reach a broader audience and are more likely to be used and cited, increasing the impact of NIST research. NIST staff members are tracking the number of web hits on and the number of citations of those papers to make a measurement-based determination of the effectiveness of this strategy.

#### • Project - Improving Dissemination and Access to Basic Research Results via Social Media

NIST has created sites on YouTube (more than 2,000 subscribers), Facebook (more than 4,500 "likes"), Twitter (4,800 "followers"), and Flickr (more than 17,000 images viewed). To ensure that as many people as possible benefit from NIST's work, news of major research results posted on the new NIST website is routinely announced through these additional social media sites.

NIST continues to use Wikipedia to improve dissemination of its research results to the public. For selected topics NIST staff members continue to add links to NIST technical reports or papers in the Journal of Research of NIST, to make NIST research information more readily available in a highly used web resource. NIST staff members are adding links to images and descriptions of scientific instruments in the NIST Digital Archives. NIST staff members are tracking the number of web hits on and the number of citations of those reports and papers to make a measurement-based determination of the effectiveness of this strategy to increase the impact of NIST research.

## • Project – Improving Access to the Digital Data Repository of NIST Collections, including Publications, Artifacts, and Photographs Relating to Measurement Science

Currently, information regarding NIST publications is electronically available through its Research Library's online catalog, which includes links to the full text of many publications. Information about some of the objects in NIST's museum is also available through the NIST Virtual Museum. The online catalog and the NIST Virtual Museum are available to the public.

In fiscal year 2011, NIST implemented the NIST Digital Archives, a digital library repository. The Digital Archives conforms to the latest library and publishing metadata standards to enhance the ability of other scholarly and research repositories to discover and harvest information. It contains the full text of NIST's technical publications, including the





Journal of Research, as well as images of and information about NIST historical scientific objects. The metadata conforms to the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting, which is the accepted standard within scholarly and scientific communities for making the contents of information collections available to researchers. File formats adhere to Government Printing Office, Library of Congress, and NARA preservation requirements. NIST is collaborating with the Library of Congress and the Internet Archive to digitize NIST's legacy publications through the Open Content Alliance FedScan initiative. The NIST Digital Archives permits the digital forms of NIST's technical publications and other content to be easily searchable by the public through major Internet search engines, such as Google, Google Books, Google Scholar, WorldCat, and Yahoo. Through the FedScan initiative NIST's legacy publications are scanned, processed through a rigorous quality assurance protocol, and made available to the public in a variety of file formats (e.g., Daisy, EPub, Kindle) through the Internet Archive website. All file formats are also provided back to NIST. These multiple efforts and searchable access points significantly enhance dissemination and use of NIST's research results.

#### • Project – Making Photos and Videos from the 9/11 Investigation available to the public

NIST acquired a large amount of visual material as part of its World Trade Center Investigation. A subset of this material, including photographs and video clips, was organized into a searchable database in which each image and video clip was characterized by a set of attributes including: source/owner, time of shot/video, content (including building, face(s), key events such as plane strike, fireballs, collapse), and other details. These materials can be obtained by visiting <a href="http://wtcdata.nist.gov/index2.htm">http://wtcdata.nist.gov/index2.htm</a>.







## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

NOAA is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor working to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them.

The range from daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.

NOAA's roots date back to 1807, when the Nation's first scientific agency, the Survey of the Coast, was established. Since then, NOAA has evolved to meet the needs of a changing country. NOAA maintains a presence in every state and has emerged as an international leader on scientific and environmental matters.

NOAA's mission touches the lives of every American and has a role in protecting life and property and conserving and protecting natural resources.

The table below shows a list of initiatives for *NOAA*.

Table 11 - NOAA Initiatives

Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
NOAA	Modernizing the NOAA Climate Database	Shutdown Closeout	March 2013
	New Data Visualization Capabilities for Global Summary Data	On-Going / Continuous	
	New Local Climatological Product for US and Global Locations	On-Going / Continuous	
	Integrated Severe Weather Data via GIS Map Interface	On-Going / Continuous	





Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
	Improving Access to Severe Weather Data Inventory (SWDI)	Live / Operational	
	Upgrading Ocean Surface Current Simulator	Live / Operational	
	Instituting Online Access to Regional Data in Partnership with the San Francisco Exploratorium	Live / Operational	
	Providing Online Access to Historical Climate Data Through Historical Climate Reanalysis Project	Live / Operational	
	Establishing NOAA Climate Services Portal	Live / Operational	
	Expanding Citizen Science Community of Practice and Inventory	Live / Operational	

#### • Project – Modernizing the NOAA Climate Database

What's new – This project was shut down and closed out in March2013 due to funding constraints

The Climate Data Modernization Program (CDMP) supports NOAA's responsibility to collect, integrate, assimilate and effectively manage Earth observations on a global scale, ranging from atmospheric, weather, and climate observations to oceanic, coastal, and marine life observations. Many of these data were originally recorded on paper, film, and other fragile media. Prior to CDMP, not only were these valuable data sources mostly unavailable to the scientific community, but storage technology for the archive had become obsolete. Today, CDMP has greatly improved the preservation of and access to NOAA's holdings by migrating many of these resources to new digital media. CDMP has placed online over 54 million weather and environmental images that are now available to researchers around the world via the Internet. The amount of data online has grown from 1.75 terabytes in 2001 to over 15 terabytes in 2011. One rescue project involves research done under the direction of some of the leading American scientists of the 19th century, the U. S. Coast Survey created exceptionally accurate and detailed maps of the country's coastline. In the San Francisco Bay Area, these surveys (commonly referred to as "T-sheets") are the most important data sources for understanding the physical and ecological characteristics of the Bay's shoreline prior to Euro-American modification. One of NOAA's Climate Database Modernization Program (CDMP) multiyear tasks is to convert approximately 15,000 old manuscript paper copy T-sheets from the 1840s through the 1980s to digital geo-referenced and vectorized image products accessible via GIS technology. Nearly 200 of these images were provided to





San Francisco Estuary Institute, <a href="http://www.caltsheets.org">http://www.caltsheets.org</a> allows these remarkable maps to be viewed in full detail and overlaid on modern aerial photography. These GIS files with metadata and JPEG images can also be downloaded. These baseline data will be useful for a range of current concerns, including wetland restoration, shoreline protection and identifying engineering hazards and potential contamination associated with San Francisco Bay fill. The increase in the quality and quantity of historical climate and environmental data helps researchers worldwide improve real-time monitoring and forecasting of environmental, solar and geophysical events.

#### Improving Transparency

#### • Project- New Data Visualization Capabilities for Global Summary Data

New capabilities are provided via online services. Parameters such as temperature, precipitation, and snow depth have visualization capabilities via colorized maps, for all global locations, for any point in time. This includes over 30,000 currently active stations. For example, users are able to select a date (very recent date or for a major historical event) and view a color-plot of the data, such as minimum temperature. Also, additional station locations are being added to this dataset, to provide better spatial coverage.

Dataset Used: Global Historical Climate Network (GHCN)-Daily. Comprises daily summary data (e.g., maximum/minimum temperature, precipitation, snowfall) for global locations

#### Use Cases:

- 1) An agricultural company can view information regarding a recent heavy rainfall event to assist in determining the area's most susceptible to nitrogen-leaching and would require supplemental fertilization for crops.
- 2) The USDA can view temperature data from a recent heat wave to determine regions which are likely to suffer from lower crop yields due to high temperatures.
- 3) In post-storm event analysis (such as a major hurricane), the data can be quickly viewed to correlate damage reports with climatological data.

#### • Project- New Local Climatological Product for US and Global Locations

New capabilities are provided via online services. A new "Local Climatological Data (LCD)" product are online, to provide a very easy-to-read summary of hourly and daily summary data for each location. This includes parameters such as hourly temperature, dew





point, cloud cover, precipitation, wind speed, and many others, for any point in time, for over 20,000 currently active global stations. Also, additional station locations are being added to this dataset, to provide better spatial coverage.

Dataset Used: Integrated Surface Dataset (ISD). Comprises hourly data (e.g., temperature, cloud cover, humidity, visibility, etc.) along with selected daily and monthly summary parameters for global locations.

#### Project- Integrated Severe Weather Data via GIS Map Interface

New capabilities are provided via online services. For the US, state and county-level storm damage information, lightning strike data, NEXRAD products (such as hail signature) along with other available severe weather data is displayed via an integrated map interface. For example, users are able to select a date (very recent date or for a major historical event) and view the data through one interface.

Dataset Used: Integrated Surface Dataset (ISD). Comprises hourly data (e.g., temperature, cloud cover, humidity, visibility, etc.) along with selected daily and monthly summary parameters for global locations.

#### • Project – Improving Access to Severe Weather Data Inventory (SWDI)

What's New – Simplified access to current and past information about severe weather incidents

The SWDI at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) provides users access to archives of several data sets critical to the detection and evaluation of severe weather. These data sets include:

- Next Generation Radar or NEXRAD Level-III point features describing general storm structure, hail, mesocyclone and tornado signatures,
- NWS local storm reports collected from storm spotters,
- Lightning strikes from Vaisala's National Lightning Detection Network.

SWDI provides these data sets in a spatial database that permits convenient searching. These data are accessible via the NCDC website, FTP or automated Web services. The results of interactive Google Maps-based Web page queries may be saved in a variety of formats, including plain text, XML, Google Earth's KMZ, and Shapefile. Summary statistics, such as daily counts, allow efficient discovery of severe weather events. More information may be obtained at <a href="http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/swdi">http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/swdi</a>.





#### • Project – Upgrading Ocean Surface Current Simulator

What's New – Upgrading the ability to visualize changes in ocean surface currents

The Ocean Surface Current Simulator (OSCURS) numerical model is a research tool that allows oceanographers and fisheries scientists to perform retrospective analyses of daily ocean surface currents anywhere in an ocean-wide grid of 90 km cells that stretches from Baja California to China and from 10 degrees north of the equator to the Bering Strait. This model is used to measure the movement of surface currents over time, as well as the movement of what is in or on the water. Ocean surface currents affect organisms suspended in the water column – such as fish eggs, small larvae, and plankton – and may affect their survival by determining their location after a few months of drift. Even swimming or migrating fish or mammals may have their destinations significantly offset by currents or the annual variability of currents. OSCURS has gained visibility as an accidental debris tracker to analyze accidental but fortuitous at-sea events beyond the scale of normal oceanographic science. Investigations of events such as spills of cargo containers loaded with plastic bathtub toys have been used to fine-tune the OSCURS model.

An updated interface to serve the OSCURS model has been developed by NOAA (<a href="http://las.pfeg.noaa.gov/oscurs">http://las.pfeg.noaa.gov/oscurs</a>) that uses Google Maps as the visualization tool and the latest in AJAX technology to improve users' experience.

## • Project – Instituting Online Access to Regional Data in Partnership with the San Francisco Exploratorium

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has developed a new way to visualize regional data in the San Francisco Bay (<a href="http://las.pfeg.noaa.gov/SFBay">http://las.pfeg.noaa.gov/SFBay</a> or on a tablet: <a href="http://las.pfeg.noaa.gov/SFBay/tablet">http://las.pfeg.noaa.gov/SFBay/tablet</a>). Data from shore stations, buoys, high-frequency radar, and satellites are available, but scattered among many Web pages and stored in many formats making it difficult for regional and public interests in the San Francisco Bay area to visualize and use this system to assess real-time conditions.

As a demonstration tool to support NOAA's new partnership with the renowned science museum, the Exploratorium, and in collaboration with the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System and other regional data providers, NOAA developed a Web page to make it easy to visualize near-real time data in San Francisco Bay. The interface uses Google Maps and the latest AJAX technology to combine and compare data from diverse sources. Users can visualize water temperature, salinity, and other station-based measurements along with overlays of satellite measurements of Sea Surface Temperature (SST) and radar measurements of currents, and can compare time series of measurements from various stations and sources. Use of the web page on tablets on the Exploratorium floor enhances public understanding of the environment. For example, the arrival of the tsunami-generated water level signal at tidal stations in San Francisco Bay was viewed on Exploratorium tablets





with great interest in real-time by museum visitors during and after the Japanese earthquake and tsunami of March 2011.

## • Project – Providing Online Access to Historical Climate Data Through Historical Climate Reanalysis Project

The Historical Climate Reanalysis Project uses a three-dimensional globally-complete climate model and available weather observations to produce output fields of weather variables measured four times daily from 1871, to the present. Using what are often, especially in earlier years, sparse data sets of observations, the Project is able to reconstruct past weather and fill in missing data values around the rest of the globe. These data are available through a number of different types of Web-based, interactive plotting pages as well as file download. In addition to generating plots, users are able to conduct basic analyses of data, download subsets of data, and obtain data in Google Earth format, which will permit easy visualization by the general public using the Google Earth application.

Currently, the data are available at the Physical Sciences Division of NOAA's Earth Systems Research Laboratory only in "grib" format, which is difficult to read and not available for online plotting and analysis. The complete dataset itself is well over four terabytes, so examining even portions of it requires enormous storage space and computing resources.

By enabling the public to work with the data and data products online, NOAA will allow users to examine past weather and climate events in a detailed way never before possible. Version 1 of the Project is available today at <a href="http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/data/20thC">http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/data/20thC</a> Rean/. However, it spans only the years 1908 through 1958 and does not include the interactive plotting tools described above. NOAA expects Version 2 includes data for 1891, to the present, provide online plotting and analysis tools.

#### • Project – NOAA Climate.gov Portal

What's New – Entirely rebuilt host system; completely redesigned user interface; expanded site's scope, functionality, and publication rate; and saw huge growth in user visit rates.

NOAA Climate.gov (www.climate.gov) provides easy online access to authoritative science, data, and information for a climate-smart nation. In May 2013, NOAA unveiled the operational version (2.0) of Climate.gov. Based on user feedback, the site was redesigned and streamlined while its scope and functionality were expanded and enhanced:

- News & Features (formerly "ClimateWatch Magazine") implemented a new content tagging system and topic-driven navigation to make it easier for users to find and share articles and images. Also, videos are now available through our YouTube channel to make it easier for users to view and share via our partners' websites and social media outlets (both Twitter and Facebook).





- Maps and Data (formerly "Data & Services") produces updated, interpreted maps showing where and how climate conditions are changing; the Global Climate Dashboard has been redesigned to improve usability and is now accessible via mobile devices; and we almost doubled the number of climate datasets accessible via our geoportal server (511).
- Teaching Climate (formerly "Education") now provides more than 515 ready-to-use climate education resources that education and subject-matter experts have screened for scientific accuracy, pedagogical soundness, and usability. These resources are tagged according to grade ranges, science education standards, and climate literacy concepts.
- Supporting Decisions (formerly "Understanding Climate") provides a clearinghouse of reports, decision support tools, datasets, and professional development opportunities—all sortable by sectors, topics, and regions.

In FY2013, NOAA Climate.gov experienced 153% growth in our rate of visits compared to FY12 (target was 10%). NOAA significantly increased our rate of content production and publication while improving our host system and information architecture. NOAA also entered Phase 3 development to continue refining our system and interface. In FY2014, NOAA Climate.gov will continue to evolve in user-driven ways. Particular emphasis will be on conducting our next round of user focus groups / usability study; evolving the design and functionality of the "Maps & Data" section to continue expanding and improving users' ability to locate, preview, interact with, analyze, and access climate data; and facilitate stakeholders' use of our data products and tools to help them understand and manage climate-related risks and opportunities they face. As relevant and applicable, NOAA will leverage Climate.gov code, resources, and lessons learned to support the government's "Big Data" initiative and the President's Climate Action Plan.

#### **Increasing Collaboration**

#### • Project – Expanding Citizen Science Community of Practice and Inventory

The field of citizen science is experiencing rapid growth empowered by emerging technology. NOAA has a rich tradition of supporting citizen science. Today that tradition is being carried on through a portfolio of projects fostered and supported across the Agency.





#### **NOAA Community of Practice**

A NOAA Citizen Science Community of Practice was launched in November of 2013. The Community of Practice is facilitated by NOAA's Office of Education and relies on grassroots participation from community members throughout the Agency. The primary areas of focus are:

- a) compiling and sharing best practices,
- b) sharing resources, and
- c) creating a searchable database of NOAA's citizen science projects

Since its formation, the NOAA community has grown steadily with over 120 members currently engaged. Primary communication is through a Google collaborative site augmented by a listsery, quarterly webinars, and periodic conversation periods in an online discussion forum. A volunteer Steering Committee, made up of members from across NOAA, provides guidance on how the Community of Practice can best be supported as it continues to grow and evolve.



#### **Community of Practice Projects**

There are 67 active projects identified in the growing inventory maintained by the Community of Practice. It is estimated that these projects result in **more than half a million** volunteer hours per year (equal to more than 239 person-years of effort). Plans are underway to create a searchable online collection of these NOAA projects through the NSF-funded Citizen Science Central database of projects, an updated version of which is scheduled for release in the summer of 2014.







# **National Telecommunications and Information Administration** (NTIA)

NTIA is the Executive Branch agency that is principally responsible for advising the President on telecommunications and information policy issues. NTIA's programs and policymaking focus largely on expanding broadband Internet access and adoption in America, expanding the use of spectrum by all users, and ensuring that the Internet remains an engine for continued innovation and economic growth.

The table below shows a list of initiatives for *NTIA*.

Table 12 - NTIA Initiatives

Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
NTIA	Creating a National Broadband Map	Live / Operational	
	Establishing Online Access to Results of Broadband Survey	Live / Operational	

NTIA is embarking on a series of data collection and dissemination initiatives to provide a more detailed, quantitative understanding of broadband Internet access and use in the U.S.. This information will inform efforts to increase broadband access and adoption, thereby supporting economic growth. Initiatives will include data collected through NTIA's broadband mapping program and a new broadband-related survey.

#### • Project - Creating a National Broadband Map

Through its State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program, which is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, NTIA awards financial assistance grants for broadband data collection and planning. Data is displayed in NTIA's National Broadband





Map, which was made publicly available in March 2011. The map displays the geographic areas where broadband service is available and its speed, as well as the technology by which it is provided, and its availability at public schools, libraries, hospitals, colleges, universities, and public buildings. The National Broadband Map is interactive and searchable by address, and identifies broadband service providers by census block or street segment. Data collection began in 2009 and continues to take place semiannually. Data sets are presented in a clear, accessible, and open format to the public, government, and research community. This initiative provides broadband information at an unprecedented level of comprehensiveness and granularity.

#### • Project – Establishing Online Access to Results of Broadband Survey

Working with the Census, NTIA has undertaken a series of 54,000-household Internet-use supplements to the basic *Current Population Survey, most recently in October 2009, October 2010, and July 2011*. Through this effort, NTIA is examining why people do not use high-speed Internet service and is exploring differences in Internet adoption and usage patterns around the country and across socio-economic groups. NTIA is releasing these data in open, Web-based formats, making the survey instruments and associated reports as widely available as possible.







## **National Technical Information Service (NTIS)**

**N**TIS seeks to promote American innovation and economic growth by collecting and disseminating scientific, technical and engineering information (STEI) to the public and industry, by providing information management solutions to other Federal agencies, and by doing all without appropriated funding. NTIS outreach to the public and industry is for the purpose of promoting scientific research and technology transfer to enhance economic growth.

The table below shows a list of initiatives for *NTIS*.

Table 13 - NTIS Initiatives

Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
NTIS	Making Five Years of Bibliographic Data Searchable (Data.gov)	Live / Operational	
	National Technical Reports Library (NTRL)	Live / Operational	
	Federal Science Repository Service (FSRS)	Live / Operational	

#### • Project – Making Five Years of Bibliographic Data Searchable

NTIS is making the latest five years of the NTIS Bibliographic File searchable via <a href="Data.gov">Data.gov</a>. The file contains over 180,000 bibliographic records that link to a Web-store of federally funded technical reports from a broad spectrum of federal agencies. This bibliographic file is being made available through <a href="Data.gov">Data.gov</a> in a compiled XML format, which will – for the first time – fully open access to NTIS' technical reports collection to Web exposure and extraction. Titles within the NTIS Collection represent billions of dollars in research. Metadata content corresponds to research reports, computer products, software, video cassettes, audio cassettes and more. Data includes such fields as Title, Author, Source Agency, Document Type, Page Count, Category Code, as well as a link to NTIS' online ordering system for those who wish to purchase the title directly from NTIS. Users can also access the NTIS website at <a href="www.ntis.gov">www.ntis.gov</a> to search, identify and purchase items within the NTIS Collection of more than 3,000,000 products.





#### • National Technical Reports Library (NTRL)

The National Technical Reports Library (NTRL) provides access to the largest collection of U.S. Government-sponsored technical reports. There is metadata for more than 2 million records with links to approximately 700,000 digitized full-text reports. Primarily, the NTRL provides an open environment online subscription access to the results of U.S. Government-sponsored basic and applied research.

The development of the NTRL is rooted within NTIS' basic authority to operate a permanent clearinghouse of scientific and technical information as codified in chapter 23 of Title 15 of the United States Code (15 U.S.C. 1151-1157). This chapter also established NTIS' authority to provide products and services in a cost sustainable manner. Federal Agencies are required to provide their research results to NTIS per the American Technology Preeminence Act (ATPA), and the results are available to the public in perpetuity.

- Online access to an electronic library of over 2 million bibliographic records (dating from 1964)
- Links to over 700,000 corresponding full-text reports
- Coverage from the late 1890's to present (most reports date from the 1970's to present.)
- Search engine capabilities
- Release 1, 2009
- Release 2, 2011
- Release 3, 2012

#### • Federal Science Repository Service (FSRS)

NTIS created the Federal Science Repository Service (FSRS) to transition and modernize the Federal investment in scientific research. Building on the existing Federal information assets of <a href="Data.gov">Data.gov</a> and <a href="Science.gov">Science.gov</a>, the FSRS creates a common foundational platform to move existing science discovery to the future of e-science while embodying the principles of technology transfer--research, innovation, and economic growth. The FSRS is an information management tool that can be used effectively by Federal agencies, laboratories, and the science community. The objective for these more robust repositories for federally funded scientific content has been to highlight interagency collaboration and interoperability of various data object types joined together for ease of discovery and access. Developed with a private-public partnership, the FSRS fulfills the Federal archival mandate for opening up access to Federally-funded scientific research.

The FSRS is based on open-source approaches, is durable against technological changes, and is flexible enough to support broad and varied uses, increasing access to the Federal Government's data and information.

- Storage and preservation of diverse resources





- Ingestion of distributed content
- Access control customized to agency requirements
- A robust interface with advanced metadata and full text search, filtering, and full-text and media display
- Launched 2011







## **United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)**

USPTO is the Federal agency for granting U.S. patents and registering trademarks. In doing this, the USPTO fulfills the mandate of Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, to "promote the progress of science and the useful arts by securing for limited times to inventors the exclusive right to their respective discoveries." The USPTO registers trademarks based on the Commerce Clause of the Constitution (Article I, Section 8, Clause 3). Under this system of protection, American industry has flourished. New products have been invented, new uses for old ones discovered, and employment opportunities created for millions of Americans. The strength and vitality of the U.S. economy depends directly on effective mechanisms that protect new ideas and investments in innovation and creativity. The continued demand for patents and trademarks underscores the ingenuity of American inventors and entrepreneurs. The USPTO is at the cutting edge of the Nation's technological progress and achievement.

The USPTO advises the President of the United States, the Secretary of Commerce, and U.S. Government agencies on intellectual property (IP) policy, protection, and enforcement; and promotes the stronger and more effective IP protection around the world. The USPTO furthers effective IP protection for U.S. innovators and entrepreneurs worldwide by working with other agencies to secure strong IP provisions in free trade and other international agreements. It also provides training, education, and capacity building programs designed to foster respect for IP and encourage the development of strong IP enforcement regimes by U.S. trading partners.

The table below shows a list of initiatives for *USPTO*.

Table 14 - USPTO Initiatives

Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
USPTO	Improving Transparency	On Going / Continuous	





Operating			Estimated
Unit	Project	Status	Completion
	Roundtables on AIA Trial Proceedings	Completed (May 2014)	
	Roundtable on First-Inventor-to-File Anniversary	Completed (April 2014)	
	Patent Litigation Toolkit	Completed (February 2014)	
	Data Visualization Center	Live / Operational	
	Trademark Educational Outreach Program	Live / Operational	
	Customer service enhancements related to the American Invents Act	Live / Operational	
	Improving Participation	On Going / Continuous	
	National Trademark Expo	Planned	October 2014
	Roundtables on Copyright Policy Issues	Planned	May-July 2014
	Roundtable on Crowdsourcing Prior Art	Completed (April 2014)	
	America Invents Act Roadshow – Fall 2012	Completed (September 2012)	
	Expansion of Law School Clinic Certification Pilot Program	On Going / Continuous	
	Improving the Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (MPEP) and Manual of Trademark Examining Procedures (TMEP) through an online discussion tool	Live / Operational	
	Redesign of www.uspto.gov	Live / Operational  On Going / Continuous  Completed (May 2014)  Completed (April 2014)	
	Improving Collaboration		
	Roundtable to Solicit Feedback on Guidance for Determining Subject Matter Eligibility of Claims Reciting or Involving Laws of Nature, Natural Phenomena, and Natural Products		
	Roundtable on Additive Manufacturing		
-	Multi-stakeholder Forum on Improving the Operation of the Notice and Takedown System under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act	Live / Operational	
	Satellite offices – Dallas, Denver, Detroit , San Jose	Live / Operational	
	Thomas Alva Edison Visiting Professionals Program	Live / Operational	
	Public Advisory Committees	Live / Operational	





#### • Project- Improving Transparency

Milestone – Roundtables on AIA Trial Proceedings

The USPTO hosted a series of roundtables across the country to educate the public and collect feedback about the America Invents Act (AIA) trial proceedings. The series began ran from April 15 through May 8, 2014, with roundtables in Alexandria, Virginia; New York City; Chicago; Detroit; Silicon Valley; Seattle; Dallas; and Denver. The roundtables provided an opportunity for stakeholders and USPTO administrative patent judges to discuss the interpartes review and covered business method review proceedings.

Each roundtable began with a lecture focused on the trial process, lessons learned, and previously unreleased statistics about AIA trial filings. The roundtables also featured mock conference calls targeted on motions for additional discovery and claim amendments. During these mock conference calls, administrative patent judges identified successful techniques for winning a motion as well as points for improvement. The roundtables concluded with a panel discussion with administrative patent judges and local practitioners with knowledge and experience with AIA trials. The panel discussions delved into all aspects of the AIA trials, and the public had the opportunity to give input throughout the discussions.

Milestone – Roundtable on First-Inventor-to-File Anniversary

On April 1, 2014, the USPTO hosted a public forum to discuss the first-inventor-to-file (FITF) provisions of the America Invents Act (AIA). The forum marked the first anniversary of the implementation of FITF, and served as an opportunity for USPTO subject matter experts and stakeholders to discuss the FITF provisions and updates since its implementation. The forum began with an informal meet-and-greet session, followed by remarks and a question and answer session with USPTO experts. Topics discussed included FITF statistics to date, how to know whether an application will be examined under FITF or not, and the exception provisions of the FITF statutory framework. The experts presented a variety of example scenarios to illustrate the FITF provisions.

Milestone – Patent Litigation Toolkit

As part of the USPTO's work in implementing President Obama's Executive Actions on patent reforms, the new online toolkit was published in February at <a href="USPTO.gov/patents/litigation">USPTO.gov/patents/litigation</a>. The tool provides information that can be extremely valuable to those who are not steeped in patent law, like smaller "Main Street" retailers and consumers, helping to level the playing field against larger entities engaging in abusive patent litigation. The information provided helps answer questions such as:

- what is a demand letter?
- *Am I legally obligated to respond?*





- What are my options?
- Has anyone else received letters or been sued over the patent?

Ongoing – Data Visualization Center

The <u>Data Visualization Center</u> is a quick source of USPTO information regarding processing and quality measures in Patents, Trademarks, Office of Policy and International Affairs, and the Patent and Trademark Trial and Appeal Boards. It is available on the USPTO <u>home page</u> in the left navigational menu, identified by a large icon. By selecting the Data Visualization Center link, users have the opportunity to see "dashboards" of specific data from each business unit, updated on a quarterly basis.

Milestone - Trademark Educational Outreach Program

In March 2012, the USPTO announced the launch of its new trademark educational outreach program. The program promotes partnerships with colleges and universities, entrepreneurship clubs, and similar groups to present informational lectures on trademarks. The lectures are conducted by a USPTO attorney in a location designated by the sponsoring organization. The target audiences are non-trademark attorneys, the small business community, the entrepreneurial community, and students.

Ongoing - Customer Service enhancements related to the American Invents Act

In September 2011 the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA) was signed into law. This law changed the manner in which patents are issued to the public, and there were 20 AIA provisions related to USPTO operations which took effect between September 2011 and March 2013.

The USPTO created a special area on its website to disseminate information and provide guidance to the public regarding the changes prescribed by the law. New features and capabilities were added on this AIA website to improve the organization of information, and to provide answers regarding various aspects of the law and the resulting regulations.

#### • Program - Improving Participation

What's New – 2014 Trademark Expo

The U. S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will host its annual National Trademark Expo on Friday, Oct. 17, and Saturday, Oct. 18, at the USPTO's headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. The free, two-day event is designed to educate the public about trademarks and their importance in the global marketplace. The 2012 National Trademark Expo attracted more than 15,000 visitors of all ages, but the 2013 Expo was cancelled due to budget sequestration. Exhibitors will showcase their federally-registered trademarks through educational exhibits, including booths, themed displays, costumed characters, and inflatables. In addition, the expo features educational seminars and children's workshops and activities.





What's New – Roundtables on Copyright Policy Issues

The USPTO and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) are hosting roundtable discussions in cities around the country on several copyright Internet policy topics, as called for in the Commerce Internet Policy Task Force's Green Paper on *Copyright Policy, Creativity, and Innovation in the Digital Economy* released last year. The purpose of the roundtables is to engage further with members of the public on the following issues: (1) the legal framework for the creation of remixes; (2) the relevance and scope of the first sale doctrine in the digital environment; and (3) the appropriate calibration of statutory damages in the contexts of individual file sharers and of secondary liability for large-scale infringement. The roundtables will be held in Nashville, TN on May 21, 2014, Cambridge, MA on June 25, 2014, Los Angeles, CA on July 29, 2014, and Berkeley, CA on July 30, 2014.

Milestone – Roundtable on Crowdsourcing Prior Art

The USPTO hosted a roundtable to solicit public opinion on boosting crowdsourcing and third-party pre-issuance submissions identifying relevant prior art. The goal of this outreach was to enhance the quality of examination, as well as the quality of issued patents. The roundtable, held on April 10, 2014, at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, was part of efforts to expand ways for the public to help patent examiners find relevant prior art, as called for in the recently announced USPTO-led Executive Actions to strengthen the U.S. patent system.

The roundtable explored the range of existing crowdsourcing resources. USPTO speakers discussed the legal requirements for third-party pre-issuance submissions and reported on data that has been collected from third-party pre-issuance submissions as well as from examiner surveys. Additionally, guest speakers from various organizations and companies focused on crowdsourcing outlined topics relevant to the use of crowdsourcing and third-party submissions to identify relevant prior art. The presenters also participated in an open discussion with the public.

Milestone – America Invents Act Fall 2012 Roadshows

The USPTO hosted eight roadshows during September 2012 to interact with the public in a discussion of new final rules implementing provisions of the America Invents Act that became effective on September 16, 2012, as well as proposed rules that went into effect in Spring 2013. The final rules related to provisions for inventor's oath/declaration, pre-issuance submissions, citation of patent owner statements, supplemental examination, inter partes review, post grant review, and covered business method review. An agenda and directions for all events were published on the website. The roadshows were free and open to the public; pre-registration was not required. The agency webcast the roadshows and





posted videos of those events on the micro-site. Copies of the written materials were also made available on the website.

What's New - Expansion of Law School Clinic Certification Pilot Program

The USPTO opened the current <u>Law School Clinic Certification Pilot Program</u> to admit a limited number of additional schools to commence participation in the fall 2014 academic semester. The program allows law students to practice patent and/or trademark law before the USPTO under the guidance of a law school faculty clinic supervisor. Submissions from interested law school clinical programs will be accepted on a rolling basis from March 3 through June 2, 2014.

Students in both the patent and trademark portions of the program will have the opportunity to draft and file applications and respond to Office Actions. Each law school clinical program must meet and maintain the requirements for USPTO certification for students to practice before the USPTO.

Currently, there are 27 participating law school clinics, including 11 in both the patent and trademark portions of the program, 12 participating in the trademark portion only, and four only in the patent portion. The <u>pilot program</u> began in 2008 with six schools selected to participate. In 2010, the program expanded to 10 additional law school clinics to the trademark portion of the program. The program was expanded again in 2012 to add 11 law school clinics to the patent portion of the program and nine clinics to the trademark portion.

Ongoing – Improving the Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (MPEP) and Manual of Trademark Examining Procedures (TMEP) through an online discussion tool

The USPTO continues to rely on an innovative online tool that was launched in January 2011 to foster public discussion of ideas for improving the MPEP and TMEP. Collected suggestions and comments are considered during the production of subsequent editions of these important publications.

Ongoing – Website Improvements for www.uspto.gov

The USPTO is continuing an effort to redesign its website, www.uspto.gov using feedback gathered through its website satisfaction survey and interactive focus sessions with inventors, legal professionals, and others in the IP community.

#### • Program - Improving Collaboration

The USPTO engages in active collaboration with the public, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individuals, along with other agencies and all levels of government.





Milestone - Roundtable to Solicit Feedback on Guidance for Determining Subject Matter Eligibility of Claims Reciting or Involving Laws of Nature, Natural Phenomena, and Natural Products

The USPTO hosted a public forum on May 9, 2014, at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, to solicit feedback from organizations and individuals on its recent guidance memorandum for determining subject matter eligibility of claims reciting or involving laws of nature, natural phenomena, and natural products (Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance). The Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance implemented a new procedure to address changes in the law relating to subject matter eligibility in view of recent Supreme Court precedent.

On March 4, 2014, the USPTO issued the <u>Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance</u> for use in subject matter eligibility determinations of all claims reciting or involving laws of nature/natural principles, natural phenomena, and/or natural products under 35 U.S.C. 101. The guidance addresses the impact of Association for Molecular Pathology v. Myriad Genetics, Inc. on the Supreme Court's long-standing "rule against patents on naturally occurring things," as expressed in its earlier precedent including Diamond v. Chakrabarty, and Mayo Collaborative Services v. Prometheus Laboratories, Inc. Links to copies of these Supreme Court decisions, as well as a link to the Supreme Court's decision in Funk Brothers Seed Co. v. Kalo Inoculant Co., are available at <a href="www.uspto.gov/patents/announce/myriad-mayo.jsp">www.uspto.gov/patents/announce/myriad-mayo.jsp</a>.

Participants who believe that the Supreme Court decisions could be implemented in an alternative manner from the approach taken in the Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance used the forum to present their alternative approach and the legal rationale for the alternative. They also suggested additional examples for use by the USPTO to create a more complete picture of the impact of Supreme Court precedent on subject matter eligibility.

*Milestone – Roundtable on Additive Manufacturing* 

The USPTO hosted an Additive Manufacturing Partnership Meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. Additive manufacturing, also known as 3D printing, is a process of making three dimensional solid objects from a digital model. The technology is growing in use, including in such fields as jewelry, footwear, architecture, engineering and construction, automotive, aerospace, dental and medical industries.

The meeting served as a forum for sharing ideas, experiences, and insights between stakeholders and the USPTO. Industry representatives provided an overview of the application of additive manufacturing in different technologies. Individual opinions were sought from varying participants, and the meetings were informal in nature.





Ongoing – Multi-stakeholder Forum on Improving the Operation of the Notice and Takedown System under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act

Commerce's Internet Policy Task Force (IPTF)—a joint effort between the USPTO and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)—held the <u>first meeting</u> of the public multi-stakeholder forum on improving the operation of the notice and takedown system for removing infringing content from the Internet under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) on March 20, 2014 at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. The meeting was called for in the Commerce Green Paper on *Copyright Policy, Creativity, and Innovation in the Digital Economy* released last year.

The goal of the multi-stakeholder forum is to identify best practices and/or produce voluntary agreements for improving the operation of the DMCA notice and takedown system. The IPTF plans to hold several additional meetings throughout the year. The initial meeting focused on identifying concrete topics to be addressed by participants, and to discuss and make decisions about the process for the forum's ongoing work. The IPTF aims to have participation from a wide variety of the notice and takedown system's current users, including right holders and individual creators, service providers, and any other stakeholders that are directly affected – such as consumer and public interest representatives, technical and engineering experts, and companies in the business of identifying infringing content.

Issued in July 2013, the <u>Green Paper</u> represents the most thorough and comprehensive analysis of digital copyright policy issued by any administration since 1995. To help produce the Green Paper, the USPTO and NTIA held more than a dozen listening sessions with interested stakeholders, convened a symposium, received hundreds of public comments, and reviewed comments submitted to other agencies on relevant topics.

*Underway – Satellite Offices* 

On July 13, 2012, the Elijah J. McCoy USPTO satellite office opened in Detroit, Michigan – the first-ever U.S. Patent and Trademark Office location outside of the Washington, D.C., area. The USPTO has since opened temporary satellite offices in Dallas, Denver, and Silicon Valley, while the permanent office spaces in those locations are prepared for occupancy. Together the four offices function as hubs of innovation and creativity, helping protect and foster American innovation in the global marketplace, helping businesses cut through red tape, and creating new economic opportunities in each of the local communities.

Ongoing – Thomas Alva Edison Visiting Professionals Program

On January 18, 2012, the USPTO established a new program designed to tap expertise of distinguished IP professionals and academics. The Thomas Alva Edison Visiting Professionals Program enlists the services of leaders in academia and the intellectual property (IP) industry who can devote up to six months of service to the agency on a full time basis.





Edison Scholars have studied ways to improve the USPTO's efficiency and performance, decrease burdens on applicants, and improve patent quality and clarity, among other topics.

Ongoing – Public Advisory Committees

The Public Advisory Committees for the USPTO were created by statute in the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO on the management of the patent and the trademark operations. The Advisory Committees consist of citizens of the U. S. chosen to represent the interests of the diverse users of the USPTO. The Advisory Committees review the policies, goals, performance, budget, and user fees of the patent and trademark operations, respectively, and advise the Director on these matters. Appointments to the Advisory Committee are made by the Secretary of Commerce. Agendas, live webcasts, and transcripts of past meetings are available on the USPTO website at <a href="http://www.uspto.gov/about/advisory/">http://www.uspto.gov/about/advisory/</a>.







## Office of the Secretary (OS)

Os is the general management arm of Commerce and provides the principal support to the Secretary in formulating policy and in providing advice to the President. It provides program leadership for Commerce's functions and exercises general supervision over the operating units. It also directly carries out program functions as may be assigned by the Secretary, and provides, as determined to be more economic or efficient, administrative and other support services for designated operating units. Os consists of the Secretary, certain Secretarial Officers, designated staff immediately serving those officials, and a number of "Departmental offices" which have Department-wide functions or perform special program functions directly on behalf of the Secretary.

The table below shows a list of initiatives for *OS*.

Table 15 - OS Initiatives

Operating Unit	Project	Status	Estimated Completion
Note: * Identifies Departmental Flagship Initiative identified in Flagship section of this plan	*BusinessUSA	Live / Operational	
	*Creation of the Office of Digital Engagement	Live / Operational	
	*FOIAonline Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request Management and Reporting	Live / Operational	
	Publishing Public Schedule Data for Secretary Online	Live / Operational	

#### • Project – BusinessUSA

What's new - <u>BusinessUSA</u> increase tool capabilities making it easier for customers to access government services

BusinessUSA helps businesses and exporters of all sizes find information about available federal programs without having to waste time and resources navigating the federal





bureaucracy. It streamlines and coordinates federal program assistance through easy to access points via the <u>Business.USA.gov</u> website and 1-800-FED-INFO contact center.

This initiative is highlighted in the Departmental Flagship Initiatives section. More information can be found there.

#### • Project - Creation of the Office of Digital Engagement

What's new – Establishment of the Office of Digital Engagement to enhance the Departments outreach capabilities using 21<sup>st</sup> century tools

The Office of Digital Engagement is an important component of our 'Open for Business Agenda' and will help the Department engage in a two-way, 21<sup>st</sup> Century dialogue with America's business community, by using the power of digital media, Commerce through our BOUs are working together to ensure that American businesses have access to more agency information and resources that can help them grow and hire."

This initiative is highlighted in the Departmental Flagship Initiatives section. More information can be found there.

## • Project – FOIAonline Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request Management and Reporting

What's new – Regularly updated, searchable feed of the Secretary's public schedule

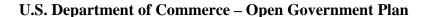
The National Action Plan (NAP) version 2 has as a primary objective to "Modernize the Freedom of Information Act," which makes a commitment to improve internal Agency FOIA processes. FOIAonline provides a single interface through which the public can submit requests to any participating agency, eliminating the need to find the contact information for multiple agencies. The systems automatically assign tracking numbers to requests, which the requester can use to automatically view the status of the request, eliminating the need to wait for manual replies from agencies. Agencies are also be able to generate e-mails to requesters through the system to seek clarifying information or send invoices for fees, reducing mail delays and postage costs.

This initiative is highlighted in the Departmental Flagship Initiatives section. More information can be found there.

#### • Project – Publishing Schedule Data for Secretary Online

What's new – Regularly updated, searchable feed of the Secretary's public schedule

The Office of Public Affairs, in conjunction with the Offices of Scheduling and Business Liaison, now releases publically via twitter at @CommerceSec (<a href="https://twitter.com/CommerceSec">https://twitter.com/CommerceSec</a>) the Department's Secretary's schedule on a daily basis.







## **Public and Agency Ideas**

The Department has an extensive outreach program. This includes public and stakeholder meetings, online press conferences, and numerous other tools and messaging platforms designed to engage the public. The Department uses the COP/COI method for two-way conversations and full exchange of ideas with the public. This allows the BOUs to reach out through mission oriented COP/COIs to solicit information to improve their business lines. These methods allow the public to submit ideas and suggestions directly to the Department.

Given the large amount of data produced by the Department and the inherent value stored within it, the Office of Digital Engagement, along with the Office of Policy and Strategic Planning and BOUs, have begun to reach out to users, big and small to better share needs and best practices. Roundtables and virtual town halls key to implementing the Department's 2014-2018 Strategic Plan will take place for the remainder of 2014 and are likely to continue into 2015.

The Department will continue efforts to improve capabilities for idea sharing and soliciting and incorporating feedback. This will ensure that the Open Government principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration are emphasized across all five of the strategic Departmental priorities: trade and investment, innovation, data, environment, and operational excellence.

