

Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Report on Conferences Sponsored by the Department of Commerce

Background

The Department of Commerce is committed, within current budget constraints, to enabling Commerce employees to participate in official conferences as required to meet the mission to support American businesses, create jobs, and strengthen the economy. In FY 2017, in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-17-08, Amending OMB Memorandum M-12-12, Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations, the Department continued to focus its efforts on oversight of expenses related to Federally-sponsored and Federally-hosted conferences to ensure that all conference expenses were appropriate, necessary, and managed in a prudent manner while acting as good stewards of taxpayer dollars and ensuring that our policy meets all Office of Management and Budget mandates and Federal Travel Regulations.

Conference Activity

Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-17-08, Amending OMB Memorandum M-12-12, Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations requires that by January 31 of each year, the agency shall report on conference expenses on a dedicated place on their official website that describes all agency-sponsored conferences from the previous fiscal year where the net expenses for the agency associated with the conference were in excess of \$100,000 and in addition, for any instances where the net expenses for an agency-sponsored conference exceeded \$500,000, the website shall include the agency designated official's rationale and approval.

In FY 2022, the Department of Commerce sponsored nine conferences in excess of \$100,000. The total net cost to the Department for the conferences was \$2,385,341. The conferences held during FY 2022 related to accomplishing the Department of Commerce's mission to promote job creation, economic growth, and sustainable development to improve the standards of living for all Americans by working in partnership with businesses, universities, and the nation's workforce.

Department of Commerce Conferences			10/1/2021-9/30/2022				
< \$500,000							
MBDA							
	Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
	2022 National Minority Enterprise Development Week (MedWeek)	The 2022 National MED Week conference theme, “Power in Capital, Strength in Equity” highlights MBDA’s and the Biden Administration’s mission to break down the minority business community’s greatest barrier: access to capital, contracts, and markets. MBDA discussed how equitable access will empower minority entrepreneurs and businesses and ultimately, create a stronger economy for all Americans. MBDA also recognized their 2022 National MED Week Award Winners and honor them for their exceptional commitments and contributions to minority business growth.	Washington DC	09/20/2022	375	\$449,545	4
		Total MBDA Conferences	1		375	\$449,545	
NIST							
	Team A: Scene Examination and Physics/Pattern Scientific Area Committee Organization of Scientific Area Committee (OSAC) Standards Meeting	OSAC subcommittee members of Team A met in person to discuss the latest standards for review and vote to put the on the Registry of Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science. The subcommittee in Team A met to work on additional standards that are being submitted to Standards Development Organizations to improve the practice of forensic science in the United States.	Orlando, FL	05/15/2022	113	\$244,334	3
	Team B: Forensic Medicine and Digital/Multimedia Scientific Area Committee Organization of Scientific Area Committee (OSAC) Standards Meeting	OSAC subcommittee members of Team B met in person to discuss the latest standards for review and vote to put the on the Registry of Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science. The subcommittee in Team B met to work on additional standards that are being submitted to Standards Development Organizations to improve the practice of forensic science in the United States.	Orlando, FL	05/22/2022	83	\$207,158	3
	2022 Public Safety Broadband Stakeholder Meeting	The annual Public Safety Broadband Stakeholder Meeting brought together representatives from public safety, federal agencies, industry, and academia. Participants heard from PSCR engineers and researchers about testing updates, upcoming R&D efforts, and opportunities to get involved. The Annual Stakeholder Meeting enabled PSCR to receive direct input, guidance, and feedback from their diverse stakeholder community.	San Diego, CA	06/07/2022	107	\$427,980	3
	Team C: Biology, Chemistry: Seized Drugs/Toxicology, and Chemistry: Trace Evidence Scientific Area Committee Organization of Scientific Area Committee (OSAC) Standards Meeting	OSAC subcommittee members of Team C met in person to discuss the latest standards for review and vote to put the on the Registry of Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science. The subcommittee in Team C met to work on additional standards that are being submitted to Standards Development Organizations to improve the practice of forensic science in the United States.	Orlando, FL	06/13/2022	88	\$207,562	3
		Total NIST Conferences	4		391	\$1,087,034	
NOAA							
	Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
	Collective Madison Meeting (CMM)	This project is necessary and essential to further the mission of the Department in that NOAA benefits by interacting with a dynamic user base, providing critical programmatic updates, and collecting user feedback from the many users of NOAA satellite data. It is particularly important to bring NOAA’s users together during this critical period of time following the very successful GOES-T and JPSS launches. The new satellites enabled NOAA/NESDIS to provide additional data, products, and services to users. The conference was an ideal venue to interact with our user base about these new data, products, and services and to receive direct feedback from our users.	Madison, WI	08/08/2022	86	\$293,277	4
	American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting	NOAA recognizes that providing high quality, state-of-the-art scientific advice is a mission critical component of accomplishing Federal conservation mandates, ensuring the economic viability of commercial and recreational fisheries, and maintaining sustainability of marine and freshwater resources and their habitats. This conference gathered the world’s fisheries science community and draws on the collective expertise of all to examine and share best practices for ensuring worldwide fishery sustainability.	Spokane, WA	08/21/2022	100	\$234,263	4
		Total NOAA Conferences	2		186	\$527,540	
USPTO							
	Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
	Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Border Enforcement	To increase enforcement awareness for the benefit of U.S. rightsholders	Rabat, Morocco	06/14/2022	57	\$190,657	3
	Indo-Pacific Workshop on Enforcement Against Trade in Counterfeit Goods	To organize and conduct an enforcement training program for government investigators and others from ASEAN member states on intellectual property investigations.	Bangkok, Thailand	06/28/2022	105	\$130,565	3
		Total USPTO Conferences	2		162	\$321,222	
		Total DOC Conferences	9		1,114	\$2,385,341	