

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 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 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 2024, the Department of Commerce sponsored 26 conferences: 24 in excess of \$100,000 and two in excess of \$500,000. The total net cost for the 26 conferences is \$6,748,996. The agency-designated official's rationales and approvals are included on the website with the report. All conferences held during FY 2024 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		10/1/2023-9/30/2024				
> \$500,000						
MBDA						
Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
2023 National Minority Enterprise Development Week	The Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Conference provided technical and business development sessions on strategies for growing minority-owned business both domestically and abroad through a series of workshops, plenary sessions, and business to business matching sessions. MBDA's MED Week programming reached a large audience and broadened the information, resources, and access to opportunities available to minority business enterprises.	Baltimore, MD	10/22/2023	27	\$888,000	1
	Total MBDA Conferences	1		27	\$888,000	
NIST						
Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
5x5: The Public Safety Innovation Summit	The purpose of 5x5: The Public Safety Innovation Summit brought together representatives from public safety, federal agencies, industry, and academia. Through 5x5, NIST PSCR and the FirstNet Authority convened participants to share FirstNet experiences and operational needs, presented public safety broadband communications testing updates, highlighted upcoming research and development efforts, and discussed technology findings, features, and functionalities. 5x5 enabled NIST PSCR and the FirstNet Authority to receive direct input and feedback from their diverse stakeholder community.	Chicago, IL	6/25/2024	230	\$964,719	3
	Total NIST Conferences	1		230	\$964,719	
< \$500,000						
CENSUS						
Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
State Data Center (SDC), Census Information Center (CIC), Data Dissemination Training Branch (DDTB) Annual Training Conference	As the Census Bureau stakeholder networks, the SDC/CIC/ and DDTB (DDS) Annual Training Conference offered opportunities to learn about the latest data, tools, and products. Additionally, the stakeholders provided feedback to the Bureau. They strategized on how they will help get the word out about upcoming data releases, how to interpret the data for their constituents, and share some of the data needs in their communities. This conference also strengthens the relationship between the two external stake holders (SDCs and CICs) with that of the Bureau's internal stakeholder, the DDSs. As a result of this meeting, the networks are better able to communicate the Census Bureau's mission as the nations top source of high-quality economic, social, and demographic data.	Charlotte, NC	7/16/2024	148	\$220,720	4
Federal-state Cooperative Population Estimates Meeting	The Federal-State Cooperative for Population Estimates forms a strong partnership with the Estimates and Projections (E&P) area at the Census Bureau. This relationship is governed by Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs), which stipulate the responsibility of the Census Bureau, through the Population Division (POP), to host meetings with the full membership; and the responsibility of state members to participate in those meetings. Bringing the membership together for in-person meetings allowed for a concentrated exchange of knowledge and a level of familiarity that would be much more difficult if done exclusively in a remote environment. The estimates that we produce form the basis for the distribution of billions in federal funds, major survey controls (the ACS and CPS along with many others), and public and private decision-making at many levels.	Alexandria, VA	9/10/2024	67	\$103,720	4
	Total CENSUS Conferences	2		215	\$324,440	
ITA						
Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
2024 SelectUSA Investment Summit	The purpose of the 2024 SelectUSA Investment Summit is to serve as the premier investment event showcasing inbound investment opportunities throughout the United States. It strengthens GM's involvement and support of the foreign direct investment mission and encourages engagement with leading companies in their markets, which are often clients for both investment, export promotion, and commercial diplomacy initiatives.	National Harbor, MD	6/23/2024	467	\$411,231	3
E.U.-U.S. Data Privacy Framework Annual Review	The EU-U.S. Data Privacy Framework (EU-U.S. DPF) supports the Department's strategic goal to drive U.S. innovation and global competitiveness by providing U.S. organizations with reliable mechanisms for personal data transfers to the United States from the European Union (EU) that are consistent with EU law. In July 2024, the first joint review of the EU-U.S. DPF provided an opportunity for representatives from the U.S. Government, the EU, and industry to assess the effectiveness of the EU-U.S. DPF after one year of implementation. The positive assessment and recommendations for improvement support the continuation of the EU-U.S. DPF and the ability of participating U.S. organizations to continue to transfer personal data to the United States from the EU.	Washington, DC	7/18/2024	14	\$137,793	4
	Total ITA Conferences	2		481	\$549,024	
MBDA						
Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
National Training Conference	The NTC is an annual training event for MBDA's network of Business Centers, aimed at training MBDA and its grantee staff on new and innovative programs, policies, and procedures for managing grant awards and compliance designed to enhance the capabilities of our Business Centers.	Miami, FL	6/3/2024	40	\$498,016	3
	Total MBDA Conferences	1		40	\$498,016	

Department of Commerce Conferences		10/1/2023-9/30/2024				
NIST						
Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
NAPMP Materials and Substrate Proposer's Day	The CHIPS R&D NAPMP held a Materials and Substrates Proposer's Day in the first two weeks of March 2024. The Materials and Substrates Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO 1) was released in February of 2024. The Proposer's Day convened leaders and technical experts from industry, academia, government, and industry alliances in Rockville, MD. The NOFO defines a materials and substrates R&D to manufacturing strategy for a vibrant, self-sustaining, domestic advanced substrate ecosystem. The foundation for advanced-node chips manufactured in the United States to be packaged in the United States. In order for the program to be successful, applicants needed to bring their best R&D ideas, top talent, and manufacturing capabilities together to build a strong concept paper. The hybrid event fulfilled two goals critical to the success of the program: 1) provide information on the technical and proposal package requirements in NOFO 1; 2) provide networking activities for attendees to identify partners and build strong teams in preparation for the concept paper deadline. For NIST, the Proposer's Day is an opportunity to engage the semiconductor and microelectronics community to bring the strongest ideas for advanced substrate R&D, manufacturing, and workforce development into the United States.	Rockville, MD	3/12/2024	19	\$272,208	2
CHIPS R&D Semiconductor Supply Chain Trust and Assurance Data Standards Workshop	Per the CHIPS Act legislation, one of the goals of the CHIPS R&D programs is to enable advances in measurement science, standards, material characterization, instrumentation, testing, and manufacturing. To CHIPS R&D hosted a series of industry outreach events to advance these goals by bringing together the community to identify standards priorities in targeted areas that are both aligned with industry needs and with CHIPS R&D program objectives. Two events were held in April 2024, the CHIPS R&D Semiconductor Supply Chain Trust and Assurance Data Standards Workshop and the CHIPS R&D Digital Twin Data Interoperability Standards Workshop, in which technical participants identified specific standards needs and opportunities in these respective technology areas. These priorities identified by industry will be the basis for future efforts to accelerate standards development for the semiconductor sector.	Rockville, MD	4/2/2024	11	\$159,098	3
CHIPS R&D Digital Twin Data Interoperability Standards Workshop	Per the CHIPS Act legislation, one of the goals of the CHIPS R&D programs is to enable advances in measurement science, standards, material characterization, instrumentation, testing, and manufacturing. To CHIPS R&D hosted a series of industry outreach events to advance these goals by bringing together the community to identify standards priorities in targeted areas that are both aligned with industry needs and with CHIPS R&D program objectives. Two events were held in April 2024, the CHIPS R&D Semiconductor Supply Chain Trust and Assurance Data Standards Workshop and the CHIPS R&D Digital Twin Data Interoperability Standards Workshop, in which technical participants identified specific standards needs and opportunities in these respective technology areas. These priorities identified by industry will be the basis for future efforts to accelerate standards development for the semiconductor sector.	Rockville, MD	4/4/2024	10	\$159,160	3
CHIPS R&D Advanced Packaging Summit	The CHIPS R&D Advanced Packaging Summit provided an outline for stakeholders that highlighted the goals of the National Advanced Packaging Manufacturing Program (NAPMP) and gather input on next steps for the program. The event convened advanced packaging stakeholders in industry and academia to consider community-wide strategic advanced packaging needs and priorities in areas such as chiplets, equipment and tools, thermal and power management, design automation, photonics and connectors, and piloting and prototyping facilities.	Mountain View, CA	4/18/2024	19	\$131,578	3
CHIPS R&D Manufacturing USA Institute Proposer's Day	The Proposers Day familiarized potential applicants with the objectives and structure of the recently released CHIPS Manufacturing USA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). It brought potential applicants together in a collaborative atmosphere to network and support partnerships among the community to facilitate stronger applications in support of the department's mission. A broad range of stakeholders will need to be engaged to address this institute, including for-profit and non-profit organizations, research universities, community colleges, career and technical education schools, Federal laboratories, and State, local, and Tribal governments – the Proposers Day was a forum for organizations to find potential application teams to join and/or find members for their teams.	Rockville, MD	5/16/2024	46	\$251,301	3
NIST and AI: Unleashing Innovation, Enabling Trust	Workshop featured panelists and other participants who spotlighted and discussed the most recent developments and next steps in key issues related to AI innovation and trust. Participants learned about recent and ongoing efforts contributing to NIST's vision for the work ahead, including opportunities to expand its collaborations with the AI community.	Washington, DC	9/24/2024	30	\$131,590	4
Total NIST Conferences		6		135	\$1,104,935	
NOAA						
Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS)	NOAA participation in the event enhances our standing with the public. Legislative Staff from the house and Senate typically attend, as well as the media who will use the opportunity to interview experts on items that are of broad interest to the public. The North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) was established by Congress in 1997 and first organized in 2001. The organization's science planning and support activities commenced in early 2002. Today, NPRB plays a significant role in supporting marine research in the waters off Alaska. Over the years, NPRB has developed into an organization well-poised to lead Alaska marine research activities into the future, improve the understanding of marine ecosystems off Alaska, and provide information to support effective management decisions on sustainable use of Alaska's abundant marine resources.	Anchorage, AK	1/29/2024	83	\$161,956	2
2024 NOAA Senior Executive Service (SES) Summit	The 2024 NOAA SES Summit was held to convene the entire NOAA senior executive cadre to come together to discuss broad high-level strategic goals. This in-person event facilitated intra-cadre fellowship and enhanced collaboration and unity within the NOAA leadership complex.	Cambridge, MD	4/2/2024	159	\$312,423	3
Alaska NextGen Satellite Workshop	The meeting was co-facilitated by the University of Alaska Fairbanks and NOAA Regional Climate Services Director. It brought together the NESDIS data product developers with current and potential data users to better understand needs and capabilities. This meeting also connected the Anchorage Museum's climate education program via a panel and several breakout group activities. NOAA is continuing to meet with our users on how best their needs through our next generation satellite programs. While we tend to focus on these needs more thematically, this is the major foray into a regional setting in Alaska, where communities rely predominantly on satellite observations.	Anchorage, AK	9/10/2024	50	\$114,180	4
American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting (AFS)	The American Fisheries Society (AFS) mission to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems is achieved by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.	Honolulu, HI	9/15/2024	144	\$462,390	4
Total NOAA Conferences		4		436	\$1,050,949	

Department of Commerce Conferences		10/1/2023-9/30/2024				
USPTO						
Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
United States Patent and Trademark Office Copyright Seminar	The Copyright Seminar for 2023 for foreign government officials who perform functions related to copyright focused on an advanced treatment of copyright "basics", the current work of the World Intellectual Property Organization Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (WIPO SCCR), the intersection of copyright and trade, and various copyright enforcement issues. The seminar included coverage of copyright issues related to various creative industries such as publishing, software, music, film, visual arts, and videogames.	Alexandria, VA	10/17/2023	58	\$173,405	1
Countering Illicit Trade Amid Expanding Trade Infrastructure Investments	The United States Patent and Trademark Office will organize with other United States government agencies a program on countering illicit trade amid expanding trade infrastructure investments to African Intellectual Property Organization countries.	Alexandria, VA	11/13/2023	41	\$144,983	1
Workshop in Investigation and Prosecution of Intellectual Property Rights Violations	The workshop increased enforcement capabilities of authorities in Central America and the Caribbean for the benefit of U.S. content owners.	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	1/30/2024	100	\$141,174	2
Intellectual Property Rights Border Enforcement Workshop for Morocco	The workshop increased enforcement for the benefit of United States brands active in Morocco.	Tangier, Morocco	1/30/2024	61	\$155,063	2
Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Workshop for Tunisia	The workshop increased enforcement capacity for Tunisia for the benefit of United States stakeholders active in that market.	Tunis, Tunisia	2/12/2024	63	\$173,360	2
Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Workshop for Algerian Cooperation with French National Industrial Property Institute	The workshop increased Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement capacity for the benefit of United States rightsholders active in the North African market.	Paris, France	4/23/2024	37	\$230,919	3
Judicial Colloquium on Intellectual Property Case Management	Follow-up on the Judicial program for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Pacific regional that builds on 2023 Indo-Pacific Judicial Colloquium.	Manila, Philippines	6/3/2024	49	\$104,496	3
Indo-Pacific Workshop on Enforcement Against Trade in Counterfeit Goods	This conference is part of an ongoing high profile training program on Intellectual Property enforcement against trade in counterfeit goods in the Indo-Pacific region.	Bangkok, Thailand	7/30/2024	102	\$137,804	4
Pacific Colloquium on Customer Protection, Border Security, and Enforcement Against Trade in Counterfeit Goods	This conference provided the opportunity to target and addressed a specific audience of law enforcement officials and judges in the Pacific Island region on Intellectual Property and consumer protection enforcement and represented a major countering of Chinese influence in the region and support for United States law enforcement and judicial officers in United States territories.	Los Angeles, CA	8/26/2024	42	\$107,709	4
Total USPTO Conferences		9		553	\$1,368,913	
Total DOC Conferences		26		2,117	\$6,748,996	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

MEMORANDUM FOR Jeremy Pelter
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, performing the
non-exclusive functions and duties of the Chief Financial Officer
and Assistant Secretary for Administration

FROM: Stephen Kunze
Deputy Chief Financial Officer
and Director for Financial Management

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Approval for the 2023 National Minority
Enterprise Development Week Conference

STEPHEN KUNZE Digitally signed by
STEPHEN KUNZE
Date: 2023.08.04
08:04:51 -04'00'

Attached for your review and approval is a synopsis of the MBDA 2023 National Minority Enterprise Development Week Conference scheduled for October 22-25, 2023, in Baltimore, MD. The cost to the Department is estimated to be \$836,100.

I have reviewed and concur with the Office of Financial Management that the data submitted by MBDA seems reasonable. I recommend you grant approval to allow MBDA to host the 2023 MED Week Conference.

If you have any questions, I am available to discuss this at your convenience.

Attachments

JEREMY
PELTER

Digitally signed by JEREMY
PELTER
Date: 2023.08.07 17:57:01
-04'00'

Approved

Disapproved

APPROVED
By jpelter at 5:56 pm, Aug 07, 2023

Date

cc: Donald Cravins, MBDA



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Chief Financial Officer
Assistant Secretary for Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

MEMORANDUM FOR

Jeremy Pelter
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, performing the
non-exclusive functions of the Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration

THROUGH:

Stephen Kunze **STEPHEN KUNZE** Digitally signed by STEPHEN
KUNZE
Date: 2024.06.24 16:41:29 -04'00'
Deputy Chief Financial Officer
and Director for Financial Management

FROM:

Julie Tao **Julie Tao** Digitally signed by Julie Tao
Date: 2024.06.24 16:20:56
-04'00'
Director, Office of Financial Reporting, Policy, Internal Controls,
and Travel

SUBJECT:

Recommendation for Approval for the 2024 5x5 Public Safety Innovation
Summit (5x5 Summit)

Attached for your review and approval is the expedited approval request for the 2024 5x5 Public Safety Innovation Summit jointly organized by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) Division. The conference is scheduled for June 25-27, 2024, in Chicago, IL. The net cost to the Department is estimated to be \$1,039,941.

The 5x5 Summit is a three-day event jointly organized by the FirstNet Authority and the NIST PSCR Division. It brings together around 550 stakeholders from various sectors, including government, public safety agencies, industry, and academia. The summit features keynotes, plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and technology demonstrations, allowing participants to discuss, learn, and experience the latest public safety communications technology innovations, including FirstNet.

Due to the timeliness of the conference package submission, contract obligation already exceeded \$500K-departmental approval threshold, our legal counsel did not provide clearance on this package. OFM/TMD has reviewed and deemed the data submitted by NIST and FirstNet reasonable, we recommend post approval on this conference package.

I am available to discuss any questions at your convenience if you have any questions.

Attachments

JEREMY PELTER Digitally signed by JEREMY
PELTER
Date: 2024.06.25 16:36:11 -04'00'

Approved

Disapproved

Date

cc: Laurie E. Locascio
Joe Wassel