

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 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 2025, the Department of Commerce sponsored 6 conferences: five in excess of \$100,000 and one in excess of \$500,000. The total net cost for the 6 conferences is \$1,795,270. The agency-designated official's rationales and approvals are included on the website with the report. All conferences held during FY 2025 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		10/1/2024-9/30/2025				
> \$500,000						
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 (PSCR) was to bring 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.	Bellevue, WA	6/2/2025	35	\$839,473	3
	Total NIST Conferences	1		35	\$839,473	
< \$500,000						
NIST						
Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
National Advanced Packaging Manufacturing Program (NAPMP) Proposer's Day	The summit gathered 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.	Rockville, MD	10/22/2024	40	\$159,935	1
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Red Teaming Challenge at the Conference on Applied Machine Learning in Information Security (CAMLIS)	Participation in the CAMLIS conference materially advanced the Department's mission by strengthening NIST's leadership role in promoting the safe, secure, and trustworthy development and use of artificial intelligence. The conference served as the venue for NIST's AI Innovation Lab-supported adversarial testing competition, conducted in collaboration with Humane Intelligence. This event demonstrated innovative techniques for measuring and mitigating risks in generative AI systems, including adversarial testing, robustness evaluation, and trustworthiness assessments. The insights gained from this effort will inform methods and guidelines essential to NIST's responsibilities under the President's Executive Order on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI.	Arlington, VA	10/24/2024	1	\$105,576	1
	Total NIST Conferences	2		41	\$265,511	
USPTO						
Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
United States Patent and Trademark Office International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants Executive Program	USPTO executed an Executive Training Program in conjunction with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants office on plant variety protection. The goal of the program was to foster accession to the 1991 Act of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants Convention, one way to satisfy provisions of the World Trade Organization on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights agreement. The program brought together a diverse set of jurisdictions to share success stories and positive means to affect legislative change.	Geneva, Switzerland	12/3/2024	26	\$130,733	1
Intellectual Property Attaché Consultations	The objective of the program was to brief USPTO and other United States Government Officials on the Intellectual Property Rights Attaches' activities with respect to capacity building, outreach, and advocacy overseas; and to report the progress of intellectual property enforcement in each country (region) where a USPTO attaché is assigned.	Alexandria, VA	12/6/2024	25	\$139,524	1
	Total USPTO Conferences	2		51	\$270,257	

Department of Commerce Conferences		10/1/2024-9/30/2025				
ITA						
Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Cost	Quarter
2025 SelectUSA Investment Summit	The 2025 SelectUSA Investment Summit aimed to serve as the premier investment event showcasing inbound investment opportunities throughout the United States. The 2025 Summit is expected to draw an audience of more than 4,000 attendees, including economic organizations, foreign companies interested in investing in the U.S. market, service providers, and U.S. government representatives. The participation of Global Markets (GM) international and domestic field staff in the 2025 Summit benefits the GM/ITA organization. It strengthens GM's involvement and support of the foreign direct investment mission. It encourages engagement with leading companies in their markets, which are often clients for investment, export promotion, and commercial diplomacy initiatives.	National Harbor, MD	05/10/2025	213	\$420,029	3
Total ITA Conferences		1		213	\$420,029	
NOTE: 5x5: Public Safety Innovation Summit was a joint conference between NIST and NTIA-FIRSTNET		Total DOC Conferences	6		340	\$1,795,270



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
Deputy Chief Financial Officer
and Director for Financial Management

**STEPHEN
KUNZE**

Digitally signed by STEPHEN
KUNZE
Date: 2024.08.15 14:27:08
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FROM:

Julie Tao
Director, Office of Financial Reporting, Policy, Internal Controls,
and Travel

Julie Tao

Digitally signed by Julie Tao
Date: 2024.08.15 14:22:15
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SUBJECT:

Recommendation for Approval for the 2025 5x5 Public Safety Innovation
Summit (5x5 Summit)

Attached for your review and approval is the 2025 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 3-5, 2025, with the location to be determined later. The net cost to the Department is estimated to be \$1,008,201.

The 5x5 Summit is a three-day event jointly organized by the FirstNet Authority and the NIST PSCR Division. It brings together around 500 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.

I have reviewed and concur with the Office of Financial Management that the data submitted by NIST and FirstNet seems reasonable. I recommend you approve the 2025 5x5 Summit.

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

Attachments

Approved

Disapproved

8.19.2024

Date

cc: Laurie E. Locascio
Joe Wassel