

**Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration**

Proposed Nonavailability Waiver for a Security Camera System

1. Summary

Agency: Department of Commerce (DOC)

Proposed Waiver: DOC's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is proposing a nonavailability waiver of the requirements of section 70914 of the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. No. 117-58) for a security camera system (SCS) used in the North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) Project in Hampton, Iowa State. DOC finds under IIJA 70914 and 2 CFR 184.7 that the required security camera system is not produced in the United States.

Applicability: This proposed waiver action permits the use of a non-domestic SCS for the NIACC Project in Hampton, Iowa, funded under an EDA federal assistance award.

Waiver type: Nonavailability of a BABA-compliant domestic product. The SCS does not fall under the *Department of Commerce Department-wide Public Interest Waivers for De Minimis Infrastructure Project Purchases, Small Grants, and Minor Components within Iron and Steel Products*.

Waiver level: Project-specific waiver for one award.

Summary of items covered in the waiver: Security camera system (manufactured product).

Waiver justification summary: Despite the robust and wide public solicitation and direct outreach to all well-known industry SCS manufacturers, no US-based manufactures of suitable security camera systems were identified.

Length of the waiver: This waiver shall be effective upon approval and will remain in effect until completion of the project – estimated to be June 30, 2026.

2. Background

The Buy America Preference set forth in section 70914 of the Build America, Buy America Act included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. No. 117-58), requires all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used for infrastructure projects under Federal financial assistance awards be produced in the United States.

Under section 70914(b), DOC may waive the application of the Buy America Preference, in any case in which it finds that: applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest; types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25%. All waivers must have a written explanation for the proposed determination; provide a

period of not less than 15 days for public comment on the waiver; and submit the waiver to the Office of Management and Budget Made in America Office for review to determine if the waiver is consistent with policy.

Security Camera System: NIACC requested a nonavailability product-specific waiver for a SCS. The SCS is a necessary part of the project to ensure the security of NIACC's facilities, personnel and students.

NIACC requested this non-availability waiver because no U.S.-based manufacturers were able to provide a suitable, American-sourced product, despite robust efforts in advertising and direct outreach to industry manufacturers of SCSs. After failing to receive responsive bids for BABA-compliant products, the project engineers diligently tried to alter the design of the building to allow the use of American-made products that would meet the project's compliance requirements. They were not able to alter the design sufficiently that any American-made SCS would be compatible with the project's compliance requirements. DOC therefore proposes a nonavailability waiver to allow the recipient to purchase the SCS from a non-domestic source, for as defined in Section 70914(b)(2) of BABA, this type of manufactured product is not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality needed for the infrastructure project.

3. Description of Award

Title of project: The North Iowa Area Community College Career Center Project.

Infrastructure project description and location: NIACC is constructing a new Continuing Education Training Center (CETC). The CETC will be approximately 12,916 square feet and contain space for three laboratories as well as classroom, conference, and office space. Its primary purpose will be to prepare high school students and adults for careers in North Iowa especially focusing on careers in advanced manufacturing, healthcare and construction, which have critical shortages for workers. This project supports the creation of 130 new jobs and 25 retained jobs at Centro Incorporated, Franklin General Hospital, and Stellar Industries by December 2027.

Recipient Name: North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC)

Unique Entry Identifier (UEI): GGUSVSGK4NQ3

Federal Financial Assistance Program: Economic Development Administration Public Works

Federal Financial Assistance Funding Amount: \$3,013,183

Total Infrastructure Project Amount: \$3,766,479

4. Description of Covered Items

Manufactured product: The SCS is a system of security cameras, monitors, and mounting equipment to ensure the safety of the CETC and its occupants. In general terms, these include cameras and their designated wall mounting equipment to support warranties and ensure solid mounting of the cameras. The specific required components of the camera system are listed below and include SKU numbers.

2 - Z4-02330001P3267-LVE Network Camera

2 - 5017-641T91A64 Cornr Brckt For PTZ:

2 - Z4-02327001P3265-LV P32 Series 2MP Indoor Fixed LED WDR IP Do

1 - Z4-02328001P3265-LVE Fixed Dome Camera HDTV 1080p Stream

- 1 - ML-HE150D-4TB-01HUSKY 150 DESKTOP, WIN10, 4TB -35
- 2 - Z4-02832001NETWORK CAMERA
- 3 - P3737-PLEMultidirectional Panoramic Camera
- 3 - TP3833-EDome Casing for Panoramic Camera, Black
- 2 - TP3004-EWall Mount Black
- 2 - TP3105-EPendant Kit, Black
- 1 - TP3820-ECasing for Selected AXIS P32 Cameras, Black, 4-Pie

5. Waiver Justification Summary

Anticipated impact if no waiver is issued: The SCS is critical for the safety of NIACC's faculty and students that use CETC. An American-sourced SCS compatible with the design of the CETC could not be found, and efforts to redesign the CETC were unsuccessful. Therefore, absent a waiver, the building would be completed without a security camera system leaving it vulnerable to theft, vandalism, and unmonitored acts against the students and faculty making use of the facility. Without security cameras, this newly built \$4 million facility would be in greater danger of being damaged and the users of this facility would be in greater likelihood of being harmed without recourse.

Description of efforts made to identify domestic products: In the spring and summer of 2025, NIACC conducted a substantial effort to ensure the solicitation for the SCS was made available to as wide a range of qualified manufactures as possible. The following bullets detail the outreach effort:

- NIACC conducted a wide and robust public solicitation process. NIACC reached out to four companies to request quotes for SCSs via phone and email.
- All four companies stated that a suitable, BABA-complaint product could not be found.
- Only one camera system with components from non-U.S. based companies met the required specifications for the Project. None of the other units met the necessary specifications for this Project.

Despite the robust solicitation and direct outreach to several well-known U.S. industry SCS distributors, no responsive bids were received for a product compatible with the Project.

6. Assessment of Cost Advantage of a Foreign-Sourced Product

Under OMB M-24-02, agencies are expected to assess "whether a significant portion of any cost advantage of a foreign-sourced product is the result of the use of dumped steel, iron, or manufactured products or the use of injuriously subsidized steel, iron, or manufactured products" as appropriate before granting a public interest waiver. EDA's analysis has concluded that this assessment is not applicable to this waiver as this waiver is not based on the cost of foreign-sourced products.

7. Solicitation for Comments

As required under section 70914 of the IIJA, EDA is soliciting comments from the public on this proposed waiver. This notice will be open for 15 days and closed for comments on July 13, 2026.

Comments can be sent to mthompson@eda.gov with "Security Camera System Waiver" in the subject line of the email. Comments received prior to the public comment closing date will be

reviewed and considered by EDA.

For more information on the Build America, Buy America preference, please reference DOC's Build America, Buy America [website](#) or [MadeinAmerica.gov](https://www.madeinamerica.gov).