

Fiscal Year 2014 Report on Conferences Sponsored by 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. Beginning in October 2011, the Department of Commerce began an in-depth review of conferences and related travel across the Department and developed a comprehensive process for gaining approval to sponsor, host, or attend conferences. In June 2014, the Department updated its conference policy to streamline the documentation process and ensure accountability for being good stewards of taxpayer dollars, while at the same time ensuring that the policy meets all Office of Management and Budget mandates and federal travel regulations. The updated policy allows the agencies within Commerce to have more ownership of the processes the Department has put in place for approving conferences as appropriate.

Conference Activity

Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-12-12, Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations, requires federal agencies to report publicly on any sponsored conferences for which net spending exceeded \$100,000. In Fiscal Year 2014, the Department of Commerce sponsored four conferences in excess of \$100,000. The total cost to the Department for these four conferences was \$787,304. All conferences held during Fiscal Year 2014 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 business, universities, and the nation's workforce.

ITA

Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Costs	Quarter
New Commercial Officer Training (NCOT)	New Commercial Officer Training (NCOT) is the Department of Commerce's mandatory introductory/orientation training course for incoming Foreign Service Commercial Officers (FSCOs). This is a structured job-orientation course for FSCOs prior to entering into different career tracks or geographic specialties. It provides new officers with an orientation on DOC and U.S. Embassy operations. The course also provides training on foreign affairs, market intelligence collection and dissemination, partnerships, relationships with other foreign affairs agencies, and the roles different categories of personnel perform in support of our mission.	Washington, DC	5/19/2014	24	\$292,679.70	3
ITA Conference Count		1		24	\$292,679.70	

MBDA

Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Costs	Quarter
2014 National Training Conference	2014 National Training Conference (NTC) serves as a vehicle to train MBDA and its Business Center staff on new and innovative programs; new and existing policies; procedures for the management of grant awards and compliance; and new initiatives as they relate to the President's agenda, the Department of Commerce, and MBDA.	Detroit, MI	9/16/2014	179	\$143,106.27	4
MBDA Conference Count		1		179	\$143,106.27	

NIST

Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Costs	Quarter
SIM Metrology School	SIM Metrology School provides training for representatives from the National Metrology Institutes in the Western Hemisphere to advance the metrological capabilities in the Western Hemisphere. This directly supports the NIST mission to provide international measurement support to the United States. For the international acceptance of NIST measurements, NIST requires SIM to effectively review NIST measurement capabilities, assess the NIST quality systems, and perform regional key comparisons.	Gaithersburg MD	10/28/2013	61	\$190,128.00	1
DNA Technical Leader Summit	DNA Technical Leader Summit is a meeting for U.S. public laboratory DNA Technical Leaders (TL) is being planned to address scientific challenges and issues with DNA mixture interpretation and its application in criminal cases. The Summit will be executed concurrently with the FBI's Laboratory's National CODIS Conference to ensure maximum reach and impact for the material being presented.	Norman, OK	11/20/2013	169	\$161,389.59	1
NIST Conference Count		2		230	\$351,517.59	
Total DOC Conferences		4		433	\$787,303.56	