DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration

[Summary Notice No. PE–2016–0031]

Petition for Exemption; Summary of Petition Received; Iowa State University of Science and Technology

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice contains a summary of a petition seeking relief from specified requirements of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The purpose of this notice is to improve the public’s awareness of, and participation in, the FAA’s exemption process. Neither publication of this notice nor the inclusion or omission of information in the summary is intended to affect the legal status of the petition or its final disposition.

DATES: Comments on this petition must identify the petition docket number and must be received on or before March 30, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Send comments identified by docket number FAA–2015–1302 using any of the following methods:

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

• Mail: Send comments to Docket Operations, M–30; U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W12–140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

• Hand Delivery or Courier: Take comments to Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

• Fax: Fax comments to Docket Operations at (202) 493–2251.

Privacy: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to http://www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at http://www.dot.gov/privacy.

Docket: Background documents or comments received may be read at http://www.regulations.gov at any time. Follow the online instructions for accessing the docket or go to the Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joshua Parker (202) 267–1538, Office of Rulemaking, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591.

This notice is published pursuant to 14 CFR 11.85.

Docket No.: FAA–2015–4716

Petitioner: Iowa State University of Science and Technology

Section(s) of 14 CFR Affected: §§ 45.23(b); 45.27(a); 61.23(a) and (c); 61.113; 61.101(e)(4) and (5); 61.315; 91.7(a); 91.9(b)(2); 91.9(c); 91.103; 91.109(a); 91.119(b); 91.121; 91.151(a); 91.203 (a) & (b); 91.405(a); 91.407(a)(1); 91.409(a)(1) & (2); 91.417(a) & (b).

Description of Relief Sought: The petitioner is requesting relief in order to operate SenseFly eBee, DJI Spreading Wings, and AirCover QR425 aircrafts to perform aerial data collection, training, and research including control of multiple air vehicles in closely coupled collaborative flights and pest management.

Privacy: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to http://www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at http://www.dot.gov/privacy.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA–2016–0026]

Notice of Buy America Waiver

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of Buy America waiver.

SUMMARY: This notice provides NHTSA’s finding with respect to a request to waive the requirements of Buy America from the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety (MBHS). NHTSA finds that a non-availability waiver of the Buy America requirement is appropriate for the purchase of a Leica total station using Federal highway traffic safety grant funds because there are no suitable products produced in the United States.

DATES: The effective date of this waiver is March 25, 2016. Written comments regarding this notice may be submitted to NHTSA and must be received on or before: March 25, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted using any of the following methods:

• Mail: Docket Management Facility, M–30, U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building, Ground Floor, Rm. W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

• Fax: Written comments may be faxed to (202) 493–2251.

• Internet: To submit comments electronically, go to the Federal regulations Web site at http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

• Hand Delivery: West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Instructions: All comments submitted in relation to this waiver must include the agency name and docket number. Please note that all comments received will be posted without change to http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. You may also call the Docket at 202–366–9324.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:


SUMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice provides NHTSA’s finding that a waiver of the Buy America requirement, 23 U.S.C. 313, is appropriate for MBHS to purchase a Leica Flexline TS02 Plus R500 Reflectorless Total Station for $12,925 using grant funds authorized under 23 U.S.C. 402. Section 402 funds are available for use by state highway safety programs that, among other things, reduce or prevent injuries and deaths resulting from speeding motor vehicles, driving while impaired by alcohol and or drugs, motorcycle accidents, school bus accidents, and unsafe driving behavior. 23 U.S.C. 402(a). Section 402 funds are also available to state programs that encourage the proper use of occupant protection devices and improve law enforcement services in motor vehicle accident prevention, traffic supervision, and post-accident procedures. Id.

Buy America provides that NHTSA “shall not obligate any funds authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 2097) or [Title 23] and administered by the Department of Transportation, unless steel, iron, and manufactured products used in such project are produced in the United States.” 23 U.S.C. 313. However, NHTSA may waive those requirements if “(1) their application would be inconsistent with the public interest; (2) such materials and products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or (3) the inclusion of domestic material will increase the cost of the overall project contract by more than 25 percent.” 23 U.S.C. 313(b); 49 CFR 1.95(f).

MBHS seeks a waiver to purchase one (1) Leica Flexline TS02 Plus R500 Reflectorless total station for its subgrantee, the Maine State Police, using Federal grant funds, at a cost of $12,925. A total station is an electronic/optical instrument used in modern surveying and accident reconstruction. Specifically, a total station is an electronic theodolite integrated with an electronic distance meter to read slope distances from the instrument to a particular point. According to MBHS, the total station provides law enforcement with the equipment necessary to provide accurate and detailed crash reconstruction to aid in improving highway safety and for use with the enforcement of traffic safety laws. MBHS states that the total station reduces the time officers need to stand in the roadway with a prism to mark evidence at crash scenes. In addition, with a total station, evidence can be plotted from the side of the road after a roadway has been opened to traffic.

MBHS states that there are no total station models that are manufactured or assembled in the United States. In support of its waiver, MBHS cites to NHTSA’s determination that a Buy America waiver was appropriate for the North Carolina Highway Safety Office to purchase a Nikon Nivo 5M plus Reflectorless total station. See 80 FR 72480 (November 19, 2015). In that notice, the agency noted that both North Carolina and NHTSA performed market analyses which revealed that all total station equipment are foreign made. 1 Id. at 72481. At this time, the agency is unaware of any total stations produced domestically.

NHTSA agrees that the total stations advance the purpose of section 402 to improve law enforcement services in motor vehicle accident prevention and post-accident reconstruction and enforcement. A total station is an on-

1 In our November 19, 2015 notice, we noted that the combined market research of North Carolina and NHTSA found that the following manufacturers produced foreign made total stations: CT Berger (China); Leica (Switzerland); Leica Flexline TS02 Plus R500 Reflectorless Total Station (Japan); Spectra Precision (Japan); Northwest Instruments (China); Topcon (Japan); Trimble (Sweden); Hi-Target Instrument Surveying Co. Ltd. (China); geofennel GmbH (Germany); HiLigh (Lichtenstein); North Surveying (Spain); South Precision Instrument (China); Ruidu Surveying Instrument Co. (China); Pentax (Japan/China); and Topcon (Japan, China and Thailand).