



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Research and Development (R&D) Information Collection Request (ICR).

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by mail to Liz Reinhart, Management Analyst, National Institute of Standards and Technology, PRAComments@doc.gov. Please reference Research and Development (R&D) Information Collection Request (ICR) OMB Control Number 0693-xxxx in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Cierra Bean, Business Operations Specialist, CHIPS Program Office, (202) 815-2677, askchips@chips.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The CHIPS Incentives Program is authorized by Title XCIX—Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors for America of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Pub. L. 116-283, referred to as the CHIPS Act or Act), as amended by the CHIPS Act of 2022 (Division A of Pub. L. 117-167). The CHIPS Incentives Program is administered by the CHIPS Program Office (CPO) within the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of the United States Department of Commerce (Department).

The CPO will collect data and information in support of the research and development (R&D) notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) application process. The R&D NOFO will be designed to fund projects that strengthen U.S. semiconductor R&D leadership to catalyze and capture the next set of critical technologies, applications, and industries. CPO funds will be awarded to projects and programs with intended outcomes of creating a dynamic, new network of innovation for the semiconductor ecosystem in the United States. The long-term payoff will be reestablishing this sector as the engine of innovation for the U.S. domestic economy.

Information collected as part of the application process may include but is not limited to project descriptions, project timelines, narrative justifications for incentives, applicant financial information, and relevant project environmental and workforce information.

II. Method of Collection

CPO intends to collect information from applicants electronically, although other methods, e.g., interviews, email, etc., may also be leveraged. The primary tool will be Salesforce, which CPO leverages for NOFO applications.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0693-XXXX.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 140.

Estimated Time Per Response: 125 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 17,500 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$828,100.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory to be eligible for CHIPS Act funding.

Legal Authority: CHIPS Act of 2022 (Division A of Pub. L. 117-167) (the Act).

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs,
Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2023-15560 Filed: 7/21/2023 8:45 am; Publication Date: 7/24/2023]