

## **Fiscal Year 2015 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 2015, the Department of Commerce sponsored three conferences in excess of \$100,000. The total cost to the Department for these three conferences was \$469,841. All conferences held during Fiscal Year 2015 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.

**MBDA**

Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Costs	Quarter
2015 MBDA National Training Conference	The 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; new initiatives as they relate to the President's Agenda, the Department of Commerce and MBDA. The NTC also serves as a forum for the exchange of information on minority business development through general sessions, workshops and general networking activities.	New Orleans, LA	7/21/2015	177	\$209,911.50	4
<b>MBDA Conference Count</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>177</b>	<b>\$209,911.50</b>	

**NIST**

Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Costs	Quarter
Global City Teams Challenge Expo	The Global City Teams Challenge is a collaborative network of project teams working on groundbreaking applications of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies within the smart city/community environment. The Global City Teams Challenge Expo showcased more than 65 smart cities projects to be deployed in communities around the world. The projects demonstrated how connecting smart devices and systems—in sectors such as energy, health care, education, disaster response and transportation—enable communities to improve services, promote economic growth and enhance their citizens' quality of life.	Washington, DC	6/1/2015	1500	\$131,905.00	3

<b>NIST Conference Count</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>\$131,905.00</b>
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## NOAA

Title	Purpose	Location	Start Date	Attendees	Net Costs	Quarter
NOAA 2015 Satellite Conference	The conference offers an extension of the inaugural 2013 conference that merged past Satellite Direct Readout and GOES Users' Conferences along with POES, Suomi NPP, JPSS customers and users into one event. This gathering included government, public, private, and academic attendees, along with national and international associates. The NOAA Satellite Conference 2015 brings together users and providers of polar-orbiting and geostationary satellite data, products, and applications, from the public, private, and academic sectors. Participation was from 36 countries and included members of NOAA, NASA, Department of Defense, Environment Canada, European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), and the Hydrometeorological Services of countries in North, Central, and South America; the Caribbean, and Asia. NSC 2015 provided a venue and opportunity for greater collaboration between environmental satellite users.	Greenbelt, MD	4/27/2015	617	\$128,024.41	3

<b>NOAA Conference Count</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>\$128,024.41</b>
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<b>Total DOC Conferences</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2294</b>	<b>\$469,840.91</b>
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