

this notice is published. To obtain a copy of the Application Kit please telephone (202) 482-0073, or facsimile (202) 482-2443 (these are not toll free numbers) or send a written request with two self-addressed mailing labels to Liesel C. Duhon, Acting Director, SABIT Program, HCHB Room 3319, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230. Only one copy of the Application Kit will be provided to each organization requesting it, but it may be reproduced by the requester.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Liesel C. Duhon, Acting Director, SABIT Program, U.S. Department of Commerce, phone—(202) 482-0073, facsimile—(202) 482-2443. These are not toll free numbers.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** SABIT exposes NIS business managers and scientists to a completely new way of thinking in which demand, consumer satisfaction, and profits drive production. Senior-level interns visiting the U.S. for internship programs with public or private sector companies will be exposed to an environment which will provide them with practical knowledge for transforming their countries' enterprises and economies to the free market. The program provides first-hand, eye-opening experience to managers and scientists which cannot be duplicated by American managers travelling to their territories.

**Business Executives:** SABIT assists economic restructuring in the NIS by providing top-level business managers with practical training in American methods of innovation and management in such areas as strategic planning, financing, production, distribution, marketing, accounting, wholesaling, and labor relations. This first-hand experience in the U.S. economy enables interns to become leaders in establishing and operating a market economy in the NIS, and creates a unique opportunity for U.S. firms to familiarize key executives from the NIS with their products and services.

**Scientists:** SABIT provides opportunities for gifted scientists to apply their skills to peaceful research and development in the civilian sector, in areas such as defense conversion, medical research, and the environment, and exposes them to the role of scientific research in a market economy where applicability of research relates to business success. Sponsoring firms in the U.S. scientific community also benefit from exchanging information and ideas, and different approaches to new technologies.

All internships are for three to six months; however, ITA reserves the right to allow an intern to stay for a shorter period if the U.S. company agrees and the intern demonstrates a need for a shorter internship based on his or her management responsibilities.

**Funding Availability:** Pursuant to section 632(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Act") funding for the program will be provided by the United States Agency for International Development (A.I.D.). ITA will award financial assistance and administer the program pursuant to the authority contained in section 635(b) of the Act. The estimated amount of financial assistance available for the program is \$1.4 million. Additional funding may become available during this funding period.

**Funding Instrument and Project Duration:** Federal assistance will be awarded pursuant to a cooperative agreement between ITA and the recipient firm. ITA will reimburse companies for the round trip international travel of each intern from the intern's home city in the NIS to the U.S. internship site, upon submission to ITA of the travel invoice and the form SF-270, "Request for Advance or Reimbursement." Travel under the program is subject to the Fly America Act. Recipient firms provide \$30 per day directly to interns; ITA will reimburse companies for this stipend of \$30 per day per intern for up to six months, upon submission by company of an end-of-internship report and form SF-270. Each award will have a cap of \$7,500 per intern for total cost of airline travel and stipend. ITA reserves the right to allow an award to exceed this amount in cases of unusually high costs, such as airfare from remote regions of the NIS. There are no specific matching requirements for the awards. Host firms, however, are expected to bear the costs beyond those covered by the award, including: visa fees, housing, insurance, any food and incidentals costs beyond \$30 per day, any training-related travel within the U.S., and provision of the hands-on training for the interns.

U.S. firms wishing to utilize SABIT in order to be matched with an intern without applying for financial assistance may do so. Such firms will be responsible for all costs, including travel expenses, related to sponsoring the intern.

**Eligibility:** Eligible applicants for the SABIT program will be any for profit or non-profit U.S. corporation, association, organization or other public or private entity. Branches or divisions of the federal government are not eligible.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Consideration for financial assistance will be given to those SABIT proposals which:

(1) Demonstrate a commitment to the intent and goals of the program to provide practical, on-the-job, non-academic, non-classroom, training: in the case of manager interns, an appropriate management training experience, or, in the case of scientist interns, a practical, commercially-oriented scientific training experience.

(2) Respond to the priority needs of senior business managers and scientists in the NIS, as determined by ITA. Host firms must be solidly committed to interns' return to their own countries upon completion of the internships.

(3) Present a realistic work plan describing in detail the training program to be provided to the SABIT intern(s). Work plans must include the following: (a) Whether Applicant is applying to host managers or scientists, or both (and the number of each); (b) the duration of the internship (at least three but not more than six months.) As noted above, ITA reserves the right to allow an intern with very senior management responsibilities to stay for a shorter period (minimum of one month) if the U.S. company agrees and the intern demonstrates a compelling need for a shorter internship based on his or her management responsibilities; (c) the location(s) of the internship; (d) the name, address, and telephone number of the designated internship coordinator; (e) name(s) of division(s) in which the intern(s) will be placed; (f) the individual(s) in the U.S. company under whose supervision the intern will train; (g) the proposed internship training activities. The components of the training activities must be described in as much detail as possible, preferably on a week-by-week basis. The description of the training activities should include an accounting of what the intern's(s') duties and responsibilities will be during the training; (h) the anticipated housing arrangements to be provided for the intern(s). Note that housing arrangements should be suitable for mid- and senior-level professionals, and that each intern must be provided with a private room.

(4) Include a brief objectives section indicating why the Applicant wishes to provide an internship to a manager(s) or scientist(s) from the NIS, and how the proposed internship would further the purpose of the SABIT program as described above. If Applicant is nominating a specific individual for training, this objectives section must describe any existing relationship between the Applicant and the individual.