

**§ 4723. Market Development Cooperator Program****(a) Authority of Secretary of Commerce**

In order to promote further the exportation of goods and services from the United States, the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to establish, in the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce, a Market Development Cooperator Program. The purpose of the program is to develop, maintain, and expand foreign markets for nonagricultural goods and services produced in the United States.

**(b) Implementation of Program**

The Secretary of Commerce shall carry out the Market Development Cooperator Program by entering into contracts with—

- (1) nonprofit industry organizations,
- (2) trade associations,
- (3) State departments of trade and their regional associations, including centers for international trade development, and
- (4) private industry firms or groups of firms in cases where no entity described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) represents that industry,

(in this section referred to as “cooperators”) to engage in activities in order to carry out the purpose of the Market Development Cooperator Program set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The costs of activities under such a contract shall be shared equitably among the Department of Commerce, the cooperator involved, and, whenever appropriate, foreign businesses. The Department of Commerce shall undertake to support direct costs of activities under such a contract, and the cooperator shall undertake to support indirect costs of such activities. Activities under such a contract shall be carried out by the cooperator with the approval and assistance of the Secretary.

**(c) Cooperator partnership program****(1) In general**

(A) As part of the Market Development Cooperator Program established under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of Commerce shall establish a partnership program with cooperators under which a cooperator may detail individuals, subject to the approval of the Secretary, to the United States and Foreign Commercial Service for a period of not less than 1 year or more than 2 years to supplement the Commercial Service.

(B) Any individual detailed to the United States and Foreign Commercial Service under this subsection shall be responsible for such duties as the Secretary may prescribe in order to carry out the purpose of the Market Development Cooperator Program set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

(C) Individuals detailed to the United States and Foreign Commercial Service under this subsection shall not be considered to be employees of the United States for the purposes of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management, except that the Secretary of State may determine the applicability to such individuals of section 2669(f) of title 22 and of any other law administered by the Secretary of State concerning the detail of such individuals abroad.

**(2) Qualifications of participants**

In order to qualify for the program established under this subsection, individuals shall have demonstrated expertise in the international business arena in at least 2 of the following areas: marketing, market research, and computer data bases.

**(3) Expenses of the program**

(A) The cooperator who details an individual to the United States and Foreign Commercial Service under this subsection shall be responsible for that individual’s salary and related expenses, including health care, life insurance, and other noncash benefits, if any, normally paid by such cooperator.

(B) The Secretary of Commerce shall pay transportation and housing costs for each individual participating in the program established under this subsection.

**(d) Budget Act**

Contracts may be entered into under this section in a fiscal year only to such extent or in such amounts as are provided in appropriations Acts.

(Pub. L. 100–418, title II, §2303, Aug. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 1342.)

**§ 4723a. United States Commercial Centers****(a) Establishment**

The Secretary of Commerce, in his or her role as chairperson of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, is authorized and encouraged to establish United States Commercial Centers (hereinafter in this section referred to as “Centers”) in Asia, in Latin America, and in Africa.

**(b) Purpose of Centers**

The purpose of the Centers shall be to provide additional resources for the promotion of exports of United States goods and services to the host countries, by familiarizing United States exporters with the industries, markets, and customs of the host countries, thus facilitating commercial ties and trade.

**(c) Functions of Centers**

Each Center shall—

- (1) collect and publish economic and market data with respect to the host country;
- (2) provide, on a user-fee basis, preliminary technical and clerical assistance, language translation, and administrative assistance, and information regarding the legal systems, laws, regulations, and procedures of the host country, to United States exporters seeking to do business in the host country; and
- (3) in other ways promote exports of United States goods and services to the host country.

**(d) Specific services to be provided**

To carry out its objectives, each Center shall make available the following (on a user-fee basis):

**(1) Business facilities**

Business facilities, including exhibition space, conference rooms, office space (including telephones and other basic office equipment), and, where warranted by impending deficiencies in the public system, high quality international telecommunications facilities.