ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments. Comments should refer to ''RFID Workshop—Comment, P049106,'' to facilitate the organization of comments. A comment filed in paper form should include this reference both in the text and on the envelope, and the original and two copies should be mailed or delivered to the following address: Federal Trade Commission/Office of the Secretary, Room 159–H (Annex G), 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. Comments containing confidential material must be filed in paper form, as explained in the Supplementary Information section. The Commission is requesting that any comment filed in paper form be sent by courier or overnight service, if possible, because U.S. postal mail in the Washington area and at the Commission is subject to delay due to heightened security precautions. Comments filed in electronic form (except comments containing any confidential material) should be sent, as prescribed in the Supplementary Information section, to the following email box: *rfidworkshop@ftc.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie K. Brof, Attorney, (206) 220–4475, Northwest Region, Federal Trade Commission, 915 Second Avenue, Suite 2896, Seattle, WA 98174. To read our policy on how we handle the information you submit, please visit *http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/privacy.htm*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Workshop Goals

On June 21, 2004, the FTC is planning to host a public workshop, ''Radio Frequency Identification: Applications and Implications for Consumers,'' that will explore the uses, efficiencies, and implications for consumers associated with radio frequency identification (RFID) technology. The workshop will address both current and anticipated uses of RFID tags and their impact on the marketplace. Questions to be addressed at the workshop are set forth in the Commission's Notice Announcing Public Workshop and Requesting Public Comment, published in the **Federal Register** on April 15, 2004.

Form and Availability of Comments

The time period during which public comments may be submitted has been extended. Interested parties may submit written comments on the questions and issues addressed by the workshop until July 9, 2004. Especially useful are any studies, surveys, research, and empirical data. Comments should refer to ''RFID Workshop—Comment, P049106,'' to facilitate the organization of comments. A comment filed in paper form should include this reference both in the text and on the envelope, and the original and two copies should be mailed or delivered to the following address: Federal Trade Commission/Office of the Secretary, Room 159–H (Annex G), 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. If the comment contains any material for which confidential treatment is requested, it must be filed in paper (rather than electronic) form, and the first page of the document must be clearly labeled ''Confidential.'' [1] The FTC is requesting that any comment filed in paper form be sent by courier or overnight service, if possible, because U.S. postal mail in the Washington area and at the Commission is subject to delay due to heightened security precautions. Comments filed in electronic form (except comments containing any confidential material) should be sent to the following email box: *rfidworkshop@ftc.gov*.

The FTC Act and other laws the Commission administers permit the collection of public comments to consider and use in this proceeding as appropriate. All timely and responsive public comments, whether filed in paper or electronic form, will be considered by the Commission, and will be available to the public on the FTC Web site, to the extent practicable, at *http://www.ftc.gov*. As a matter of discretion, the FTC makes every effort to remove home contact information for individuals from the public comments it receives before placing those comments on the FTC Web site. More information, including routine uses permitted by the Privacy Act, may be found in the FTC's privacy policy, at *http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/privacy.htm.*

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04–11631 Filed 5–21–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–P

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Granting of Request for Early Termination of the Waiting Period Under the Premerger Notification Rules

Section 7A of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. 18a, as added by Title II of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, requires persons contemplating certain mergers or acquisitions to give the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General advance notice and to wait designated periods before consummation of such plans. Section 7A(b)(2) of the Act permits the agencies, in individual cases, to terminate this waiting period prior to its expiration and requires that notice of this action be published in the **Federal Register**.

The following transactions were granted early termination of the waiting period provided by law and the premerger notification rules. The grants were made by the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. Neither agency intends to take any action with respect to these proposed acquisitions during the applicable waiting period.

Trans No.	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION—04/26/2004			
20040744	LGB Keystone LLC	Keystone Foods Holding Company, Inc ..	Executive Holdings LLC. Keystone Foods LLC.
20040762	Calpine Power Income Fund	Basic American, Inc	Basic American, Inc.
20040763	Nautic Partners V, L.P	Flavor & Fragrance Group Holdings, Inc	Flavor & Fragrance Group Holdings, Inc.
TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION—04/28/2004			
20040747	Bank One Corporation	Marc Ladreit de Lacharriere	LBC S.A.

[1] Commission Rule 4.2(d), 16 CFR 4.2(d). The comment must be accompanied by an explicit request for confidential treatment, including the factual and legal basis for the request, and must identify the specific portions of the comment to be withheld from the public record. The request will be granted or denied by the Commission's General Counsel, consistent with applicable law and the public interest. *See* Commission Rule 4.9(c), 16 CFR 4.9(c).

Trans No.	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION—04/29/2004			
20040509	Connors Bros. Income Fund	Centre Capital Investors III, L.P	Bumble Bee LLC.
TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION—04/30/2004			
20040759	Thomas Cressey Fund VII, L.P	Web Clients, Inc	Web Clients, Inc.
20040765	JP Morgan Chase & Co	Nathan Kirsh	Jetro JMDH Holdings, Inc.
20040767	BSW Holdings, Inc	Electronic Data Systems Corporation	UGS PLM Solutions Inc.
20040770	Roger Barnett	Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd	INOBYS LLC. Shaklee Corporation.
20040771	TelCove, Inc	Exelon Corporation	PECO Telcove.
20040773	Hughes Supply, Inc	Karl B. McMillen, Jr	Todd Pipe & Supply—Hawthorne, Inc.
20040779	Bain Capital Fund VI, L.P	Domino's Pizza, Inc	Domino's Pizza, Inc.
20040780	Bain Capital VI Coinvestment Fund, L.P	Domino's Pizza, Inc	Domino's Pizza, Inc.
20040788	Arsenal Capital Partners Qualified Purchaser Fund L.P.	Millennium Chemicals, Inc	Millennium Specialty Chemicals Inc.
20040792	SR. Teleperformance	Newco	Newco.
TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION—04/30/2004			
20040411	L'Air Liquide SA	Messer Griesheim Group GmbH & Co. KGaA.	Messer Griesheim GmbH.
TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION—05/04/2004			
20040787	William Blair Capital Partners VII QP, L.P	Lauri E. Union Grantor Retained Trust ...	Union Corrugating Company.
TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION—05/05/2004			
20040728	Kerry Group plc	J. Manheimer Inc	J. Manheimer Inc.
20040740	Amgen Inc	Tularik Inc	Tularik Inc.
20040784	Occum Acquisition Corp	Safeco Corporation	American States Life Insurance Company. Employee Benefits Consultants, Inc. First Safeco National Life Insurance Company of New York. Safeco Administrative Services, Inc. Safeco Asset Management Company. Safeco Assigned Benefits Service Company. Safeco Life Insurance Company. Safeco National Life Insurance Company. Safeco Securities, Inc. Safeco Services Corporation. Wisconsin Pension and Group Services, Inc.
20040797	Pitney Bowes Inc	Group 1 Software, Inc	Group 1 Software, Inc.
TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION—05/06/2004			
20040713	Informa Group plc	Taylor & Francis Group plc	Taylor & Francis Group plc.
20040758	Headquarters Incorporated	Eldorado Stone Holdings Co, LP	Eldorado Stone Acquisition Co., LLC
20040834	Mr. Kjell Inge Rokke	Kvaerner ASA	Kvaerner ASA.
TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION—05/07/2004			
20040764	Calpine Corporation	General Electric Company	Cogen Holdings I LLC.
20040768	Ainsworth Lumber Co. Ltd	Boise Cascade Corporation	Voyageur Panel Limited.
20040769	Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	Mr. Pierre Fabre	Pierre Fabre Medicament S.A.
20040783	Genstar Capital Partners III, L.P	Gregory Block	American Pacific Enterprises, LLC.
20040789	United Technologies Corporation	Automated Logic Corporation	Automated Logic Corporation.
20040794	Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe IX, L.P. (WCAS IX).	U.S. Oncology Holdings, Inc	U.S. Oncology Holdings, Inc.
20040795	Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe IX, L.P.	U.S. Oncology, Inc	U.S. Oncology, Inc.
20040800	International Paper Company	Dennis Mehiel	Box USA Holdings, Inc.
20040803	JAKKS Pacific, Inc	Play Along (Hong Kong) Ltd	Play Along (Hong Kong) Ltd.
20040806	Kerr-McGee Corporation	Westport Resources Corporation	Westport Resources Corporation
20040808	Sumner M. Redstone	Midway Games, Inc	Midway Games, Inc.
20040811	Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co. II, L.P	Prudential plc	LD Holdings, Inc.

Trans No.	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
20040812	Ormat Industries Ltd	Constellation Energy Group Inc	CE Puna II, Inc. CE Puna I, Inc. CE Puna Limited Partnership. Puna Geothermal Venture.
20040814	Dr. David V. Goeddel	Amgen Inc	Amgen Inc.
20040819	SunGard Data Systems Inc	Joseph A. Savage, Jr	Open Software Solutions.
20040820	SunGard Data Systems Inc	Hua ''Frank'' Luo	Open Software Solutions, Inc.
20040821	Citigroup Inc	Sunoco, Inc	Sunoco, Inc. (R&M).
20040823	Joseph M. & Marie H. Field	Michael S. Maurer	MyStar Communications Corporation.
20040824	Joseph M. & Marie H. Field	Robert E. Schloss	MyStar Communications Corporation.
20040835	CompuCredit Corporation	First American Management, Inc	FACA of Arkansas, LLC. First American Cash Advance of Alabama, LLC. First American Cash Advance of Colorado, LLC. First American Cash Advance of Florida, LLC. First American Cash Advance of Oklahoma, LLC. First American Cash Advance of South Carolina, LLC. First American Cash Advance of Tennessee, LLC. First American Financial Services, LLC. First American Franchising, LLC. First American Holding, LLC. Foresight Management Company, LLC. Union Management Company, LLC. United Services, Inc.
TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION—05/11/2004			
20040782	ABRY Partners IV, L.P	Providence Equity Partners III L.P	Language Line Holdings, Inc.
20040807	Albemarle Corporation	Akzo Nobel NV	Akzo Nobel Catalysts LLC.
20040815	Teledyne Technologies Incorporated	Isco, Inc	Isco, Inc.
20040816	Stephen L. LaFrance and Linda LaFrance.	May's Drug Stores, Inc	May's Drug Stores, Inc.
20040817	Hub International Limited	Safeco Corporation	Talbot Financial Corporation.
20040822	The Lubrizol Corporation	Noveon International, Inc.	Noveon International, Inc.
20040831	Charterhouse Equity Partners IV, L.P	Washington & Congress Capital Partners, L.P.	LogistiCare, Inc.
20040833	Fair Isaac Corporation	London Bridge Software Holdings plc	London Bridge Software Holdings plc.
20040837	MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd	Marshall & Swift Holdings, LLC	Marshall & Swift/Boeckh Company (Canada) Marshall & Swift, L.P.
20040841	TA IX L.P	CGW Southeast Partners III, L.P	Youth & Family Centered Services, Inc.
TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION—05/12/2004			
20040735	JDS Uniphase Corp	E20 Communications, Inc	E20 Communications, Inc.
20040785	Summit Venture VI–B, L.P	GCA Holdings, Inc	GCA Holdings, Inc.
20040786	Summit Ventures VI–A, L.P	GCA Holdings, Inc	GCA Holdings, Inc.
20040793	M&C International	GCA Holdings, Inc	GCA Holdings, Inc.
TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION—05/14/2004			
20040804	Smiths Group plc	The Veritas Capital Fund LP	Trak Holding Corp.
20040839	Molina Healthcare, Inc	Gerald W. Landgraf	Health Care Horizons, Inc.
20040842	The Home Depot, Inc	Green Equity Investors III, L.P	White Cap Industries, Inc.
20040844	Jarden Corporation	Bicycle Holding, Inc	Bicycle Holding, Inc.
20040846	CCG Investment Fund, L.P	LHP Holding Corp	LHP Holding Corp.
20040847	LHP Holding Corp	Leiner Health Products, Inc	Leiner Health Products, Inc.
20040853	Cortec Group Fund III, L.P	Linsalata Capital Partners Fund III, L.P ..	Fasteners Holding Company.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandra M. Peay, contact Representative or Renee Hallman, Case Management Assistant, Federal Trade Commission, Premerger Notification Office, Bureau of Competition, Room H–303, Washington, DC 20580, (202) 326–3100.

By Direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04–11630 Filed 5–21–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

[Docket No. 2004S–0233]

Solicitation of Comments on Stimulating Innovation in Medical Technologies

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is seeking public comment on how HHS and its agencies can work together to facilitate the development and approval of new medical technologies.

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments by August 23, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments concerning this document to the Division of Dockets Management, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit electronic comments to *http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For general questions about this document: Lisa Rovin, Office of the Commissioner (HFP–1), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301–827–1443.

For information about the seven specific questions listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** *section of this document*: Tom Kuchenberg, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20201, 202–205–8644.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

HHS is seeking comment on how to stimulate innovation in medical technologies, such as drug and biological products and medical devices. We are interested in hearing about ways HHS and its agencies (e.g., National Institutes of Health (NIH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), can work together to facilitate the development and approval of new medical technologies.

Recent advances in basic sciences, such as genomics, proteomics, and bioinformatics, have created the potential for the development of innovative medical technologies that can provide new hope and better quality of life for many Americans. At the same time, more funds are being invested in biomedical science in America than ever before. NIH, which is just completing a 5-year doubling of its budget to $27 billion (Ref. 1), has launched its Roadmap initiative (Ref. 2). The Roadmap initiative aims to transform the nation's medical research enterprise and help speed the movement of research discoveries from the laboratory to the patient.

During the past decade, pharmaceutical firms have increased their research and development investments to more than $30 billion (Ref. 3). Considering the many other organizations involved in medical research in this country (e.g., Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Veteran's Affairs, academic organizations, and foundations), the total amount spent each year in the development of medical technology in the United States could conceivably approach $100 billion.

With an aging population it is worth noting that in 2002 Medicare expenditures for new drugs and devices were approximately $4 to 6 billion. To help speed access to these new technologies, CMS is working on novel ways to better coordinate coverage, payment, and coding for a more timely reimbursement process.

Nonetheless, there is concern that new discoveries in basic sciences are not rapidly translating into new medical products for patients. In a recent report announcing its Critical Path initiative[1] (Ref. 4), FDA noted that the numbers of new drug and biologic applications being submitted to FDA are decreasing despite the dramatic increase in research and development spending over the past decade.[2] Current estimates suggest that it takes 10 to 15 years and $800 million in investment for a new drug to make it from the laboratory bench to a patient's bedside (Ref. 5). On April 22, 2004, FDA published a notice in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 21839) asking for input on the scientific and technical hurdles that cause delays and other problems during the product development process. That notice focused exclusively on FDA. In this notice we are requesting that all constituents comment on what HHS agencies can do together to stimulate innovation in medical technologies.

HHS, through its operating agencies (e.g., NIH, FDA, CMS, and CDC), is an important part of the nation's medical technology infrastructure. To help HHS understand what it can do to facilitate the development of innovative medical technologies, we are asking the following questions:

1. What strategies and approaches could HHS implement to accelerate the development and application of new medical technologies?

2. How can HHS help its agencies (e.g., NIH (and its grantees), FDA, CDC, and CMS) to work together more effectively to eliminate obstacles to development of medical technologies?

3. How can the HHS scientific and regulatory agencies work more effectively with CMS to eliminate obstacles to development?

4. What forums should HHS use to survey constituents about obstacles to innovation (e.g., public meetings, contract research, focus groups)?

5. How can the portability of information between HHS agencies be optimized?

6. Which HHS policies and programs effectively spur innovation? Which policies and programs at NIH (and its grantees), CMS, FDA, and CDC should be expanded to help spur innovation? Do any policies and programs pose obstacles to innovation?

7. What role should be played by nongovernmental partners in assisting the Federal Government in this process?

II. Comments

Interested persons may submit written or electronic comments to the Division of Dockets Management (see **ADDRESSES**). Submit a single copy of electronic comments or two paper copies of mailed comments, except that individuals may submit one paper copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments are available for public examination in the Division of Dockets Management between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

[1] The report lays out FDA plans to help make the critical path more predictable and efficient. If products that are likely to fail can be identified earlier in the development process, more research and development resources can be devoted to developing those products that are likely to succeed.

[2] Only one in five products that reach the clinical testing stage ever makes it to marketing.