

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
FOR PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION 3048-0005
LETTER OF INTEREST APPLICATION FORM EIB 95-9**

A. Justification

1. Ex-Im Bank is the U.S. Government agency (created by the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended) that facilitates the export financing of U.S. goods and services. By neutralizing the effect of export credit insurance offered by foreign governments and by assuming credit risks that the private sector will not accept, Ex-Im Bank enables U.S. exporters to compete fairly in foreign markets on the basis of price and products. Collection of information is necessary under Sec. 635 (a) (1) to determine eligibility of the applicant for Ex-Im Bank assistance or participation.
2. The applicant has the option to fill out and submit the completed form online, or to fill out and submit a hard copy version. The applicant submits a completed form to obtain a preliminary determination of the eligibility of the applicant and transaction for Ex-Im Bank assistance and a preliminary offer of financing support under the Bank's loan and guarantee programs. Ex-Im Bank uses the information provided on the form to determine the applicant's eligibility for requested support.
3. Ex-Im Bank accepts online applications and has done so since 1999. The online application provides requesters with the opportunity to fill out an easy-to-follow application process. This reduces the burden of filling out a hard copy instrument and eliminates the burden and expense of using mail or courier services.
4. All applications are independent of each other, i.e., no duplication. In circumstances when some information may already be on file at Ex-Im Bank, the application includes language allowing the applicant to so indicate.
5. Not applicable.
6. Absent the information required in the application form, Ex-Im Bank would be unable to make the necessary judgments to determine eligibility of the applicant to obtain support. Without those judgments, Ex-Im Bank would not be able to provide the financing commitment needed by our customers.
7. Collection is consistent with guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.6.
8. A request for comments was published in the Federal Register on January 17, 2008, Vol. 73, No. 12, page 3248. No comments have been received. All application forms and revisions thereto are discussed with potential users and staff to determine necessity, practicality and acceptability.

9. Not applicable. Ex-Im Bank does not provide any payment or gift to respondents.
10. Ex-Im Bank and its officers and employees are subject to the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1905, which requires Ex-Im Bank to protect confidential information from disclosure, as well as 12 CFR 404.1, which provides that, except as required by law, Ex-Im Bank will not disclose information provided in confidence without the submitter's consent.
11. Not applicable. No sensitive questions are involved.
12. Number of respondents 222
 Estimated time per respondent 1/3 Hour
 Frequency of response 1/yr
 Annual hour burden 74 Hours
13. Not applicable.
14. Estimated Annualized cost to the Federal government:
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Reviewing time per hour | .5 |
| Responses per year | 222 |
| Reviewing time per year | 111 |
| Average wages per hour | \$35 |
| Average wages per year | \$3,885 |
| Benefits and overhead | 100% |
| Total Government cost | \$7,770 |
15. The hour burden has decreased from the previously reported period (500 respondents/165 hours) because the number of applications submitted for calendar year 2007 declined.
16. Not applicable. Information is not published. Any publishing of information collected is not related to the original purpose of the application.
17. Not applicable. We are not seeking approval not to display the expiration date.
18. No exceptions.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

Statistical methods are not used in this information collection.