CR Extends SBIR Through October 31

H.R. 3614, To provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, was passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by the President in late September. This bill extends many of the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) programs, including SBIR, STTR, and the Commercialization Pilot Program, through October 31, 2009.

The short duration of the SBIR/STTR programs’ extension is surprising, given that previous continuing resolutions (CRs) were for several months or more. Reauthorization legislation for the SBIR and STTR programs is currently in conference, where a committee is hopefully working to resolve differences between House and Senate reauthorization bills. Key differences in these two bills include the amount of increase in award levels, increasing the amount of the set-aside, and the degree of participation by companies that are majority owned by entities rather than individuals. It is not well known how close to consensus the conference committee is at present, so yet another CR may be necessary to keep these programs alive.

See You in Nevada

The Fall National SBIR/STTR Conference will be held November 2-5, 2008 in Sparks, NV. The conference will provide an opportunity for SBIR newcomers and veterans alike to learn more about the participating Federal agencies’ programs, commercialization strategies, success stories, and more. The conference will also provide opportunities to meet one-on-one with program managers, potential strategic partners, and investors. Sessions will include agency overviews, intellectual property valuation, electronic proposal submission, proposal review, and much more. Several pre- and post-conference workshops, including proposal preparation and cost estimation, will also be held.

For more information, visit the conference website.
NSF Phase I SBIR Solicitation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has released its FY2010 Phase I SBIR solicitation. There are four overarching research topics for this solicitation, each with numerous subtopic areas: Biotech and Chemical Technologies (BC); Education Applications (EA); Information and Communication Technologies (IC); and Nanotechnology, Advanced Materials, and Manufacturing (NM). Proposals should be for projects that are that are high-risk and have high potential commercial payback. NSF anticipates making 200-300 awards of up to $150,000 for six month projects under this announcement. Note that contact with the cognizant program manager is strongly encouraged prior to submission, and that letters of support for the technology (no more than three) are also strongly encouraged. Organizations may submit only two proposals for this solicitation; in addition the project principal investigator (PI) or co-PIs may participate in only one submitted proposal. PIs must also spend a minimum of one calendar month on an SBIR Phase I project.

The application deadline is December 3, 2009 at 5:00 pm submitter’s time, and applications must be submitted electronically through the Fast-Lane system. Applicants must also have a DUNS number and be registered in the Central Contractor Registry. For more information, see: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsf09609/nsf09609.htm.

DOT FY10.1 SBIR Solicitation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has recently released its FY10.1 Phase I SBIR solicitation. Research topics from the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Transit Administration, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration are being offered. Note that the DOT has several specific forms that must be completed as part of the proposal preparation process. The DOT anticipates awarding approximately 16 Phase I firm price fixed contracts of up to $100,000 under this announcement. The application deadline is November 16, 2009, and applications must be submitted electronically using the DOT’s submission form. For more information, or to download the solicitation, visit: http://www.volpe.dot.gov/sbir/.

“Business Success Seminar” Offers Solutions for Business

Iowa Farm Bureau’s Renew Rural Iowa initiative will be bringing a Baking & Business 101: “A Recipe for Business Success” seminar to Reiman Gardens on the ISU campus in Ames on November 4, 2009. The seminar will feature Curt Nelson, author and president of the Entrepreneurial Development Center, Inc. located in Cedar Rapids. The seminar offers an insightful look at what defines successful business ingredients and how to create them. Attendees will learn how to assemble a balanced and talented leadership team, understand the definition and value of a true business leader, and learn what resources are critical to the overall success of a business.

With the recent flooding impacting Iowa’s business community, this seminar will provide timely tips and inspiration for those facing transition. Iowa State’s Center for Industrial Research and Service and Venture Net Iowa are co-hosting this event. For more information and registration, go to: www.renewruraliowa.com.
The Department of Energy (DOE) has released its FY2010 Phase I SBIR/STTR solicitation.

DOE anticipates making approximately 300 SBIR and 30 STTR awards of up to $100,000 for projects of about nine months in duration under this announcement. Note that DOE permits grant applications with a substantial amount of research collaboration (30%) to be performed at a single research institution to be considered for funding under both the SBIR and STTR programs.

Nearly 70 technical topics, each with several subtopic areas, are being offered under this solicitation; these diverse topics include areas such as advanced solar technologies, wind energy technology development, production of biofuels from cellulosic biomass, catalysis, hydrogen safety, storage, delivery, and production, instrumentation for electronic microscopy and scanning probe microscopy, advanced coal research, imaging and radiochemistry, and many others.

Applications are due by 8:00 pm ET, November 20, 2009, and must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov. For more information or to download application instructions, visit http://sbir.er.doe.gov/sbir/.

The deadline for DOE’s FY2010 Phase I SBIR/STTR solicitation is November 20, 2009.

Quarterly reports are due October 10 for NSF awardees funded through ARRA

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has recently posted a notice on its SBIR/STTR website indicating that Phase I and Phase II grantees whose awards were funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) are required by law to submit a quarterly report by October 10, 2009. Phase I and Phase II awardees funded through ARRA would have this noted in their award letters.

Reports need to be submitted through FederalReporting.gov. Guidance for preparing these reports has been issued by the Office of Budget and Management (OMB). In addition, NSF has developed supplemental guidance and sample reports to help its award recipients to submit consistent and quality data as required by ARRA.

For more information, see: http://www.nsf.gov/recovery/reporting.jsp.

Key Solicitation Dates

- The deadline for NIH’s FY2010 contract solicitation is November 9, 2009.
- The deadline for the DOT’s FY10.1 SBIR solicitation is November 16, 2009.
- The deadline for NSF’s FY2010 STTR solicitation is November 17, 2009.
- The deadline for DOE’s FY2010 Phase I SBIR/STTR solicitation is November 20, 2009.
- The deadline for NSF’s FY2010 Phase I SBIR solicitation is December 3, 2009.
- The deadline for non-AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is December 5, 2009.
- The deadline for AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is January 7, 2010.

For more information on these solicitations, visit: www.sbir.gov.
About OIPTT:

OIPTT was formed in 1990 to provide support services to the university community in matters related to intellectual property, to be the first contact related to new innovations, and to market the innovations and negotiate the agreements for transfer of the technology for the Iowa State University Research Foundation’s signature. OIPTT reports to the office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development.

OIPTT’s mission is to serve the university as the primary resource for intellectual property and related matters and facilitate the disclosure and utilization of university innovations for the benefit of society, the university and its faculty and staff, and contribute to economic development in Iowa when possible.

Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Vietnam Era Veteran. Inquiries can be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, 3680 Beardshear Hall, (515) 294-7612.

Technology Spotlight

**Damage Resistant Power Transmission Structures (ISURF #3721)**

Power transmission structures are susceptible to progressive or cascading collapse stemming from a variety of catastrophic load events such as ice storms, extreme winds, impacts, ground movements, transmission line breaks, or even sabotage. Current structural design practice provides for heavy, expensive dead-end structures spaced at approximately five-mile intervals intended to contain a cascading collapse, thus sacrificing all the lighter structures between. However, the economic losses resulting from power interruptions and the need to repair and/or replace damaged power transmission structures can be tremendous. To improve upon current transmission structure design, ISU researchers have developed an innovative monopole that utilizes post-tensioning to maintain strength and stability and a joint to allow for large deflections. Under sufficient lateral load conditions, this design isolates damage to a few structures and prevents a cascading collapse phenomenon. In addition, the pole is able to right itself once the lateral load is removed, and as a result, can be quickly and easily repaired.

For more information on this and other technologies available for licensing, go to: www.techtransfer.iastate.edu.