J & J Solutions Wins $250,000 Phase I

Iowa City, IA-based J & J Solutions has been awarded a $250,000 Phase I SBIR grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) division of National Institutes of Health (NIH). The funding will be used to support the company’s development of an innovative, disposable closed system transfer device (CSTD) for the preparation and administration of highly toxic drugs used for cancer chemotherapy.

CSTD device being developed by J & J Solutions will provide superior drug containment capabilities while at the same time improving the accuracy of chemotherapy treatment, increasing efficiencies and lowering costs. J & J Solutions started as a class project led by two University of Iowa students, John Slump and Jared Garfield, who graduated with degrees in Finance (May ‘08) and M.I.S. (May ‘09), respectively. The University of Iowa John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC) program sponsored John and Jared’s travels across the country to compete in several national business plan competitions and grant opportunities, yielding over $100,000 in critical seed capital. The founders then began implementing their business plan, leveraging the invaluable mentorship provided by the Entrepreneurial Development Center (EDC) in Cedar Rapids to achieve a series of milestones, starting with recruitment of now full-time employee and principal investigator, Stephen Mitchell, a pharmacist by training with over twenty years experience leading the development and commercialization of innovative medical devices.

This SBIR award comes at a momentous time for J & J Solutions, on the heels of a $275,000 award from the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) in July and a significant equity financing in September. “We are grateful to have such strong support at the federal, state, local, and private levels, enabling us to focus on executing the business plan,” says Slump, CFO & Co-Founder of J&J Solutions. For more information about J & J Solutions, contact John Slump at john.slump@jjsolutionsinc.com.
NCI Request for Applications

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently issued a Request for Applications (RFA), Innovative Emerging Molecular Analysis Technologies. Under RFA-CA-10-013, NCI is seeking applications for research towards commercial development of emerging molecular and/or cellular analytical technologies intended for cancer detection and/or characterization; these technologies could include techniques, tools, instrumentation, and devices (but not software or informatics solutions) that offer significant improvements in terms of novel types of cancer-relevant analyses, and/or greater resolution, specificity, and/or throughput relative to the currently available methods/tools. Note that there is a strong emphasis on commercial development and that proposed technologies must have strong commercial potential. Budgets of up to $150,000 per for periods of up to two year may be requested for Phase I projects, while Phase II applications may request up to 3 years of support with total costs of up to $2 million for the duration of the award (not to exceed $750,000 total costs in any one year). Fast-Track applications will also be accepted. Letters of intent are due January 8, 2011, and proposals are due February 8, 2011. Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov, and applicants must also be registered in the eRA Commons. For more information, visit http://sbir.cancer.gov/.

Grants.gov Security Build

During October 9 and 10, 2010, Grants.gov implemented a Security Build to comply with National Institutes of Standards and Technology Security Standards. Applicants will be impacted by a number of system changes, including: new password requirements, 90-day password expiration, a new change password option, enhancements to “I forgot my password”, the removal of user roles after one year of inactivity, changes to the “Manage my Profile” page, and account lockouts for incorrect passwords. Grants.gov has prepared a Security Build WebEx Recording that gives an overview of these changes and how the impact Grants.gov users. Those that serve as an E-Biz Point of Contact (POC) or an Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) should also visit http://www.grants.gov/securitycommebiz/ to learn more about new E-Biz functionality that has been included in the Security Build.

NIST FY2011 Phase I SBIR Solicitation

The National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) of the Department of Commerce has released its FY2011 Phase I SBIR solicitation. Phase I contracts of up to $90,000 for projects up to six months in duration will be awarded. Note that NIST does not accept electronic submission of proposals; see the solicitation for details on proposal submission. A wide variety of research topics is being offered for this solicitation. These include both NIST-developed technologies that need additional research before they can be commercialized, as well as topics that directly support a NIST mission-related project and which can be achieved by a small business. A public website (http://nist.gov/sbir) will be available where technical questions can be submitted for answers from NIST experts that will be posted for general viewing. The application deadline is January 28, 2011 at 1 pm EST. For more information, see: http://www.nist.gov/tpo/sbir/.
Key Solicitation Dates

- The deadline for NIH’s FY2011 contract solicitation is November 8, 2010.
- The deadline for DOE’s FY2011 Phase I SBIR/STTR solicitation is November 15, 2010.
- The deadline for NSF’s FY2011 STTR solicitation is November 17, 2010.
- The deadline for NSF’s FY2011 SBIR solicitation is December 3, 2010.
- The deadline for non-AIDS related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is December 5, 2010.
- The deadline for the Department of Transportation’s FY11.1 SBIR solicitation is December 13, 2010.
- The deadline for the joint NIH, NSF, DHS, DARPA and USDA robotics Phase I SBIR solicitation is December 20, 2010.
- The deadline for AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is January 7, 2011.
- The deadline for the DoD’s 2011.1 SBIR solicitation will be on or about January 12, 2011 at 6 am ET.
- The deadline for NIST’s FY2011 Phase I SBIR solicitation is January 28, 2011.

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

SBIR Overview Workshop

Ever wonder whether your company is eligible to apply for SBIR or STTR funding and how to submit a proposal? Curious about how changes in the program may impact your chances for funding? Join the University of Iowa Small Business Development Center when it hosts Kris Johansen for an overview of the SBIR/STTR programs and the nuts and bolts of the process. The workshop will be held from 9:00-11:00 am in the Bioventures Center on the University of Iowa’s Oakdale campus. Dr. Johansen will also be available for one-on-one consultations after the workshop to help companies gauge how they may fund development of their technologies through these programs.

The workshop is free, but registration is requested for planning purposes.

Department of Defense 2011.1 SBIR Solicitation

The Department of Defense (DoD) anticipates releasing its 2011.1 SBIR solicitation on or about November 10, 2010. Proposals will be accepted beginning December 13, and the solicitation will close on January 12, 2011. All proposals must be prepared and submitted electronically through the DoD SBIR/STTR Electronic Web Site. Proposers must also be registered in the Central Contractor Registration.

Between November 10 and December 12, 2010 proposers may talk directly with Topic Authors. Direct communication between proposers and Topic Authors is not permitted beginning December 13, 2010. However, proposers may submit written questions regarding solicitation topics through the SBIR/STTR Interactive Topic Information System (SITIS). Note that monitoring this bulletin board is a good way to obtain updated information about your research topic and your potential competition. All questions and answers are posted anonymously on the SITIS website for general viewing.

Submitting to DoD for the first time? View the submission tutorial to help make the submission process easier.
Technology Spotlight

3D Shape Measurement Using Holoimage (ISURF #3821)

The use of 3-D imaging technology has become increasingly commonplace for industrial and scientific applications since recent advancements in 3-D imaging and computational technologies have made acquiring 3-D data simpler than previously possible. However, because of the throughput and size of the data generated through 3-D imaging systems, it is difficult to store and transmit 3-D data simultaneously; this is particularly true for new 3-D scanning techniques being developed that create unstructured point clouds of 3-D data—as these methods improve, more data is generated and the file sizes of the point clouds quickly grow. To address this need, ISU researchers have developed an approach, termed Holoimage, for encoding a 3-D surface shape into a 2-D 24 bit color image; the 2-D images can subsequently be compressed using standard 2-D techniques. This method can compress point clouds from any 3-D scanner and may also potentially enable real-time 3-D video transmission and compression. This technology may also allow for live 3-D telecommunication and broadcasting.

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