Harrisvaccines is Tibbetts Award Winner

Ames-based Harrisvaccines has been selected for a 2011 Tibbetts Award. Named for Roland Tibbetts, the father of the SBIR program, these prestigious awards recognize small business, individuals, and organizations that represent outstanding SBIR achievement. While several thousand small businesses from across the US were nominated for these awards, only 44 companies received recognition. Harrisvaccines’ Tibbetts Award recognizes the company’s work to become the leader in development, production and marketing of alphavirus RNA Platform vaccines to improve the health of domesticated production animals such as swine, cattle, and farmed shrimp. Its technology has been utilized on the rapid response to biological threats by researching and developing universal and targeted vaccines for mutating viral agents. The power of this Platform enables a vaccine manufacturing process which is identical for each product except for the ‘gene of interest’ which originates from the disease agent. As compared to traditional vaccines, the RNA Platform allows for a uniform vaccine production method across an assortment of viruses and diseases in swine, cattle, equine, poultry and farmed aquaculture. Founded in 2005, the company is currently in the process of achieving a USDA license for a swine influenza vaccine using their RNA Particle technology. A ceremony recognizing this year’s Tibbetts Award winners was held in Washington, DC on February 15.

More information on the Tibbetts Awards is available here.

For more information about Harrisvaccines, see: http://www.harrisvaccines.com/.

CCR Adds New Business Types

The Central Contractor Registration (CCR) has announced that added four new business types to support the Small Business Administration’s Woman-Owned Small Business Program. The new business types include: Women-Owned Small Business, Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business, Joint Venture Women-Owned Small Business, and Joint Venture Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business. Vendors will be able to select any or all of these business types on the Corporate Information page, and they will then be displayed in the CCR public search and in CCR tools.

For more information, click here.
NCI SBIR Phase IIB Bridge Awards

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has recently issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for SBIR Phase IIB Bridge Awards. Under RFA-CA-002, NCI is soliciting applications for continued support of previously funded Phase II SBIR projects in the areas of cancer therapeutics; cancer imaging technologies, interventional devices and in vivo diagnostics; or in vitro and ex vivo cancer diagnostics and prognostics.

The award is designed to encourage partnerships with strategic partners and/or third party investors with significant commercialization experience in emerging technologies. The SBIR Program expects applicants to secure non-federal matching funds, with preference given to applications demonstrating a substantial funding commitment from independent third-party investors. In addition, because this FOA is intended to support products or technologies that require Federal regulatory approval, projects may address preclinical/clinical development, including clinical trials.

NCI is committing up to $10 million to fund SBIR Phase II Bridge Awards during FY2011, and budgets of up to $1 million per year for up to three years may be requested under this FOA.

Letters of intent are due by March 7, 2011, and the application deadline is April 7, 2011. For more information about NCI’s SBIR program, visit: http://sbir.cancer.gov/.

Save the Date!

Interested in applying for funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)? Save the dates of June 22-23, 2011, to attend NIH’s 13th Annual SBIR/STTR Conference on at the NIH Campus in Bethesda, MD.

The conference will feature sessions on the nuances of NIH’s SBIR/STTR programs, opportunities to meet one-on-one with program staff from the various institutes and centers within NIH, workshops on the electronic proposal submission process, and a scientific poster session for university researchers. Small businesses that are new to the program as well as experienced NIH awardees will benefit from this opportunity to meet with program managers, network with researchers, other small businesses and potential strategic partners, and learn about NIH’s SBIR/STTR initiatives and program changes.

More details will be posted as they become available on the NIH SBIR/STTR website.

NIH Program Announcement

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has recently issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) affiliated with its Neuroscience Blueprint. Under PA-11-134, NIH is seeking SBIR applications for the development of tools that are robust and easy to use to study the brain and behavior; these tools could include hardware (e.g., instruments, devices, etc.), software (e.g., computational models, informatics tools, data analytic methods, etc.) and wetware (e.g., cell-free assays, bioactive agents, imaging probes, etc.)

Budgets of up to $350,000 per for up to two years may be requested for Phase I projects, while budgets of up to $600,000 per year for periods of up to three years may be requested for Phase II under this FOA. Standard application deadlines apply, and applicants must be registered in Grants.gov and the eRA Commons. For more information, see: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/sbir.htm.
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has indicated that it will open its 2011 Phase I SBIR solicitation on March 15, 2011. Funding of up to $80,000 for projects up to six months in duration will be available under this solicitation. EPA anticipates awarding 25-30 firm fixed price contracts under this solicitation.

Research topic areas for this opportunity will include: Green Building; Innovation in Manufacturing; Nanotechnology; Greenhouse Gases; Drinking Water Monitoring Treatment; Wastewater and Sustainable Infrastructure; Air Pollution Monitoring and Control; Biofuels; Waste Monitoring and Management; and Homeland Security. A new research topic is also being offered under this solicitation: Rare Earth Elements.

Note that there are also opportunities for funding environmental technologies through the National Science Foundation’s SBIR program.

Applications will be due on May 3, 2011. EPA does not use electronic proposal submission: hard copies must be submitted in time for receipt by the proposal deadline. Proposals will be evaluated through a technical peer review process, and proposals rated as “excellent” or “very good” will then be subjected to programmatic review within EPA for consideration of an award. For more information, see: http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir/.

DoD Webinar

As part of its 2011 SBIR program series, the National Council of Entrepreneurial Tech Transfer (NCET2) will be sponsoring a webinar on How to Apply for DoD SBIR/STTR Awards and Work with DoD on March 9, 2011 from 1:00-2:30 pm ET.

The webinar will provide an overview of the Department of Defense (DoD) SBIR/STTR programs, and cover DoD processes, including topic generation, solicitation release, proposal receipt and evaluation, contract awards, and execution monitoring, as well as publicly available DoD SBIR/STTR resources. The webinar will also provide information on unique features of each of the 12 participating DoD components.

While the webinar is free, advance registration is required. For more information, visit: http://center.ncet2.org.

Key Solicitation Dates

- The deadline for USDA’s FY2011 Phase II solicitation is March 1, 2011.
- The deadline for DoD’s FY2011.A STTR solicitation is March 30, 2011 at 6:00 am ET.
- The deadline for non AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is April 5, 2011.
- The application deadline for NCI’s Phase IIB Bridge Award is April 7, 2011.
- The deadline for the EPA’s FY2012 Phase I SBIR solicitation is May 3, 2011.
- The deadline for AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is May 7, 2011.
- The deadline for the DOT’s FY11.2 Phase I SBIR solicitation is June 13, 2011.

For more information on these solicitations, visit: www.sbir.gov.
Conversion of Cyclic Amines into Lactams for Synthesis of Nylons and Other Polymers (ISURF #3800)

Lactams are used for a wide variety of commercial applications, such as precursors for the production of solvents, nylons, and other polymers. Caprolactam is a particularly important lactam that is used as a precursor for Nylon-6, of which millions of tons are sold each year. However, the traditional commercial process for production of caprolactam uses highly corrosive sulfuric acid and generates ammonium sulfate as a by-product. So-called “green” methods for production of caprolactam give relatively high yields, but require expensive high pressure equipment. To overcome these drawbacks, ISU and Ames Laboratory researchers have developed a process for the conversion of cyclic amines (typically 5-, 6-, and 7-membered rings) into lactams that can be used for the synthesis of nylons and other commercially important polymers. This process uses Au/SiO$_2$ to catalyze the reaction of cyclic amines with oxygen at low pressures and uses starting materials that do not require lengthy syntheses.

For more information on this and other technologies available for licensing, go to: [www.techtransfer.iastate.edu](http://www.techtransfer.iastate.edu).