NSF FY2013.1 SBIR Solicitation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has released its FY2013 Phase I SBIR solicitation. Four broad research topic areas, each with several subtopics, are available under this solicitation, including: Biological and Chemical Technologies (BC); Education Applications (EA); Electronics, Information and Communication Technologies (EI); and Nanotechnology, Advanced Materials, and Manufacturing (NM).

NSF anticipates making approximately 100 awards of up to $150,000 for projects up to six months in duration under this solicitation. Proposals should be for projects that are high-risk and have high potential for commercial payback. Note that Phase I proposal requirements for NSF differ from other agencies in that proposals must also include a section on commercial potential. Also, contact with the cognizant program manager is strongly encouraged prior to submitting a proposal, and 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. NSF also requires a Data Management Plan for all proposals, and each proposal that requests funding for support of postdoctoral researchers must include a Postdoctoral Researcher Mentoring Plan.

Proposals will be accepted beginning May 19 and the application deadline is June 19, 2012 at 5:00 pm proposer’s time. Applications must be submitted electronically through NSF’s FastLane System.

Registration Open for NIH Conference

Registration is now open for the 14th Annual NIH SBIR/STTR Conference to be held in Louisville, Kentucky from May 30 to June 1, 2012. In addition to an overview on the nuances of the NIH SBIR/STTR programs, conference highlights include one-on-one meetings with NIH program staff, information on NIH’s technical assistance programs, receipt and referral process, guidance from seasoned veterans, networking, poster sessions, and more.

General registration is $350 through April 30, and general registrants may attend the special session presentations by NSF, DoD, and others free. For more information or to register, visit: http://nih.ksbir.com/.

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Up-Coming Events

• TechConnect World Summit & Innovation Showcase, June 18-21, 2012, Santa Clara, CA
• DoD Beyond Phase II Conference, September 10-13, 2012, Indianapolis, IN
DOE SBIR Phase I Release 3 Topics

The Department of Energy (DOE) has released the research topics that will be available for its FY2012 Phase I Release 3 SBIR/STTR solicitation, in which DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) will be participating. The research topics, each with several subtopic areas, include: Advanced Manufacturing; Biomass; Buildings; Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies; Solar; Vehicles; Water; and Wind. Topic areas have been broadened in response to feedback by small businesses, but have specific performance objectives set by EERE incorporated; applicants must address how their proposed technology will meet the performance objectives outline in the topic and sub-topic. Note that pre-applications are required for this solicitation and are due by 11:59 pm EST on May 1, 2012. Pre-applications should contain a project description (limited to 2000 words and five pages) and will be reviewed by DOE program managers. Only those receiving letters encouraging a full proposal may go on to submit formal applications. The application deadline for full proposals is July 3, 2012.

For more information on DOE’s SBIR/STTR programs, visit: http://science.energy.gov/sbir/.

NIH SBIR/STTR Opportunities for Alzheimer’s Disease

In response to the National Alzheimer’s Project Act, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has issued a pair of SBIR/STTR funding opportunity announcements (FOAs). Under RFA-OD-12-003 and RFA-OD-12-004, NIH is seeking SBIR and STTR applications, respectively, from small businesses in the area of Alzheimer’s disease. All institutes and centers at NIH that participate in the SBIR/STTR programs will be participating in these FOAs; however, applications must be in response to at least one of the topics listed in the announcements. Letters of intent are optional for these FOAs, and the application deadline is April 30, 2012. Proposals must be submitted through Grants.gov and applicants must also be registered in the eRA Commons.

For more information about the NIH SBIR/STTR programs, visit: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/sbir.htm.

SBA Seeking Comments

Information in the March 20, 2012 Federal Register indicated that “Data Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations” to the Small Business Administration (SBA). This opportunity to comment is related to the recent SBIR/STTR program reauthorization, which would require companies to report data on their “potential ownership by venture capital, hedge fund, and private equity firms. Additional data fields will be collected from applicants and awardees concerning applicant demographics and company information (such as number of employees, additional funding received).” The SBA currently collects information on awardees, such as award amount, woman or minority ownership, research abstract, principal investigator’s name, etc. Comments must be sent by surface mail by May 21, 2012, and should address “whether this information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, whether the burden estimates are accurate, and if there are ways to minimize the estimated burden and enhance the quality of the collection”.

NIH has funding opportunities available for small businesses for Alzheimer’s disease
The Department of Transportation (DOT) has released its FY2012.2 Phase I SBIR solicitation. Research topics from the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration for this opportunity, and include Delivering In-Vehicle Messages in Temporary Work Zones; Advanced Rapid Non-destructive test method to determine chemical composition of concrete materials in the field; Pedestrian Auto Enforcement Program (PAEP); Tracking of heavy vehicles for estimating heavy load distribution across the highway system and Weigh-In-Motion Calibration; Three dimensional mapping of utilities and underground infrastructure for intersection design, repair or reconstruction; Small Scale Diesel Generator for Railway Applications; System for Prevention of Lens Surface Contamination; and Creating Spatial Disorientation in Flight Simulation. The DOT anticipates awarding up to eight contract of up to $150,000 for projects up to six months in duration under this announcement. Technical questions regarding the solicitation’s research topics must be submitted by email to linda.duck@dot.gov; questions submitted after May 24, 2012 may not be answered prior to the closing date. Answers will be posted on the DOT SBIR Program website, under Technical Questions and Answers for 12.2 Solicitation. Applications are due by 11:59 pm ET on June 5, 2012, and must be submitted online using the DOT’s forms and submission process.

**DARPA SBPT**

(DARPA) Small Business Programs Office has developed a Small Business Planning Tool (SBPT), which is designed to help small businesses define their commercialization strategy, assess their technology transition plans, and prioritize the next steps for transitioning the technology or product to DoD or other federal or commercial markets. The SBPT consists of exercises designed to answer key questions around the maturing the technology, finance, partnerships, and revenue for developing the business opportunity, and marketing strategy to further inform the technology solution, revenue model and funding options.


**Key Solicitation Dates**

- The deadline for DOE’s FY2012 SBIR/STTR Phase II solicitation is April 4, 2012.
- The deadline for EPA’s 2012 Phase I SBIR solicitation is May 3, 2012.
- The deadline for DOT’s FY12.2 SBIR solicitation is June 5, 2012.
- The deadline for NSF’s FY2013 Phase I SBIR solicitation is June 19, 2012.
- The deadline for DoD’s FY2012.2 SBIR solicitation is June 27, 2012.

For more information on these solicitations, visit: [www.sbir.gov](http://www.sbir.gov).
Immunodeficient Pigs for Biomedical Research (ISURF #3992)

Severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) is a genetic defect that causes newborn animals to lack T or B cells in circulation and to have few or no lymphocytes in their primary or secondary lymphoid tissues. SCID has been shown to have an autosomal recessive pattern of inheritance in certain mouse strains as well as in horses, some dog breeds, and humans, but is perhaps best known as the ‘bubble boy’ disease, which is an X-linked version of SCID in humans. Affected neonates do not show clinical manifestations of the defect while suckling. However, as maternal antibody wanes, the animals become susceptible to opportunistic infections to which they inexorably succumb. ISU researchers and their colleagues at Kansas State University have recently identified a SCID-like syndrome in a line of pigs originally bred for traits related to feed efficiency. Because of the closer physiological resemblance between humans and pigs, these animals may have utility as a biomedical model for SCID and immunodeficiency diseases in humans that is more suitable than the current mouse models. In addition, the anatomical and physiological similarities between humans and pigs would make these SCID pigs a superior biomedical model for research into cell and tissue transplantation, cancer research and efficacy of chemotherapeutics, as well as for testing new vaccines.

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