CCR is Going Away!

At the end of July, the Central Contractor Registration (CCR), along with the Federal Agency Registration (FedReg), the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), and the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), will be migrated into the new System for Award Management, or SAM. This migration was originally scheduled to occur on May 29, 2012, but has been delayed in order to provide more time for federal agencies to prepare their staff and for testing data transfer connections.

If you have a current CCR registration, you do not need to do anything right away. When it is time for you to renew your registration, you will be doing it in SAM. Your data will also be migrated to SAM, and you only need to register in SAM when it is time to begin updating your registration.

SAM is designed to streamline and integrate processes, as well as eliminate data redundancies. Users of SAM will have one user ID and password for accessing capabilities associated with registering to do business with the government, representing/self-certifying as a small business, and viewing business opportunities.

A video briefing of an overview of SAM is available for viewing, and several quick start guides for how to become familiar with SAM are also available online.

SAM is being deployed in phases and will eventually combine eight federal procurement systems and the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance into a single system.

For more information on SAM, visit: https://www.sam.gov/sam/. For more information on what current registrants in CCR can expect, click here.

Industry-led SBIR Consortium

The Industry-led SBIR Consortium (ISCo) is an effort by major aerospace and defense companies to more effectively engage with small businesses and the SBIR/STTR programs. IScO uses a pre-competitive process managed by Vital Strategies Group to scout technologies and perform due diligence to help SBIR/STTR companies better align their research and development efforts with real world program requirements, and facilitate partnering between small and large companies to achieve technology transition goals.

To learn more about IScO, visit: http://www.isco-online.com/Home_Page.php, or read the article in the Navy’s spring 2012 edition of the Transitions newsletter.
DHS FY2012.2 SBIR Solicitation

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has pre-released its FY2012.2 SBIR solicitation. Research topics that will be available under this solicitation include: Solid State Storage Investigative Tools for Law Enforcement; Automated Threat Recognition (ATR) Algorithms using Standardized Image File Formats; Objective, Quantitative Image Quality Measurements and Metrics for Screener Imaging Technologies; Hardening for Commercially Available Hand Held Computing and Communications Devices for First Responders; Next Generation Textiles for Multi-Threat Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The solicitation will open to accepting proposals on May 24, 2012, and the application deadline is July 16, 2012 at 2:00 pm EDT.

Applicants may directly contact technical points of contact regarding these topics between May 3 and May 23, 2012. Once the solicitation opens to receiving proposals, applicants may submit questions to STSBIRProposals@dhs.gov. Questions received by June 29, 2012 by 3:00 pm EDT will have replies posted for viewing at https://sbir2.st.sbir.dhs.gov/. Phase I awards of up to $100,000 for projects of up to six months in duration will be made under this announcement; offerors also may include within the Phase I proposal page limitations an option for $50,000 to help bridge the gap between the end of Phase I and beginning of Phase II. Proposals must be submitted electronically through the DHS website.

Registration Open for DoD’s Beyond Phase II Conference

Registration is now open for the 2012 Beyond Phase II Conference to be held at the JW Marriott Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN September 10-12. The event is hosted by the DoD with support from other major Federal agencies, and provides a forum for showcasing Phase II awardees’ technologies and commercialization opportunities. Conference highlights include educational and plenary sessions on technology transition, intellectual property protection and rights, licensing, business planning and development, as well as prearranged technology “matchmaking meetings” between Phase II company representatives and acquisition professionals and/or prime contractors and large businesses, and exhibits and booths staffed by Phase II companies, large companies, and industry service providers.

For more information or to register, visit: https://www.beyondphaseii.com/.

Avoid Common Errors in NIH Submissions

Planning to submit an SBIR or STTR application to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the upcoming August deadline? Do you know what to do if you receive error and/or warning messages about your submission?

Errors are “fatal” to your application and must be corrected for the application to be accepted; NIH has also eliminated the “error correction window”, so errors must be fixed by the application deadline for an on-time submission. Warnings, on the other hand, do not stop processing of an application and can be corrected at the discretion of the applicant. Common errors include missing eRA Commons ID for all PD/PIs, missing or invalid eRA Commons user name, missing organization name for senior/key personnel, effort for senior/key personnel, and problems with the Federal Identifier format. Be sure to check the submission status of your applications to make sure they were received error-free. Click here for detailed information on how to avoid these common errors, as well as for instructions on how to submit a corrected application.
NIH FOAs

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently released a pair of Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) for Advanced Tools and Technologies for Cerebrospinal Fluid Shunts. Under PA-12-189 and PA-12-190, SBIR and STTR applications, respectively, are being sought for projects to design and develop advanced tools and technologies for cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) shunts that will lead to improved clinical treatment for patients with hydrocephalus. Research areas of interest for these FOAs include, but are not limited to, innovative CSF shunts (such as unique shunt systems designed to significantly reduce the chance of mechanical failure or suboptimal shunt operation or shunt systems that are compatible with diagnostic imaging technology), diagnostics and monitoring (diagnostic tools for use in a hospital or outpatient setting that work in real-time to quantitatively determine shunt function or external monitoring tools or implantable sensors to detect suboptimal shunt operation, such as overdrainage, through the measurement of CSF dynamics), and novel materials (such as materials for shunt system components that decrease bacterial adhesion or have short-term antibiotic properties or materials that decrease cellular occlusion and/or host reactions over the life of the shunt system). Standard application deadlines apply. For more information on NIH’s SBIR and STTR programs, visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/sbir.htm.

SBA Releases Proposed SBIR/STTR Regulations

The Small Business Administration (SBA) recently released proposed rules on the revised regulations governing the size and eligibility of SBIR & STTR participants, and is requesting comments from small businesses, investors and other stakeholders as part of a public comment period in the Federal Register and at regulations.gov. This proposed rule would implement provisions of the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2011. The rules address ownership, control, and affiliation issues for participants in the SBIR & STTR programs, including participants that are majority-owned by multiple venture capital operating companies, private equity firms, or hedge funds. The rule will be open for public comment until July 16, 2012, and is an opportunity for you to help shape how the law is implemented so that changes in these programs best meet the needs of the small business community.

Key Solicitation Dates

- 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 2012.2 SBIR solicitation is June 27, 2012.
- The deadline for DHS’s FY2012.2 SBIR solicitation is July 16, 2012. The deadline for non AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is August 5, 2012.
- The deadline for AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is September 7, 2012.

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

Device to Determine Susceptibility to Root Lodging (ISURF #3589)

Corn is one of the most important and valuable crops grown in the US. Because of its significance to agriculture, corn breeders strive to develop corn hybrids that are agronomically sound, with traits such as insect and disease resistance, tolerance for heat and drought, and high yield. Mechanical harvesting of corn also demands that plants be uniform in growth rate, stand establishment, and size. In order for corn plants to stand tall and withstand various mechanical forces applied to the stalk, such as wind, rain, or harvesting equipment, it is important for the plant stalk to have good mechanical properties and be firmly anchored in the soil by its roots; traits such as stalk lodging and root lodging are related to the plant’s mechanical properties. Stalk lodging is breakage of the stalk below the ear while root lodging is where a plant leans away from the vertical access at a 30 degree angle or greater. Researchers have now developed a device that can be used to measure a corn hybrid’s susceptibility to root lodging earlier in the development of cycle of a new hybrid when fewer plants may be available for testing. This device pushes on a corn stalk to simulate root lodging; it measures the vibration as force is exerted on the stalk and breakage occurs, and records the data. Thus, accurate comparisons among hybrids without the need to wait for wind or other environmental event to measure lodging are enabled. In addition, this handheld device is portable and easy to use, making it suitable for routine field testing.

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

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.