SBA Issues Final Rule on Size Standards

The Small Business Administration (SBA) published its final rule on SBIR/STTR size standards on December 27, 2012. This final rule will become effective on January 28, 2013, and addresses issues related to eligibility to participate in the programs regarding ownership and control of the small business and size and affiliation. It is also anticipated that the SBA will publish a new final rule for the policy directives for the SBIR and STTR programs since it may the policy directives published August 6, 2012 effective immediately in the interest of time. The SBA requested comments and should be providing updated policy directives sometime during the first quarter of 2013. Now that the size rule standards and policy directives have been published, the agencies participating in the programs will begin complying with new requirements—in some cases, this will be immediate, while in other cases it will take time for an agency to adapt its program to the new rules or may be subject to an agency’s interpretation of the rules. Anyone intending to submit an application for SBIR or STTR funding is strongly encourage to read and follow the agency’s solicitation instructions carefully! Also, companies interested in participating should be aware of new a new requirement to register in the SBA’s SBIR/STTR Company Registry before they can submit an application. This requirement is addition to registration in the System for Award Management, Grants.gov, and agency-specific registration sites. Since registrations can take several weeks to complete, be sure to begin the registration process as soon as possible so that you don’t lose a funding opportunity!

Spring National SBIR Conference

The 2013 Spring National SBIR/STTR Conference will be held May 14-16 in National Harbor, MD in the Washington, DC area. The conference will be co-located with the 15th Annual TechConnect World and the National Innovation Summit. Early bird registration fees are $375 for the SBIR/STTR National Conference and $675 for TechConnect World & the National Innovation Summit (includes access to all technical, venture, Expo, showcase, agency program and expo areas May 13-16). Rooms are apt to fill early as several thousand attendees are anticipated for the TechConnect event, so early booking is recommended. More information is available here.
DHS FY13.1 Phase I SBIR Solicitation

The Science & Technology Directorate (S&T) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently opened its FY13.1 Phase I SBIR solicitation. Technical questions about research topics must be submitted by January 9, 2013 at 2:00 pm ET via email. (Direct contact with Topic Points of Contact was permitted between December 4 and December 19, 2012, prior to when the solicitation open to proposal submission.)

Five technical topics are included in this solicitation: Radio Frequency Sensing of Personnel in Wooded Areas; Hybrid Analysis Mapping (HAM); Burn-Saver Device; GPS Disruption Detection, and Localization; and Quick Disconnect Cables for Utility Power Distribution Systems.

Phase I contracts of up to $100,000 for projects up to six months in duration will be available under this offering. Applicants may also request an additional $5,000 for technical assistance if they choose not to receive technical assistance from the vendor contracted by the DHS SBIR program.

The application deadline is January 23, 2013 at 2:00 pm ET, and proposals must be submitted through DHS’s SBIR submission portal. Applicants must also be in DHS’s SBIR proposal submission system. For more information about the DHS SBIR program, visit: https://sbir2.st.dhs.gov/.

NIH Omnibus Solicitation to be Released

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) of the Department of Health and Human Services anticipates releasing its 2013 Omnibus SBIR and STTR solicitation in mid to late January, 2013. Participating organizations will include NIH, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Food and Drug Administration.

Closing dates for non-AIDS related topics will be April 5, August 5, and December 5, 2013, while closing dates for AIDS-related topics will be May 7 and September 7, 2013, and January 7, 2014. Note that all applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov, and that proposers must be registered on Grants.gov, the System for Award Management, and the eRA Commons. A new registration requirement also include SBIR.gov.

For more information about the NIH SBIR/STTR programs, see: http://www.nist.gov/tpo/sbir/.

NIST FY2013 Phase I SBIR Solicitation

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of the Department of Commerce (DOC) has released its FY2013 Phase I SBIR solicitation. Phase I awards of up to $90,000 will be made under this offering for 17 research topics in the areas of cybersecurity and manufacturing. These topics include standard research or “R” topics that address SBIR program objectives of stimulating small business innovation in areas that meet NIST needs and which also have commercial potential, as well as tech transfer, or “TT” topics, which identify commercially promising NIST-developed technologies and the technological gaps that must be addressed to transition them to the marketplace.

The application deadline is 3:00 pm ET February 25, 2013 and proposals must be submitted by surface mail. Note that proposals submitted under this offering have several specific forms required for a complete application.

For more information regarding the NIST SBIR program, go to: http://www.nist.gov/tpo/sbir/.
Key Solicitation Dates

- The deadline for AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is January 7, 2013.
- The due date for letters of intent for NSF’s FY2013 Phase 2 STTR Release 1 solicitation is January 8, 2013. The application deadline is February 6, 2013.
- The deadline for DoD’s 2013.1 SBIR solicitation is January 16, 2013.
- The deadline for DHS’s FY13.1 Phase I SBIR solicitation is January 23, 2013.
- The deadline for NOAA’s FY2013 Phase I SBIR solicitation is January 30, 2013.
- The deadline for DOE’s FY2013 Release 2 solicitation is February 5, 2013.
- The deadline for NIST’s FY2013 Phase I SBIR solicitation is February 25, 2013.
- The deadline for DOT’s FY13.1 Phase I SBIR solicitation is March 4, 2013.
- The deadline for non AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is April 5, 2011.

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

Between January 25 and February 24, 2013, proposers may talk directly with Topic Authors. Direct communication between proposers and Topic Authors is not permitted beginning February 25, 2012. However, proposers may submit written questions regarding solicitation topics through the SBIR/STTR Interactive Topic Information System.

NIH FOAs

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institute of Health (NIH) has issued a pair of Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) for Advanced Technology. Under PA-10-123 and PA-10-124, NIAID is seeking SBIR and STTR applications, respectively, for advanced technology projects that require a longer project period and higher award amount than is typically allowed under the SBIR/STTR programs. Note that for these FOAs, “advanced technology” is defined as a clearly identified product or service that requires approval from the Food and Drug Administration and is within the mission of NIAID. Note that applications in response to these FOAs must not contain clinical trials.

Awards of up to $300,000 per year for up to two years are available for Phase I, while awards of up to $1,000,000 for projects up to three years in duration are available for Phase II.

DoD STTR 2013.A Solicitation

The Department of Defense (DoD) 2013.A STTR solicitation will be pre-released January 25, 2013. Proposals will be accepted beginning February 25, and the solicitation will close on March 27, 2013 at 6:00 am EST. All proposals must be prepared and submitted electronically through the DoD SBIR/STTR Electronic Web Site. Proposers must also be registered in the System for Award Management.

Applicants are advised to read the solicitation carefully, since a number of changes related to the new SBIR/STTR policy directive are in place.

For more information, go to: http://www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/sbir/. To search for topics, click here.
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

Fabric Winding Machine (ISURF #3838)

Conventional techniques for manufacturing cylindrical parts from composite materials, such as the root preform for a wind turbine blade, require many man-hours of labor to individually lay plies of fabric into a mold before being infused using a vacuum-assisted resin transfer molding (VARTM) process. Researchers at ISU have created a mechanism by which cylindrical parts can be made in an automated apparatus using multiple fabric supply rolls and a rotating mandrel. This technique has the capability to increase quality of the product by improving resin infusion through eliminating layer adhesives and providing greater layer uniformity. It also greatly reduces the cost of manufacturing by removing costly hand labor steps and provides an opportunity for changes in downstream manufacture by laying up the cylinder as a whole, rather than in two halves as is done conventionally.

A prototype implementation to produce half-scale part is available for demonstration, and ISU is seeking commercialization partners for this technology.

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