OmegaChea Wins Phase I

Ames-based OmegaChea Biorenewables LLC has been awarded a Phase I STTR grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The company will use the funding to support development of biocatalysts for bio-based production of functionalized fatty acid chemicals. These chemicals should have improved performance characteristics in important applications, such as lubricants, surfactants and polymers. The potential impact of this project is the development of a new manufacturing platform for producing chemicals from renewable sources that are currently derived from petroleum-based sources.

The manufacturing platform will utilize biological carbon sources (i.e., sugars derived from plants), and, via novel microbial fermentation processes, will biologically transform the carbon to higher value products. Additionally, this approach has the potential to impact the carbon and environmental footprints of the surfactant, lubricant, and polymer industries. OmegaChea’s research institution partner for this project is the Center for Biorenewable Chemicals (CBiRC) at Iowa State University.

For more information, contact: Shivani Garg, 4130 E, BRL Building, Bissel Road.

USDA Releases FY2014 Phase I Solicitation

The USDA recently released its FY2014 Phase I SBIR solicitation, with broad research topics areas that include Forests and Related Resources; Plant Production and Protection-Biology; Animal Production and Protection; Air Water and Soils; Food Science and Nutrition; Rural and Community Development; Aquaculture; Biofuels and Biobased Products; Small and Mid-Size Farms; and Plant Production and Protection-Engineering.

Note that applications proposing projects dealing with agriculturally related manufacturing and alternative and renewable energy technologies are encouraged across all 2014 SBIR topic areas. Proposers are also encouraged to address one of more of the five societal challenge areas that USDA has identified: Global Food Security and Hunger; Climate Change; Sustainable Bioenergy; Childhood Obesity; and Food Safety.

Phase I awards of up to $100,000 for projects of up to eight months in duration will be made under this offering. The application deadline is September 26, 2013 and proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov. Applicants must also be registered in the System for Award Management and the SBIR.gov Company Registry. Click here for more information.

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Up-Coming Events

- Ag Innovation Showcase, September 9-11, St. Louis, MO
- Iowa Innovation Expo, October 23, 2013, Coralville, IA
- 15th Annual NIH SBIR/STTR Conference, October 28-30, Sioux Falls, SD
DoD Poised to Pre-Release SBIR and STTR Solicitations

The Department of Defense will pre-release its FY2013.3 SBIR solicitation on or about July 26, 2013. DoD’s FY2013.B STTR solicitation will also be released the same date. Note that these are separate solicitations with distinct research topics and participation by the various DoD components. Proposals for both of these solicitations will be accepted beginning August 26, and the solicitations will both close at 6:00 am Eastern Time on September 25, 2013. 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 Administration and in the SBIR.gov company registry.

Between July 26 and August 25, 2013 proposers may talk directly with Topic Authors. Direct communication between proposers and Topic Authors is not permitted beginning August 26, 2013. However, proposers may submit written questions regarding solicitation topics through the SBIR/STTR Interactive Topic Information System in which the questioner and respondent remain anonymous and all questions and answers are posted electronically for general viewing.

Also note that in addition to following the DoD-wide instructions in the Program Solicitation, proposers must also follow the specific instructions of the DoD Component (Army, Navy, Air Force, etc.) to which they are applying.

For more information, go to: http://www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/sbir/.

EPA Phase I SBIR Solicitation

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released its Phase I SBIR solicitation. Phase I awards of up to $100,000 will be made for projects not to exceed six months in duration. Research topics for this solicitation include: Water (Drinking Water and Wastewater, and Stormwater, and Water Reuse); Innovation in Manufacturing; (Green Manufacturing and Green Materials); Waste (Monitoring and Waste-to-Energy Systems); Air Quality (Air Pollution Monitoring and Air Pollution Control); Homeland Security (Decontamination and Waste Treatment Disposal and Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems Security); and People, Prosperity and Plant (special funding opportunity).

The deadline for the EPA’s Phase I SBIR solicitation is August 13, 2013

DOE FY2014 Release 1 Topics to be Issued

The Department of Energy (DOE) will release the research topics for its FY2014 Phase I Release 1 SBIR/STTR solicitation on July 15, 2013, with the solicitation being released on August 12, 2013. DOE is also planning to host a webinar that will provide an overview of its SBIR/STTR program as well as provide technical information about the Release 1 topics on August 16, 2013. Small businesses interested in submitting a proposal to DOE are strongly encouraged to register to participate in the webinar; interested companies can also subscribe to DOE SBIR/STTR program updates to be notified when research topics are released, funding opportunities become available, or when webinars or other events will be held.

Letters of intent for this solicitation will be due September 3, 2013 and applications will be due October 14, 2013. For more information, visit the DOE’s SBIR/STTR website.
Key Solicitation Dates

- The deadline for Notice of Intent for ARPA-E’s SWITCHES SBIR/STTR FOA is July 8, 2013. The application deadline is July 19, 2013.
- The deadline for non-AIDS related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR applications is August 5, 2013.
- The deadline for EPA’s 2013 Phase I SBIR solicitation will be August 13, 2013.
- The deadline for AIDS related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR applications is September 7, 2013.
- The deadline for DOE’s FY2014 Phase I Release 1 SBIR/STTR solicitation is October 15, 2013. Note that the deadline for letters of intent is September 3, 2013.
- The deadline for DoD’s SBIR 2013.3 Phase I solicitation is September 25, 2013.
- The deadline for DoD’s STTR 2013.B Phase I solicitation is September 25, 2013.
- The deadline for USDA’s FY2014 Phase I SBIR solicitation is September 26, 2013.

For more information on these solicitations, visit: [www.sbir.gov](http://www.sbir.gov).

ARPA-E SBIR/STTR FOA

The Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), a funding agency within the Department of Energy (DOE) recently issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for Strategies for Wide-Bandgap, Inexpensive, Transistors for Controlling High-Efficiency Systems (SWITCHES). Under DE-FOA-0000941, ARPA-E is seeking SBIR/STTR proposals for transformational advances in wide bandgap (WBG) materials, device fabrication, and device architectures. This program is focused on developing technologies that would have promise for reducing the barriers to ubiquitous low-loss wide-bandgap power semiconductor devices in stationary and transportation energy applications.

The Notice of Intent deadline is July 8, 2013 at 5:00 pm ET, and the application deadline is July 19, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Note that ARPA-E’s SBIR/STTR offering is distinct from DOE’s SBIR/STTR program and has different registration and other requirements.

Registration Open for NIH Conference

Registration is now open for the [15th Annual NIH SBIR/STTR Conference](http://www.nih.gov), to be held October 28-30, 2013 in Sioux Falls, SD. The theme for this year’s conference is “How to Be Competitive in a World of Change: Opportunities Through SBIR/STTR Awards”, and is a great opportunity for small businesses, researchers, entrepreneurs and investors in our region to meet one-on-one with NIH staff and learn more about the how to tap into the over $700 million NIH awards each year to small businesses through its SBIR and STTR programs. The conference will offer three tracks (“Navigating through SBIR/STTRs”; “Circumventing the Hurdles”; and “Path to Commercialization”), making this conference ideal for SBIR newcomers, Phase I companies looking to advance to Phase II, and Phase II companies seeking practical advice on overcoming barriers to commercialization and the importance of strategic partners and investors.

Early bird registration is $345 through September 30, and special student rates are available. For more information or to register, click [here](http://www.nih.gov).
Peptides for Vaccines and Diagnosis of Glasser’s Disease (ISURF #4055)

Haemophilus parasuis is the causative agent of Glasser’s disease, which affects pre-weaning and young pigs. Management of Glasser’s disease is important as infection of naïve pigs introduced into a herd where infection is endemic, or mixing of pigs from different origins can cause severe economic losses due to mortality and treatment costs. Symptoms of Glasser’s disease include lameness and joint stiffness, and it can also lead to meningitis and pericarditis. Infection of pigs by H. parasuis can be difficult to distinguish from infection with other organisms, such as Mycoplasma hyosynoviae, which also affects joints and tendon sheaths. In addition, H. parasuis is found in the upper respiratory tract of normal pigs, which also complicates diagnosis. Because the organism is difficult to culture, assessing its sensitivity to the antibiotics used for treatment can delay early intervention which is important for preventing high mortalities. To address the need for improved diagnostics of H. parasuis and the need for better management strategies such as effective vaccination, ISU researchers have identified peptides derived from surface exposed and protective epitopes of H. parasuis outer membrane proteins that have shown promise as vaccine candidates and which may be used for development of serodiagnostics for Glasser’s disease. Since these peptides represent proteins important for colonization, vaccines based on them have the potential to offer cross-protection against various serovars and field isolates. For more information on this and other technologies available for licensing, go to: www.techtransfer.iastate.edu.