Ames-based Metabolic Technologies, Inc. (MTI) has been awarded a Phase II SBIR grant entitled “Nutritional Intervention for Age-related Muscular Function and Strength Losses” from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through the National Institute on Aging (NIA).

MTI will use the funding to continue development of a nutritional product containing combination calcium β-hydroxy-β-methylbutyrate (CaHMB) and Vitamin D aimed at combatting loss of muscle strength and function in older adults.

Research as shown that we lose muscular mass and strength after the age of 40 years, this loss accelerates after the age of 70. In addition, research has shown that a large proportion of the population of older adults in the United States is at risk of falls that result in serious injury or other consequences; a large percentage of these falls can be attributed to decreases in muscle strength and function and is partially related to Vitamin D insufficiency.

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The product under research and development at MTI has the potential to correct such insufficiencies; and moreover, it may synergistically improve muscular strength, function, and mass to produce significant improvements in health and improve the quality of life. These improvements may help to decrease the incidence of falls and injury in this group—one of the largest public health concerns facing the US today.

For more information about MTI, visit http://mettechinc.com/.

2014 Navy Opportunity Forum

The 2014 Navy Opportunity Forum® will be held June 2-4 at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, VA. The Forum provides an opportunity for interaction among technology developers and members of the acquisition community, lead system integrators, and first and second tier suppliers.

The event will include a trade show, presentations by small businesses, keynote speakers and plenary sessions, and strategic introductions.

Technologies to be showcased and presenting companies can be previewed at the Virtual Acquisition Showcase.
DoD FY2014.2 Phase I SBIR Solicitation

The DoD FY2014.2 SBIR solicitation will be pre-released April 23, 2014. Proposals will be accepted beginning May 23, and the solicitation will close on June 25, 2014 at 6:00 am ET. 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 (SAM).

Between April 23 and May 22, 2014 proposers may talk directly with Topic Authors. Direct communication between proposers and Topic Authors is not permitted beginning May 23, 2014; however, proposers may submit written questions regarding solicitation topics through the SBIR/STTR Interactive Topic Information System (SITIS). Monitoring SITIS is also a good way to gain insight as to what competitors may propose since all questions and answers are posted for public viewing.

NIH Tips: Top 5 eRA Commons Errors

The National Institutes of Health recently highlighted the top five eRA Commons errors that are made when SBIR/STTR proposals are submitted. Errors during submission stop an application from being processed, so be careful not to make these mistakes: 1) Each Senior/Key Person listed must include effort of value > 0 in calendar months, or academic and summer months; 2) All application attachments must be in PDF format; 3) eRA Commons username must be supplied in the Credential field of Senior/Key Person Page; 4) NIH requires the Organization name for all Senior/Key listed—this is pre-population for the Principal Investigator, but not for other Senior/Key Personnel; and 5) The Federal Identifier on the Cover Page should include only the IC (Institute/Center) and serial number of the prior grant number. Still having problems? The eRA Commons Help Desk can be reached at 1-866-504-9552 or 301-402-7469, Monday-Friday from 7:00 am—8:00 pm ET.

The top 5 eRA Commons errors account for about 80% of the total errors for SBIR/STTR proposal submissions.

2014 Tibbetts Award Nominations

Nominations for the 2014 Tibbetts Awards opened on March 31, 2014. Named for Roland Tibbetts, the father of the SBIR program, these prestigious awards recognize small business, individuals, and organizations that represent outstanding SBIR achievement. Nominations can be made by current and past SBIR awardees, elected officials, support organizations, service providers or others involved with SBIR funded projects. Nomination packages must include a cover sheet, nomination statement, supporting documentation, photographs, Congressional and media contacts. The national award ceremony will be held in Washington DC in June.

Nomination packages are due May 2, 2014. More information is available here.
Key Solicitation Dates

- The deadline for the DOT’s FY14.1 Phase I SBIR solicitation is April 4, 2014.
- The deadline for non AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is April 7, 2014.
- The deadline for DoD’s 2014.A STTR solicitation is April 9, 2014.
- The deadline for the DHS FY14.2 Phase I SBIR solicitation is May 2, 2014.
- The deadline for AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is May 7, 2014.
- The deadline for NIST’s FY14 Phase I SBIR solicitation May 21, 2014.
- The deadline for NSF’s Phase I SBIR solicitation is June 10, 2014.
- The deadline for NSF’s Phase I STTR solicitation is June 11, 2014.
- The deadline for DoD’s FY14.2 Phase I SBIR Solicitation is June 25, 2014.
- The deadline for USDA’s FY15 Phase I SBIR solicitation is anticipated to be October 2, 2014.

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

NIH Seeks SBIR and STTR Applications for Biomedical Computing

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released a pair of Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) for Early Stage Development of Technologies in Biomedical Computing, Informatics, and Big Data Science. Under PA-14-154 and PA-14-157, NIH is seeking SBIR and STTR applications, respectively, for development of a broad base of innovative technologies in biomedical computing, informatics, and Big Data Science that will support rapid progress in areas of scientific opportunity in biomedical research, with biomedical research being very broadly defined. This FOA is coordinated by the NIH Big Data Initiative (BD2K) and the Biomedical Information Science and Technology Initiative (BISTI) committees, and four themes of biomedical computing are being targeted. Standard application deadlines apply.

DHS Pre-Solicitation Notice

The Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Science & Technology Directorate recently issued a pre-solicitation notice for its FY14.2 Phase I SBIR solicitation. During the pre-release period (April 1-16, 2014), proposers may contact topic authors to ask technical questions. Once the solicitation is open to proposal submission, direct contact is no longer permitted.

Five research topics are available under this offering. The deadline is May 21, 2014 at 2:00 pm and proposals must be submitted through the [DHS submission site](http://www.sbir.gov). A training guide is also available to help make the registration and submission process easier. For more about the DHS SBIR program is available [here](http://www.sbir.gov).
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 Economic Development and Industry Relations.

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.

Technology Spotlight

Concentric Coplanar and Arc-Electrode Capacitive Sensors for Non-Destructive Evaluation (ISURF #3815)

With advanced composites being used in aircraft, vehicles, and shipbuilding, demand for dielectric measurements has been increasing in recent years, as these types of measurements can be used to characterize a wide variety of materials, including thin films, substrates, circuit boards, semisolids, etc. Capacitance methods have been used to characterize materials because of their simplicity, high accuracy, and relatively low cost. ISU researchers have developed novel concentric coplanar and arc-electrode capacitive sensors that have utility for material characterization and non-destructive evaluation. The coplanar sensor-- which has the advantage of rotational symmetry-- exhibits a strong measurable outcome capacitance and has various applications, including quantitative characterization of material properties of multi-layered planar dielectric structures. For example, the concentric coplanar capacitive sensor could be used to detect water or excessive inhomogeneities caused by repairs in modern radome structures. The arc-electrode capacitive sensor also exhibits a strong measurable output capacitance, and has applications that include quantitative characterization of material properties of multi-layered cylindrical dielectric structures, such as the wiring found in aircraft. This technology is available for non-exclusive licensing, and ISU is seeking commercialization partners. For more information on this and other technologies available for licensing, go to: www.techtransfer.iastate.edu.