Growing Young Companies

If a greenhouse is a place to nurture young plants, think of the Innovations Development Facility (IDF) in the Roy J. Carver Collaboratory as a place to grow young companies. The IDF encourages faculty, staff and students at Iowa State University to commercialize their research and to start new businesses.

The IDF was set up with partial financing from the Iowa Department of Economic Development and is operated by the Plant Sciences Institute. Interested faculty, staff and students can lease well-furnished laboratory modules and have access to scientific instrumentation. IDF also connects scientists with on-campus business advisers and has organized a group of distinguished business leaders who have volunteered to serve as mentors.

In addition, the IDF operates a Public/Private Partnership (3P) Program to accommodate scientists from Iowa companies that want to collaborate with Iowa State scientists.

Please contact Cheryl if you are interested in learning more about the Innovations Development Facility, or visit the IDF website at: http://www.plantsciences.iastate.edu/colab/.

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DoD 2006.1 Solicitation Released

The Department of Defense released its 2006.1 SBIR solicitation November 1, 2005.

Participants in this solicitation include the Navy, Air Force, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Chemical and Biological Defense Program, Special Operations Acquisitions and Logistics Center, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

Applications for the 2006.1 solicitation will be accepted beginning December 13, 2005, and the solicitation will close January 13, 2006.

A copy of the solicitation is available through: http://www.acq.osd.mil/sadbu/sbir/solicitations/sbir061/index.htm

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Up-Coming Events

• Entrepreneurial Ventures Group, November 10, Iowa City, IA
• Fall National SBIR/STTR Conference, November 14-17, Albany, NY
• Grants and More Workshop, November 30, Davenport, IA
Department of Education Issues SBIR RFP

The Department of Education has issued its FY 2006 SBIR Request for Proposals.

There are two priorities for this offering, services and products. Under the services priority, the Department seeks applications for research to develop effective business consulting services that can assist the education community at the state and local levels. Examples include Education Data Management, Evidence-Driven Consulting Services, Financial Data Services at the School, District or State Level, and Technology Consulting Services.

The products priority supports the development of education products in the areas of reading, mathematics, science or character/pro-social development at the pre-kindergarten through post-secondary educational levels. Examples include Software Proposals, Supplemental Educational Materials, and Assessment Instruments.

The opening date for the solicitation will be November 4, 2005, and the closing date will be January 6, 2006 at 2:00 pm EST. Copies of the solicitation will be available for download at: http://www.fbo.gov/spg/ED/OCFO/CFO/errd080008/listing.html

Information on the Department of Education’s SBIR program can be found at: http://www.ed.gov/programs/sbir/index.html

NIST Announces FY2006 SBIR SubTopics

The National Institute of Standards and Technology has announced the subtopics for its FY2006 SBIR Solicitation.

Twenty research topics for Phase I applications have been announced and include: Development of a Large-Area Solar Simulator using Light Emitting Diodes; Development and Manufacture of High-Efficiency, Low-Dark-Count Detectors for IR Photon Counting; Gigabit/second Random Number Generators; Applying AI Tools and Techniques to the Real-Time Control of Intelligent Systems; Imaging Variable Kinetic Energy (0.1 to 8 KeV) Electron Analyzer; and Vibration Detection for the Suppression of PM Noise, among others.

The solicitation will open on or about November 3, 2005, and applications must be received by January 26, 2006. Additional information regarding this solicitation is available through: http://patapsco.nist.gov/ts_sbir/

Interested in SBIR Funding from HARSPA?

Free copies of the article Small Business Development: How To Gain A Homeland Security Contract Through The SBIR Program, prepared by The Washington Emerging Technologies Center, A DC-based consulting firm are available by contacting Mr. Darrell Williams, staffwetc@hotmail.com.

The article lists technologies that have received previous Homeland Security funding, and also describes which agencies, outside of the Homeland Security Department, provide anti-terror/homeland security contracts to qualified small businesses.

The mission of the Homeland Security Department is to enhance the security and safety of America’s people, institutions and way of life. More information on HARSPA’s SBIR program can be found at: http://www.hsarpasbir.com/index.asp
Technology Spotlight

Spherically focused air-coupled foil transducer (ISURF #3209)

The use of air-coupled ultrasonic transducers for materials inspection, characterization and ultrasonic imaging is becoming more widespread because it permits non-contact evaluation of materials such as wood, paper, composites, plastics, or any lightweight material, or inspection of large structures. Prior efforts to optimize transducer sensitivity and image resolution have largely involved the use of mirrors and backplates or wafers that result in incomplete focusing, low sensitivity or bandwidth limitations. To overcome these drawbacks, ISU researchers have developed a spherically focused air-coupled foil transducer that consists of a thin metallized polymer membrane, a flexible backplate, and a spherically curved backing fixture. The resulting device demonstrates higher signal amplitude, better bandwidth and better spatial resolution than other air-coupled ultrasonic transducers and should lead to improved ultrasonic nondestructive evaluation and imaging.

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

SBIR/STTR Informational Presentations

Two presentations on the SBIR/STTR programs will be given during the next few weeks. Kris Johansen will give a presentation entitled “Accessing SBIR & STTR Programs” for the Entrepreneurial Ventures Group in Iowa City, IA, on November 10, 2005. Interested parties are asked to RSVP by November 7 to Amber Nienow by e-mail (amber-nienow@uiowa.edu) or phone (319-335-0959). The event is free and refreshments will be served.

Information on the SBIR/STTR programs will also be presented as part of the Grants and More Workshop to be held in Davenport, IA, on November 30, 2005. The workshop will also feature presentations on technical and federal assistance for technology development, as well as early stage product development. The cost for the workshop is $45 and includes lunch. To register, call The Eastern Iowa Community College District, 1-888-336-3907 (toll free) or 563-441-4100. The course number is 08770.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Releases SBIR Presolicitation Notice

The Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has released its presolicitation notice for its 2006 Phase I SBIR program. The NOAA research and development topics for this solicitation include: Ecosystems; Climate; Weather and Water; and Commerce and Transportation.

NOAA anticipates issuing the solicitation on November 1, 2005. A period for questions and clarifications will be announced in the solicitation cover letter. NOAA expects to make multiple Phase I awards for a period of six months and up to $95,000. Any company responding to this solicitation must be registered in the Central Contractor Registration (registration is available through www.ccr.gov).

For more information, including a complete copy of the presolicitation notice, see www.fbo.gov/spg/DOC/NOAA/AGAMD/NRMC0009%2D6%2D00001/listing.html.
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 Provost for Research

**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.

NIH Announces Changes in SBIR and STTR Fast-Track Applications

NIH has announced two major changes in the submission and review of SBIR and STTR Fast-Track proposals that affect the submission and review processes.

The Fast-Track program expedites the decision and award process for SBIR and STTR projects with high commercialization potential by considering both Phase I and Phase II activities simultaneously.

Previously, submitters were required to prepare separate and complete applications for Phase I and Phase II. Beginning December 1, 2005, Fast-Track applications can be submitted as one grant application package covering Phase I and Phase II activities.

Changes in the review process for Fast-Track applications include the elimination of the option to exclude the Phase II portion of the proposal and review, and consider the Phase I portion only. Beginning with the December 1, 2005 submission date, Fast-Track proposals will receive a single numerical score for both the Phase I and Phase II components.

The rationale for these changes is to reduce the burden on small businesses and reviewers by reducing the amount of redundant information contained in the Fast-Track proposal, as well as to maintain the original purpose of the program to streamline the selection and funding of projects that are scientifically compelling and have high commercial potential.

More information on the changes in submission and review for Fast-Track proposals can be found at: http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-06-004.html