ASL Analytical Awarded Phase I

ASL Analytical, a tenant in the University of Iowa Technology Innovation Center, has been awarded a Phase I STTR grant from the National Institutes of Health.

ASL Analytical will use the funding from this two-year $967,000 award to support development of an alarm system that would alert sleeping diabetic patients if their blood sugar levels drop to potentially dangerous levels during the night.

The company is developing a novel near infrared sensing technology that will enable noninvasive monitoring of blood sugar levels. Because hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar levels, can be potentially life-threatening and recurring episodes of hypoglycemia can cause long-term brain damage, ASL Analytical’s night time alarm could help improve the lives diabetes patients by waking them when blood sugar concentrations are approaching levels that are too low.

In addition to the development of its blood glucose monitor, ASL Analytical plans to use its near infrared sensing technology for monitoring other substances, such as lactate, urea and ethanol, for applications such as trauma evaluation, hemodialysis treatment optimization and control of alcohol consumption.

For more information, visit the company’s website: http://www.asl-analytical.com/.

BioCrystals Wins Phase I

Ames-based BioCrystals, LLC, has been awarded a Phase I SBIR grant from the National Science Foundation to further develop its protein crystallization technology. Protein crystallization is an important step in determining the precise three-dimensional shape of a protein, which in turn can be used to understand how proteins function in various cellular processes and lead to new targets for drug development. The grant will support BioCrystals’ efforts to refine technology to crystallize proteins using less sample and with higher speed and success than current high throughput protein crystallization methods. BioCrystals’ novel method for quick and inexpensive analysis of protein structure may thus streamline basic proteomics research and reduce the high cost of drug discovery and development.
The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the Department of Education (ED) has released its contract SBIR solicitation. Phase I awards up to $100,000 for periods up to six months will be made under this solicitation. Fast-Track proposals, where both Phase I and Phase II portions are submitted and reviewed concurrently, will also be considered.

Three priority areas for the solicitation include: Education Technology Products for Students, Education Technology Products for Teachers, Education Technology Products for School Administrators. Products may be in the form of software (such as intelligent tutors or assessment engines), digital format readers, multi-media products (such as DVDs, videoconferences, videos or television programs), technological devices (e.g., interactive whiteboards, clickers, personal computing devices, tablets, or handheld devices), on-line instruction (such as “e-learning” products or distance learning products), or systems-level technologies (e.g., network infrastructure devices or school management programs). Note that other product forms may also be considered.

Applications are due January 22, 2008 at noon EST. The solicitation can be downloaded for more information: http://fs2.fbo.gov/EPSSData/ED/Synopses/3286/ED-08-R-0007/RFP_ED08R0007.doc.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has pre-released its 8.1 SBIR solicitation for FY2008. Five technical topics are being offered under this solicitation: Assess Ability to use Eye Tracking and Pupil Dilation to Determine Intent to Deceive; Miniature Chem/Bio/Explosive Sensors; Mapping of Long-Term Threats, Vulnerabilities, and Impacts; Trace Explosives Sampling for Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosives Device (VBIED) Detection; and Smart Sensor System. Proposals will be accepted beginning December 19, 2007, and must be submitted electronically through the DHS electronic submission website. Direct contact between proposers and the Technical Point of Contact for the solicitation topics is not permitted from December 19, 2007 through February 4, 2008; proposers may submit written questions on topics to faq@hsarpasbir.com during this time. The application deadline is 4:30 pm EST on February 4, 2008.

For more information, visit http://www.sbir.dhs.gov/index.asp.
Key Solicitation Dates

- The deadline for the National Science Foundation FY2008 SBIR/STTR solicitation is December 4, 2007.
- The deadline for non AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is December 5, 2007.
- The deadline for AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is January 7, 2008.
- The DoD SBIR 2008.1 solicitation will open on or about December 10, 2007. The application deadline is on or about January 9, 2008.
- The application deadline for the ED contract solicitation is January 22, 2008.
- The application deadline for the NOAA FY2008 SBIR solicitation is January 23, 2008.
- The application deadline for the NIST FY2008 SBIR TT solicitations is January 23, 2008.
- The closing date for the NIST FY2008 SBIR R solicitation is January 25, 2008.
- The DHS FY08.1 SBIR solicitation opens December 19, 2007. Proposals are due on February 4, 2008.

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

NIH Plans to Eliminate Paper Award Notices

As part of its goal of achieving a paperless grants process, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has issued a notice (NOT-OD-08-002) that as of January 1, 2008, it will no longer be issuing paper Notice of Award (NoA) letters. In lieu of paper copies, NoAs will be sent electronically to grantee organizations and will be available in the eRA Commons through the Status component.

This policy requires that all award recipients be email enabled to allow electronic transmission of an NoAs, and applicants are responsible for maintaining an accurate email address.

Note that proposals to NIH must be submitted electronically, and registration on the eRA Commons (as well as Grants.gov) is required. For more information on eRA Commons registration, visit: https://commons.era.nih.gov/commons/; for more information on its features, see: http://era.nih.gov/commons/index.cfm.

2008 National SBIR Events Scheduled

The Tenth Annual National Institutes of Health (NIH) SBIR/STTR Conference has been scheduled for July 22-23, 2008 at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center in Atlanta, GA. The event will feature presentations on the nuances of the NIH SBIR/STTR programs, and provide an opportunity to meet with NIH program managers. Registration for the event will be available in Spring 2008. For more information, visit http://www.gabio.org/SBIRconference_2008

The Fall National SBIR/STTR Conference will be held November 12-14, 2008 in Hartford, CT. The event will include pre-conference workshops, as well as detailed presentations on the SBIR/STTR programs and agency overviews. For more information, see http://ccat.us/sbir/conference_08/index.php.
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.

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**Technology Spotlight**

**Moving Bed Granular Filter (ISURF #2675)**

The lack of durable, low-cost filters to clean high temperature gas streams is a major hurdle in commercializing advanced power systems based on biomass and coal. Filtration schemes that are the subject of investigation to overcome this difficulty include ceramic barrier filters and moving bed granular filters. Ceramic filters suffer from several drawbacks including cost and fragility, as well as the need for periodic regeneration to remove accumulated dust. Moving granular bed filters that have been developed are expensive and have not fully solved the dust carryover problem. To address these deficiencies, ISU researchers have developed a moving granular bed filter that employs a counterflow of gas and particles that substantially reduces the problem of dust carryover in the gas disengagement regions.

The filter design also incorporates a screen at the disengagement interface between the exiting gas and the granular bed, and results in an increased gas flow rate through the filter. In addition, the filter apparatus incorporates a unique tangential gas inlet that significantly reduces the pressure drop through the filter compared to conventional perpendicular gas inlets. As a result, the system is efficient, effective, and economical.

For more information on this and other technologies available for licensing, go to: [www.techtransfer.iastate.edu](http://www.techtransfer.iastate.edu).