Vida Diagnostics Wins Phase I SBIR

Iowa City-based Vida Diagnostics has been awarded a Phase I SBIR grant from the National Institutes of Health. The grant will help support the company’s development of an integrated imaging and software analysis system for the identification of lung lobes in the assessment of lung structure and function. Identification of the lung lobes is essential in designing and planning treatments targeted toward a specific lung region. During the Phase I project, Vida Diagnostics will develop methods to identify the five lobes of the human lung in CT images, including patients with incomplete tissue anatomy. This will make it possible to measure and study lung disease on a regional lobe-by-lobe basis, and should help physicians to take advantage of emerging therapies for the early treatment of lung disease.

Vida Diagnostics has also received Phase I and Phase II SBIR awards from NIH for development of an imaging system that can aid in the early detection of lung diseases such as lung cancer and emphysema, and lead to better and earlier treatment.

Vida Diagnostics, a leader in pulmonary image analysis and therapy guidance, is a University of Iowa spin-off company located in the Technology Innovation Center. Its software solutions for assessing lung structure and function include the Pulmonary Workstation and Emphysema Profiler. Vida was also recently recognized with 2007 Prometheus Award for "Outstanding Iowa Startup Company" from the Iowa Technology Association.

For more information on Vida Diagnostics, visit: http://www.vidadiagnostics.com/.

Iowa SBIR/STTR Conference Registration Open

Registration is now open for the Iowa SBIR/STTR Conference to be held June 5, 2007 at Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

The conference will feature an overview of the SBIR/STTR programs, manufacturing opportunities in SBIR and STTR, and breakout sessions on universities as resources, Iowa SBIR success stories, and business development. Awards will also be presented to Iowa’s outstanding SBIR or STTR winners.

Entrepreneurs, small and large manufacturers, service providers, university researchers and anyone interested in learning more about the SBIR and STTR programs is encouraged to attend.

For more information or to register, go to: http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/sbir/home.html.
EPA 2007 SBIR Program Solicitation Released

The Environmental Protection Agency released its 2007 SBIR solicitation on March 15, 2007. Offerors must designate a research topic for their proposal. This year’s topics include: Innovation in Manufacturing, Nanotechnology, Green Buildings, Drinking Water and Water Monitoring, Water and Wastewater Management, Control of Air Pollution, Air Monitoring and Remote Sensing, Engine and Vehicle Emissions Reduction, Animal Waste and Waste to Energy, Waste Management and Monitoring, Coal Bed Methane and Oil & Gas Drilling, Large-Scale Disaster Debris Management, Technology for Villages and Small Communities, and Homeland Security. The EPA anticipates the award of approximately $2.8 million in firm fixed priced contracts for projects of six months in duration. The maximum award under this Phase I solicitation will be $70,000. Phase II proposals will only be accepted from Phase I awardees invited to submit proposals. Hard copies of the proposals must be submitted by US mail or courier by 12:00 pm on May 23, 2007. Any questions regarding this solicitation should be submitted by email to Marsh Johnson (johnson.marsha@epa.gov).

For a complete description of research topics and subtopics, see the solicitation at: http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2007/2007_sbir_phase1.html#I.

NSF SBIR/STTR Phase II Grantee Conference

The National Science Foundation SBIR/STTR Phase II Grantee Conference will be held May 15-17, 2007 at the Westin Crown Center Kansas City in Kansas City, MO.

The conference will showcase small businesses with active Phase II awards that are developing advanced technologies in areas such as biotechnology, information technology, electronics, materials, manufacturing and chemical processing to potential industrial strategic partners and investors.

Goals of the conference are to enable grantees to commercialize their research, to encourage strategic partnerships between the grantees and industrial partners, and to find investment avenues.

For more information or to register, go to http://www.sbirworld.com/grantee07/index.asp.

NSF FY08 SBIR/STTR Solicitation Released

The National Science Foundation has released its FY08 SBIR/STTR solicitation. Proposals will be accepted beginning May 13, 2007 and the solicitation will close on June 13, 2007.

Topic areas for this solicitation include: Advanced Materials, Chemical Technology, and Manufacturing Innovation (AM), Biotechnology (BT), Electronics (EL), Information Technology (IT), and Emerging Opportunities (EO). Detailed descriptions of subtopics can be found in the solicitation.

Depending upon the availability of funding, NSF anticipates making 150 Phase I awards under this solicitation (125 SBIR awards and 25 STTR awards).

Proposals must be submitted electronically through NSF’s FastLane system (https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/fastlane.jsp).

For more information about the NSF SBIR/STTR program, visit: http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/
NIH FOAs

The National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes has recently issued a number of Funding Opportunity Announcements. Under PAS-07-240, NCI is seeking SBIR applications from small businesses for proposals to develop new technologies and/or improve existing technologies for the detection and evaluation of chemical and biological carcinogens in clinical and/or environmental specimens. Under PAS-07-241, NCI is soliciting proposals for the development of new technologies or improvements to existing technologies for the isolation and characterization of proteins, peptides, or micro RNAs that normally exist in complex biologically relevant mixtures at concentrations that are beyond the lower limits of detection of current technologies (e.g., low abundance proteins present in <5000 copies per cell). Small businesses may also submit proposals for the development of software tools, computational/mathematical methods, and technologies that will enable integrative cancer biology research under PAS-07-242. Five to ten awards are anticipated to be made under each of these FOAs. Up to $300,000 total may be requested for Phase I awards for projects up to two years in length. Budgetary requests and timeframes for Phase II applications will conform to standard guidelines (up to $750,000 for up to two years). Fast-Track applications will also be accepted.

For more information on the NIH SBIR/STTR programs, see http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/sbir.htm.

National Governors Association Report

The National Governors Association has released a report, A Call to Action: Why America Must Innovate, that examines the challenges posed to state economies by globalization. The report discusses the role of innovation in competitiveness, which is defined as creating high-wage jobs that support a high and rising standard of living, and focuses on two tasks. The first of these tasks is “setting the stage” for broad economic growth through policies that support investment in education, R&D, and entrepreneurship. The second task calls for “building on strengths” through targeted programs that will help build local economies. The report calls on states to engage in these tasks by being “an active partner with the federal government” and to identify their competitive advantages to craft targeted policy.

The full report can be accessed at: http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0702INNOVATIONCALLTOACTION.PDF.

Key Solicitation Dates

- The Department of Transportation 2007 SBIR solicitation will be released on or about February 15, 2007. The solicitation deadline will be on or about May 1, 2007.
- The deadline for non AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant solicitations is April 5, 2007.
- The deadline for AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant solicitations is May 1, 2007.
- The Environmental Protection Agency’s Phase I SBIR solicitation will open March 22, 2007 and close May 23, 2007.

For more information on these solicitations, visit: www.sbirworld.com.
Technology Spotlight

Utilizing Timing Error Detection and Recovery to Dynamically Improve Superscalar Processor Performance: SPRIT3E (ISURF #3421)

Modern processors (and in fact all synchronous logic circuits) use a clock to control execution of the circuit. The speed of this clock, which in large part determines how quickly the processor runs applications, is traditionally limited by worst case delay. The resulting propagation delay is difficult to determine precisely for three main reasons. First, variations induced when computer chips are produced create variable delays in the chips. Second, variations in environmental conditions during operation, such as temperature and voltage, affect the delay through the circuit. Finally, although it is possible to find the longest paths through the logic, it is not known how often the input combinations given during operation will use these paths. To avoid timing errors, traditional design assumes worst case values for these factors, giving an overly high delay estimate, and causing the clock period to be set too slow. To overcome this limitation and increase clock speed, ISU researchers have developed SPRIT3E (Superscalar PeRformance Improvement Through Tolerating Timing Errors). By applying fault tolerance combined with dynamic control theory, this technique performs error detection and correction, and allows clock speeds to scale farther, which in turn lets applications finish earlier. In addition, this method may be applied to any modern processor, since the limitation it overcomes is applicable to all synchronous logic circuits.

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