Iowa SBIR/STTR Conference

Innovation is a source of economic development, and the federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs represent the largest source of early stage funding for innovative research and development projects—over $2 billion per year.

Registration is now open for the Iowa SBIR/STTR Conference. The conference will be held June 5, 2007 in the Scheman Building at Iowa State University. The conference will highlight innovation in manufacturing—a priority across all the participating federal agencies. Conference sessions will include an “SBIR/STTR 101” overview, manufacturing opportunities in the SBIR/STTR programs, universities as resources, Iowa SBIR/STTR success stories, and business development. Awards will also be given to Iowa companies that have received SBIR or STTR funding and that have demonstrated distinctive innovation and commercialization success.

The goals of the conference are to increase awareness of and participation in the SBIR/STTR programs by Iowa companies, recognize outstanding Iowa SBIR or STTR awardees, and to help companies identify other potential resources for innovation and support.

The conference is being hosted by the Iowa State University Research Foundation, and sponsors include: McKee, Voorhees & Sease; Alliant Energy, the Iowa Department of Economic Development; the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; the Ames Economic Development Commission; and the Center for Industrial Research and Service.

Registration is $40 through May 21 and $60 thereafter. For more information, contact Kris Johansen (kajohans@iastate.edu). To register, go to: http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/sbir/home.html.

Iowa SBIR/STTR Awards

Nominations are being accepted for the Iowa SBIR/STTR Awards. The purpose of the awards is to recognize Iowa’s outstanding SBIR or STTR-funded companies.

The awards will be presented at the Iowa SBIR/STTR Conference on June 5, 2007. Nominations in the following categories are being sought and are due May 15, 2007: Iowa SBIR/STTR Newcomer of the Year; Most Innovative SBIR or STTR Award; Most Successful Commercialization Result of an SBIR/STTR Funded Project; Most Successful SBIR/STTR Commercialization Using Technology Licensed from a University, and Most Successful Manufacturing Company Resulting from SBIR/STTR Funding.

For more information, contact Kris Johansen (kajohans@iastate.edu) or visit http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/sbir/about.html.
Homeland Security FY07.1 SBIR Solicitation Released

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released its FY07.1 SBIR presolicitation announcement. The full solicitation will be released April 20, 2007, and the application deadline is June 5, 2007.

Ten topics are available under this solicitation; from the DHS Science and Technology Directorate topics include: Trace Explosives Particle and Vapor Sample Collection; Subterranean Response and Evacuation; Secure Wrap; Mobile Biometrics Screening; Responder Wireless Physiological Monitoring Device; Enhanced Project “SafeCracker”; and Improved Chemiresistor Sensing Arrays for Detection of Small Molecules Gases. Topics from the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office include: Source Surveillance; Improved Solid-State Neutron Detection Devices; and Development of High Reliability Occupancy Sensors.

Contact with DHS staff regarding questions specific to the presolicitation should be addressed before the full solicitation opening date. After this date, questions must be submitted to faq@hsapsbir.com. Responses will be posted on the DHS SBIR FAQ web site at http://www.sbir.dhs.gov for general viewing.

For more information on the DHS SBIR program or to view the complete presolicitation notice, visit: http://www.sbir.dhs.gov/news_and_events.asp.

USDA Program Update

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that its FY2008 Phase I SBIR solicitation is tentatively scheduled to be released on June 1, 2007. Applications will be due on or about September 5, 2007.

All proposals for this solicitation must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov. Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to begin the registration process for electronic submission early, as registration can take up to several weeks to complete. Applicants can begin the registration process on Grants.gov prior to the release of the solicitation. Registration will also require a DUNS number, which available free by calling 1-866-705-5711, as well as registration in the Central Contractor Registry (CCR).

For more information, visit the USDA SBIR website: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/sbir/sbir.html.

DoD FY07.2 SBIR Solicitation Pre-Released

The Department of Defense (DoD) pre-released its FY2007.2 SBIR solicitation on April 12, 2007. DoD components participating in this solicitation include Army, Navy, DARPA, OSD, as well as two new components – the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and Defense Microelectronics Activity (DMEA). Between April 12 and May 13, 2007 proposers may talk directly with Topic Authors. Direct communication between proposers and Topic Authors is not permitted after the DoD begins accepting proposals on May 14, 2007. However, proposers may submit written questions regarding solicitation topics through the SBIR/STTR Interactive Topic Information System.

All proposals must be prepared and submitted electronically through the DoD SBIR/STTR Electronic Web Site (http://www.dodsbir.net/submission/SignIn.asp). Proposers must also be registered in the Central Contractor Registration (http://www.ccr.gov/).

The solicitation will close on June 13, 2007. For more information, go to: http://www.dodsbir.net/solicitation/.
Key Solicitation Dates

- The Department of Transportation 2007 SBIR solicitation was released on February 15, 2007. The solicitation deadline will be May 1, 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.
- The deadline for non AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant solicitations is August 5, 2007.
- The USDA FY2008 SBIR solicitation will be released on or about June 1, 2007. The solicitation will close September 5, 2007.

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

NASA 2007 Solicitations

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) 2007 Phase I SBIR and STTR solicitations will be released on or about July 6, 2007. NASA issues annual solicitations with a number of research/research and development topics that are consistent with its needs and missions; these provide an opportunity for small businesses to participate in NASA research or research and development programs.

Proposals for this year’s solicitation will be due September 6, 2007. For more information, go to: http://sbir.gsfc.nasa.gov/SBIR/SBIR.html.

NIST ATP Competition

The National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) opened a new Advanced Technology Program (ATP) competition on April 4, 2007. The program will fund approximately $60 million in multi-year cost-sharing awards to single companies and industry lead joint ventures for high-risk research and development projects. ATP is soliciting proposals in all technology areas, as well as for four broad multidisciplinary areas: Technologies for Advanced and Complex Systems; Challenges in Advanced Materials and Devices; 21st Century Manufacturing; and Nanotechnology. ATP will also be holding five public Proposer’s Conferences for anyone interested in learning more about the competition.

The deadline for submitting proposals is 3:00 pm Eastern time on May 21, 2007. To request a copy of the ATP Proposal Preparation Kit, go to: http://www.atp.nist.gov/atp/atpform.htm. For more information on Proposer’s Conferences, see: http://www.atp.nist.gov/atp/helpful.htm.
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.

Technology Spotlight

A New Immune Cell Kinase Remote Substrate Docking Mechanism as an Alternative Drug Discovery Target (ISURF #3520)

Tyrosine protein kinases are a large group of enzymes that mediate cellular signal transduction through the transfer of phosphate to amino acid side chains. The ability to modulate protein kinase activity is desirable for both research and therapeutic purposes, and small molecule active site inhibitors have been developed. However, kinase inhibitors targeting the active site of a tyrosine kinase typically exhibit poor specificity since the active sites of tyrosine kinases are very similar.

The non-receptor protein tyrosine kinase family uses a remote docking mechanism to achieve substrate specificity. ISU researchers studying the Tec family of non-receptor tyrosine protein kinases recently identified a novel substrate docking mechanism that requires a specific protein-protein interaction. Furthermore, they have demonstrated that the docking interaction can be disrupted, which leads to a loss of substrate phosphorylation. Identification of this new substrate docking mechanism thus provides a new approach for inhibition of kinase activity through the development of small molecules that prevent substrate docking to the Tec kinases.

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