SBIR Reauthorization

The SBIR program was last reauthorized in 2000 and is scheduled to lapse September 30, 2008 unless it is reauthorized for a fourth time. (Note that the STTR program is scheduled to sunset in 2009.)

While the SBIR program is popular and Government Accountability Office and National Academy of Sciences reports deem it to be highly successful, it is not a top priority given the many pressing issues facing our congressional leaders today. In addition, there are many new faces in Congress since the last time SBIR was reauthorized—legislators who may not be familiar with the SBIR program and its value to small businesses, and consequently, its importance in maintaining our nation’s competitiveness and economic health. This has lead to speculation that the SBIR program may not be reauthorized before it is due to expire (see the SBIR Insider for more details).

In the past two and a half years, more than 40 SBIR awards totaling $9.4 million have been granted to thirty Iowa companies. If you have benefited from the SBIR program or would like to be able to apply for SBIR funding in the future in order to help bring your innovation to the market, now is a good time to let your congressional representatives know. The Small Business Technology Council (www.sbtc.org) has sample letters and other resources on SBIR reauthorization available for those who are interested in taking action.

Environmental Innovation Workshop

There is still time to register for the Environmental Innovation Workshop on the EPA’s SBIR program scheduled for March 6, 2008 at the University of Nebraska Alumni Center in Omaha, NE.

Don’t miss this chance to meet on-one-one with EPA SBIR Program Manager Dr. Jim Gallup to get feedback on your research idea and learn more about the upcoming EPA SBIR solicitation.

There is no charge to attend the workshop, but advance registration is required. Register online at http://www.sbirnebraska.unomaha.edu, or contact Veronica Doga at 402-554-2176; vdoga@mail.unomaha.edu for additional information. The workshop is being jointly sponsored by the Nebraska Business Development Center and the Iowa State University Office of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer.
Iowa Demonstration Fund Allows Federal Dollar Matching

The Iowa Demonstration Fund provides in seed capital for small and medium-sized Iowa companies in targeted industries (advanced manufacturing, bioscience or information technology) with high-growth potential. The purpose of the fund is to encourage commercialization of innovation, and thus help develop and sustain competitive, profitable companies that create high paying jobs and wealth in Iowa. Demonstration Fund awards of up to $150,000 are available.

To be eligible to apply for Demonstration Funds, applicants must be Iowa-based companies that are developing unique and competitive technologies/products/processes and must demonstrate that these innovations are commercially viable. Companies must also match the award with at least one dollar of non-state funding for every two dollars of state funding. Federal dollars, such as SBIR or STTR funding, are allowed as the match. Phase I SBIR/STTR winners seeking follow-on funding to support the commercialization plan section of their Phase II applications and Phase II SBIR/STTR awardees looking for Phase III financing are encouraged to consider the Iowa Demonstration Fund as a resource for facilitating the transition of their innovative concepts to the marketplace.


EPA SBIR Solicitation to Open

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to release its FY2008 Phase I SBIR solicitation on or about March 12, 2008. Solicitation topics for 2008 will include: Innovation in Manufacturing; NanoTechnology; Green Buildings; Drinking Water; Water and Wastewater; Monitoring and Remote Sensing; Engine and Vehicle Emissions; Animal Waste to Energy; Solid and Hazardous Waste; Control of Air Pollution; and Homeland Security. Each of these research topic areas will have several subtopics.

Funding of up to $70,000 for Phase I projects up to 6 months in duration will be available under this solicitation. Applications will be due on or about May 14, 2008. EPA does not use electronic proposal submission: hard copies must be submitted in time for receipt by the proposal deadline.

For more information, see the EPA’s SBIR website: http://es.epa.gov/ncer/sbir/index.html

Tri-State SBIR Workshop

Want to learn more about the SBIR/STTR programs and how to tap into this $2 billion resource for small businesses? Register to attend the Tri-State SBIR Workshop scheduled for 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on April 16, 2008 in Sioux City, IA. SBIR/STTR support personnel from the states of Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota will be on hand to give an overview of the SBIR/STTR programs, describe their SBIR/STTR services, and for one-on-one consultations with participants. Area SBIR success stories will also be featured. Entrepreneurs, manufacturers, small business owners, service providers, and economic development professionals are encouraged to attend.

Registrations fees for the workshop are $20, and include lunch and materials. For more information, contact Kris Johansen (kajohans@iastate.edu) or Joseph Wright (jwright@siouxlandchamber.com).
Key Solicitation Dates

- The deadline for the DoD FY2008 STTR solicitation is 6:00 am Eastern Time March 19, 2008.
- The deadline for non-AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is April 5, 2008.
- The DOT FY2008 solicitation will open March 14, 2008. The application deadline is May 1, 2008. Note change in opening date.
- The deadline for AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is May 7, 2008.
- The EPA FY2008 Phase I solicitation will open on or about March 12, 2008. The solicitation will close on or about May 14, 2008.
- The deadline for NSF Phase I SBIR proposals is June 10, 2008.
- The DoD FY2008.2 SBIR solicitation be prereleased April 21, 2008. The solicitation will close on or about June 18, 2008.
- The USDA Phase I SBIR solicitation will be released on or about June 1, 2008. The application deadline will be on or about August 31, 2008.

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

DOT Solicitation Release Delayed

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has recently announced that its FY2008 solicitation release has been changed. The DOT solicitation was originally scheduled to open February 15, 2008; the new date for solicitation to open is now March 14. The historic deadline for DOT SBIR solicitation has been around May 1 each year.

Topics covering research priorities for transportation issues from a number of the DOT’s Administrations, such as the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Pipeline And Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, National Highway And Traffic Safety Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the Federal Railroad Administration, are typically included in the DOT’s annual SBIR solicitation.

For more information, visit: http://www.volpe.dot.gov/sbir/.

NSF SBIR Solicitation Released

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently released its next Phase I solicitation. Note that this solicitation will be for SBIR proposals only. NSF has indicated that a separate Phase I STTR solicitation will be issued at a later date.

Research topic areas for this solicitation include Biotech and Chemical Technologies (BC), Electronics, Components, and Engineering Systems (EL), and Software and Services (SS); each of these broad topic areas includes a number of subtopics. Proposals must also include a section on commercial potential and that letters of support for the technology are mandatory. Contact with the cognizant program manager is strongly encouraged prior to submitting a proposal.

Proposals for this solicitation will be accepted beginning May 10, and will be due at 5:00 pm (submitter’s or proposer’s time) June 10, 2008. Proposers must be registered in the NSF’s FastLane system, and proposals must be submitted electronically. For more information, see: http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/.
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.

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