SBIR Opportunities in Environmental Technologies: EPA and NSF

Although the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) FY2008 has closed and its next solicitation will not open until March of 2009, there are still opportunities for funding for environmental technologies in the current National Science Foundation (NSF) SBIR solicitation. The EPA states that “nearly all of the EPA’s technology needs have significant synergy with this NSF solicitation,” and the EPA will be collaborating with NSF on environmental topics in this offering.

The EPA’s technology needs are described in their last Phase I solicitation: http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2008_2008_sbir_phase1.html. While these needs may not exactly correspond with the current NSF technical topics, most have a corresponding topic area and most of the EPA’s technical needs are addressed under the NSF topic Biotech and Chemical Technologies (BC).

The NSF solicitation deadline is December 4, 2008. Any companies submitting proposals under this solicitation will be submitting applications to NSF only. Note that NSF and EPA solicitation requirements vary, so anyone considering submitting an application for development of environmental technologies is strongly encouraged to read and follow NSF’s solicitation guidelines carefully.

More information on technical needs and linkages between EPA and NSF topics are available here. For details on the NSF SBIR/STTR program and its current solicitation, go to: http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/; for more information on the EPA SBIR program, see: http://es.epa.gov/ncer/sbir/index.html.

Grants.gov to Use Adobe PDF and Reader

Grants.gov has recently introduced fill-able Adobe PDF-based application forms to facilitate grant processing. This new system uses Adobe Reader to access the application forms; applicants must download and install the current compatible version of Adobe Reader on their computers in order to use this system. The new system will look familiar to previous users, but with increased service access that will hopefully make the application submission process easier.

For more information, visit: http://www.grants.gov. To determine if you have the latest compatible version of Adobe Reader, click here.
USDA FY2009 Phase I SBIR Solicitation

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released its FY2009 Phase I SBIR solicitation. The USDA has 12 broad topic areas, including: Forests and Related Resources; Plant Production and Protection-Biology; Animal Production and Protection; Air, Water and Soils; Food Science and Nutrition; Rural Development; Aquaculture; Biofuels and Biobased Products; Marketing and Trade; Animal Manure Management; Small and Mid-Size Farms; Plant Production and Protection-Engineering. Note that research priorities are listed in the solicitation for each of these topics; however, the Biofuels and Biobased Products topic has strict limitations on the technologies areas that will be considered. The USDA also considers Agriculturally-Related Manufacturing Technology and Alternative and Renewable Energy as two cross-cutting priorities with relevance to all of its topic areas. These priorities should be addressed by applicants as appropriate in their applications; special consideration will be given to proposals that address one of these priorities.

USDA anticipates that approximately 85 Phase I awards for up to $80,000 for projects up to eight months in duration will be made under this announcement. Proposals must be prepared and submitted electronically through Grants.gov. The application deadline is September 4, 2008. For more information, visit http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/sbir/sbir.html.

DHS S&T Solicitation Deadline Extended

Due in part to ongoing problems with its web server, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has extended the deadline for its Science and Technology directorate SBIR solicitation until July 8, 2008. DHS will be accepting proposals via email for this solicitation; however, only firms that notified DHS of their intent to apply by submitting an email to stsbir.proposals@dhs.gov by June 20, 2008 and receiving a DHS-assigned proposal number are eligible to respond. Applications under this solicitation must be submitted by email to stsbir.proposals@dhs.gov, and must be zipped and password protected. The DHS-assigned proposal number should also be included. In a separate email, applicants should include their proposal number and your password. Proposers should make sure they receive confirmation that their application was received. More information on these changes is available here.

Homeland Security DNDO SBIR Solicitation

The Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) has issued its FY08.1 SBIR solicitation. Note that this solicitation is distinct from the current DHS S&T offering which has a June 27, 2008 submission deadline. Four technical areas are available under this solicitation: Signal Processing Algorithms to Nominate Potential Targets and Eliminate False Positives in the Non-Intrusive Inspection of Cargo Conveyances; Fast, Solid-State, Prompt Neutron Detectors Capable of Operating in Non-Invasive Interrogation Environments; Analytical techniques and instrumentation used in determining the origin and transit route of nuclear materials; and Non-Radioactive Alternatives or Techniques to Replace Radioactive Sources in Commercial Applications. Applications are due July 16, 2008 and must be submitted through www.fedconnect.net. Note that the DHS SBIR website is currently unavailable; however, the DNDO solicitation can be downloaded here.
Key Solicitation Dates

- The deadline for the Department of Homeland Security’s S&T FY08.2 SBIR solicitation is July 8, 2008. Note new deadline.
- The deadline for the Department of Homeland Security’s DNDO FY08.1 SBIR solicitation is July 16, 2008.
- The deadline for non-AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is August 5, 2008.
- The USDA Phase I SBIR solicitation will be released on or about June 1, 2008. The application deadline will be September 4, 2008.
- The NASA 2008 SBIR and STTR solicitations will open July 7 and close September 4, 2008.
- The deadline for AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is September 7, 2008.
- The DoD FY2008.3 SBIR solicitation will be prereleased on or about July 28, 2008. The application deadline is September 24, 2008.
- The SBIR program is scheduled to sunset September 30, 2008 unless it is reauthorized by Congress.

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

2008 Beyond Phase II

The Department of Defense (DoD) will host the 2008 National SBIR Beyond Phase II Conference & Exhibition, Tuesday-Friday, September 2-5, 2008 at the Desert Springs JW Marriott, Palm Desert, California. The conference will also be supported by all the Federal agencies that currently participate in the SBIR program and will focus on commercialization of current Phase II technologies in military and commercial markets.

The event will feature “Technology Matchmaking” One-on-One sessions and educational tracks, in addition to an exhibition at which over 200 companies are anticipated to showcase their technologies and capabilities.

Attendees will include recent Phase II awardees, large Federal contractors, investors, other potential strategic partners, and service providers.

For more information, visit: https://www.beyondphaseii.com/.

DoD FY2008.3 Solicitation

The Department of Defense will prerelease its FY2008.3 SBIR solicitation on or about July 28, 2008. Proposals will be accepted beginning August 25, and the solicitation will close on September 24, 2008. All proposals must be prepared and submitted electronically through the DoD SBIR/STTR Electronic Web Site (http://www.dodsbr.net/submission/SignIn.asp). Proposers must also be registered in the Central Contractor Registration (http://www.ccr.gov/).

Between July 28 and August 24, 2008 proposers may talk directly with Topic Authors. Direct communication between proposers and Topic Authors is not permitted beginning August 25, 2008.

However, proposers may submit written questions regarding solicitation topics through the SBIR/STTR Interactive Topic Information System.

For more information, go to: http://www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/sbir/.
Encapsulation of Healthful Fatty Acids in Yeast for Improved Feed Supplements (ISURF #3530)

Consumption of omega-3 fatty acids, also known as LCPUFA, has been ascribed health benefits in humans, such as improved neurological development in infants and a reduction in risk for certain cardiovascular diseases. Efforts have been made to supplement livestock feed with omega-3 fatty acid rich fish oil, fish meal or algae to improve the nutritional profile of the resulting food products, such as milk and other dairy foods. However, these feed streams are poorly accepted by the animal; in addition, most of the beneficial fatty acids are destroyed by bio-hydrogenation and microbial degradation in the rumen of dairy animals. To overcome these challenges, ISU researchers have developed a method for encapsulation of LCPUFA in oleaginous yeast that enables them to remain intact during long-term storage in dried yeast and to resist destruction in the rumen when fed as a supplement. The yeast containing LCPUFA thus have utility as a feed supplement to increase the omega-3 fatty acid content of milkfat and improve the healthfulness of dairy products.

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