Iowa SBIR/STTR Newsletter

Iowa State University
Office of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer

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PK Biosciences Wins Phase I

Ames-based PK Biosciences Corporation has been awarded a Phase I SBIR from the National Institutes of Health.

PK Biosciences focuses on providing research and diagnostic tools for drug discovery and therapeutic development for treatment of chronic neurodegenerative diseases and other neurological disorders. This funding will support PK Biosciences' development of its novel potential therapeutics for Parkinson's disease, a chronic, progressive and debilitating disorder of the central nervous system that affects as many as one million people in the US alone. Symptoms of Parkinson's disease include tremors, stiffness of the limbs, slowness of movement, and impaired balance.

Current approaches to treatment are primarily focused on alleviating these motor symptoms, but fail to halt progression of the disease. Investigators at PK Biosciences have identified new molecules that target the neurodegenerative process. During Phase I, the company will develop, in collaboration with ISU chemists, a series of small molecules, or lead compounds, and evaluate their neuroprotective properties in Parkinson's disease models. Success during this phase of the project should help lead to development of an effective neuroprotective drug for treatment of Parkinson's disease that is able to slow or stop disease progression.

For more information about PK Biosciences, visit the company's website: http://www.pkbio.com/Index.html.

SBA Proposes Raising SBIR Award Levels

The Small Business Administration (SBA) recently released a notice proposing to increase SBIR award ceilings to $150,000 for Phase I and $1,000,000 for Phase II to account for increased costs for performing research and development.

The SBA is seeking comments on this proposal on or before September 15, 2008. Comments can be submitted through the Federal Rulemaking Portal (use RIN 3245-AF61 as the identifier).

Comments may also be submitted by surface mail: Office of Technology, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416; or by Hand Delivery/Courier: Edsel Brown, Assistant Director, Office of Technology, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416.

The full notice can be read here.

Inside this issue:

Up-Coming Events

- Biobased Industry Outlook Conference, September 7-9, 2008, Ames, IA
- Iowa Biotechnology Association Annual Meeting, September 17, 2008, Ames, IA
- Fall National SBIR/STTR Conference, November 12-14, 2008, Hartford, CT

NIH Contract Solicitation

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has issued its FY2009 SBIR Phase I contract solicitation. Participating components include National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) from the NIH, and National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), and Immunization Safety Office (ISO) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Since this is a contract solicitation, the participating components have issued specific research topics that are more focused than the currently open (and separate) Omnibus grants solicitation. Funding ceilings, number of awards, and the ability to utilize NIH's FastTrack mechanism differ by topic.

Applications are due by 5:00 pm Eastern Time on November 3, 2008. Note that since this is a contracts-based solicitation, submission through Grants.gov and the eRA Commons is not used. Instead, hard copies of the application must be sent directly to the pertinent Institute , Center or other organization within NIH or CDC. Also note that applicants still must be registered in the Central Contractor Registry in order to receive a contract. For more information, see: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/SBIRContract/PHS2009-1.doc.

Niche Assessment Program Available

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has recently announced that it has contracted with Foresight Science and Technology to make Technology Niche Analyses (TNA™) available to 75 Phase I SBIR awardees from FY2008 and FY2009. Note that this program is not open to STTR recipients.

These assessments are available on a "first-come, first-served basis" and will include evaluating the potential uses of the technology. Participants will receive a report that identifies the end-user needs, current and emerging competing technologies, the market dynamics, and the technology's competitive advantage. Because these reports can be very helpful in the preparation of a Phase II application, eligible Phase I SBIR awardees are encouraged to apply for the program.

NIH SBIR Phase I awardees for FY2008 and FY2009 are eligible for niche assessment program

More information is available at: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-08-100.html.

DOE Releases FY2009 Technical Topic Titles

The Department of Energy (DOE) recently released the technical topic titles for its FY2009 SBIR/STTR solicitation. Sixty technical topics in a variety of research areas, such as coal gasification, production of biofuels from biomass, high energy physics, solar energy, medical sciences, and genomes-to-life, are listed These topics relate to the DOE's strategic goals in four key areas: Energy, Defense, Science, and Environment.

Note that the topics of interest are subject to change prior to release of the solicitation.

DOE anticipates making approximately 300 Phase I SBIR and 30 Phase I STTR awards under this announcement.

Applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov. Applicants are required to have a DUNS number for submission, and must also be registered in the Central Contractor Registry.

The DOE plans to release its FY2009 SBIR/STTR Funding Opportunity Notice in mid-September. For more information on the DOE's SBIR/STTR program, visit: http://sbir.er.doe.gov/sbir/.

Key Solicitation Dates

- The USDA Phase I SBIR solicitation was released on June 27, 2008. The application deadline is September 4, 2008.
- The NASA 2008 SBIR and STTR solicitations opened July 7 and will close September 4, 2008.
- The deadline for the DOT FY08.2 SBIR solicitation is September 5, 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 deadline for the DoD STTR FY08.B solicitation is September 24, 2008.
- The application deadline for the NIH SBIR contract solicitation is November 3, 2008.

- The deadline for the NSF FY2009 SBIR Phase I solicitation is December 4, 2008.
- The deadline for non-AIDS-related topics for NIH SBIR/STTR grant applications is December 5, 2008.

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

NIH FOAs

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has reissued two Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) for Revolutionary Genome Sequencing Technologies – The $1000 Genome. STTR applications are being sought under RFA-HG-08-011, while SBIR proposals are being accepted under RFA-HG-08-010.

The National Human Genome Research Institute is seeking proposals to develop technologies for extremely low-cost DNA sequencing, with a goal of reducing the cost of sequencing a mammalian genome to approximately $1,000. Exploration of technologies outside of current approaches for low-cost sequencing is especially encouraged.

NIH has reissued two FOAs for The $1,000 Genome

Letters of intent are due September 22, 2008. The application deadline is October 22, 2008, and proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov. More information about the NIH's SBIR/STTR program is available here.

"Business Success Seminar" Offers Solutions for Business

Iowa Farm Bureau's Renew Rural Iowa initiative has joined with Iowa State's Center for Industrial Research and Service to bring a Baking & Business 101: "A Recipe for Business Success" seminar to Reiman Gardens on the ISU campus in Ames on October 1, 2008. The seminar will feature Curt Nelson, author and president of the Entrepreneurial Development Center, Inc. located in Cedar Rapids.

The seminar offers an insightful look at what defines successful business ingredients and how to create them. Attendees will learn how to assemble a balanced and talented leadership team, understand the definition and value of a true business leader, and learn what resources are critical to the overall success of a business.

With the recent flooding impacting Iowa's business community, this seminar will provide timely tips and inspiration for those facing transition. Ames National Corporation, a bank holding company with five central Iowa Banks is part of the hosting team for this seminar.

For more information and registration, go to: www.renewruraliowa.com.

Iowa State University
Office of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer

Kris Johansen
SBIR/STTR Program Administrator
310 Lab of Mechanics
Ames, IA 50011-2131

Phone: 515-294-3208
Fax: 515-294-0778
E-mail: kajohans@iastate.edu

www.techtransfer.iastate.edu

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.*

Technology Spotlight

Active Noise Control System for Use in Noise Cancelling Devices

(ISURF #3501)

Reduction of noise in certain work and other environments is important for communication, safety, preservation of hearing, and for personal comfort. Noise control using passive headsets generally provides substantial broadband noise reduction, but without the ability to selectively control one frequency of noise over another. In addition, existing active noise control headsets have been limited to control of only low frequencies (less than 1 KHz) but are not able to reduce high frequency noise due to design limitations. To overcome these drawbacks, ISU researchers have developed an active noise control system that enables selective control of one region of the audio spectrum while leaving another uncontrolled, thus allowing the user to minimize unwanted noise while retaining the ability to hear wanted or useful noise. The system is also able to significantly reduce undesirable high frequency noise by identifying frequencies associated with the loudest noise and creating multiple narrowband reductions in these problematic regions. This active noise control system has utility for situations or environments—such as machine shops, airplanes or dental offices—where reduction of distracting or potentially harmful noise is desirable, but where the ability to hear other noise for communication or other purposes is required.

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