NIH Issues Special Announcements

The National Institutes of Health has issued two Special Announcements. For one of these announcements, Countermeasures against Chemical Threats (CounterACT) Small Business Innovation Research Awards for Therapeutics Development, the NIH is seeking applications from small businesses for research and development of new and better therapeutics that will prevent or alleviate the effects of exposure to toxic chemicals, such as toxic chemical agents that could be released in a terrorist attack, or through an accident or natural disaster. Letters of intent for this announcement are due by March 10, 2006, and applications are due April 11, 2006. For more information on this announcement, go to: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-06-006.html.

For the second announcement, Diagnostic Technologies for Chemical Threat Exposure Small Business Innovation Research Awards, the NIH is seeking applications from small businesses for the research and development of diagnostics for the exposure to chemical threats, such as toxic chemical agents that could be released at harmful levels during an accident or natural disaster, or a terrorist attack. Letters of intent for this announcement must be received by March 10, 2006, and applications are due April 11, 2006. For more information on this announcement, see: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-06-007.html. Participating institutes include: National Eye Institute, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Workshop Reminder!

A Phase I SBIR/STTR Writing Workshop will be held March 21, 2006 in the Pioneer Room in the Memorial Union on the Iowa State University campus. The workshop will provide an overview of the SBIR/STTR programs, worksheets and exercises to facilitate the grant writing process, and offer tips on how to make your proposal more competitive. The cost of the workshop is $25 and includes lunch. Space is limited, so early registration is recommended. For more information, contact Kris Johansen (kajohans@iastate.edu) or for registration materials, go to: www.techtransfer.iastate.edu.
The 18th Annual National Aeronautics and Space Administration/Jet Propulsion Laboratory High-Tech Small Business Conference will be held March 7-8, 2006 in Los Angeles, CA. The event will provide an opportunity for participants to improve their knowledge and skills to compete in the prime contract arena, discuss potential contracting and subcontracting opportunities with representatives from federal, state, and local governments, as well as corporations, and learn more about emerging trends. The conference will also feature Networking/Mixer receptions to provide participants additional opportunities to promote their companies.

Participating groups and agencies include The Aerospace Corp., The Boeing Company, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon Co., the U.S. Dept. of Defense, the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, and the U.S. Veterans Administration, among others.

The cost for the conference is $125 per person, and the registration deadline is February 24, 2006.

For more information, visit the conference web site at: http://acquisition.jpl.nasa.gov/boo/2006ht/.

SBA Publishes Final STTR Policy Directive


One major change in the program is that a small business can now subcontract a portion of its award to a Federal Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) without filing for an exemption from the SBA. Funding levels, eligibility requirements, and award amounts for the STTR program have not been changed under this policy directive. The policy directive also requires the SBA to make changes in the database for the SBIR and STTR programs, Technology Resource Network (Tech-Net). These changes are aimed at clarifying reporting requirements.

The STTR Policy Directive can be viewed at: http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/0524043.pdf.

DOT Issues Presolicitation Notice

The Department of Transportation Volpe National Transportation Center has issued a presolicitation notice regarding its upcoming SBIR solicitation. The solicitation will open on or about February 15, 2006, and is anticipated to close May 1, 2006. Technical topics for this offering include: Real Time Signal State Transition Software for Advanced Traffic Controller; Non Destructive Evaluation (NDE) Testing of Pavements for Location and Evaluation of Inroadway Sensor Installations; Driver Fatigue?Distraction Monitoring and Alerting Technology; and Innovative Safety, Reliability and Inspection Technologies for Pipeline Safety Integrity Management.

Technology Spotlight

Leak Detection in Pressure Vessels Using Structure-Borne Noise (ISURF #3289)

Micrometeorite impacts on pressure vessels, such as a manned spacecraft, can create small leaks that are too small to detect easily, yet result in significant loss of air over time. While ultrasonic leak detectors are available, conventional designs detect leaks in the ambient atmosphere, and are not effective for detecting leaks into a vacuum because the sound resulting from turbulence downstream of the leak cannot be propagated in space or back into the spacecraft. To overcome this problem, ISU researchers have developed a method for ultrasonic spacecraft leak detection using structure-borne noise. This method uses cross correlations between ultrasonic leak noise signals measured by two or more sensors to monitor and characterize leak-generated noise and locate the leak. This method may be applicable to the analysis of other pressure vessels, such as aircraft.

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

HHS Releases Omnibus Solicitation

The Department of Health and Human Services has released its 2006 SBIR/STTR Omnibus Grants solicitation. Participants include NIH, CDC, and the FDA. Application submission deadlines for non-AIDS related topics are April 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; and December 1, 2006. Application submission deadlines for AIDS related topics are May 1, 2006; September 1, 2006; and January 2, 2007.

Note that applications must be submitted electronically and registration with Grants.gov and eRA Commons is required.

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Key Solicitation Dates

- The Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services' National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) SBIR opens January 10, 2006 and closes March 13, 2006.
- The Department of Transportation SBIR solicitation will open on or about February 14, 2006 and close on or about May 1, 2006.
- The Environmental Protection Agency's SBIR solicitation will open March 23, 2006 and close May 24, 2006.

For more information on these solicitations, visit: www.sbirworld.com
The Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services has a solicitation for new SBIR grants under the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). NIDRR is seeking applications that address one of five priorities, including:

1. Development of technology to support access, promote integration, or foster independence of individuals with disabilities in the workplace, recreational activities, or educational settings.

2. Development of technology to enhance sensory or motor function of individuals with disabilities.

3. Development of technology to support access to employment, to promote sustained employment, and promote employment advancement for individuals with disabilities.

4. Development of accessible information technology, including Web access technology, software, and other systems and devices that promote access to information in educational, employment and community settings, and voting technology that improves access for individuals with disabilities.

5. Development of technology to support independent access to health care services in the community for individuals with disabilities.

For more information and to download the solicitation, go to:


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