NSF FY 07 Phase I Solicitation Released

The National Science Foundation has released its FY07 SBIR/STTR Phase I solicitation (NSF 06-598). The topics offered under this solicitation include Biotechnology (subtopics and their descriptions can be found at http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/bt.jsp), Electronics (a description of the subtopics offered can be found at http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/el.jsp), Information Technology (subtopics and their descriptions can be accessed at http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/it.jsp), and Emerging Opportunities (for a description of the subtopics offered, go to http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/ eo.jsp).

NSF anticipates that approximately 125 Phase I SBIR awards and 25 Phase I STTR awards will be made under this solicitation. A maximum award of $100,000 is available for Phase I SBIR applications, while the maximum available funding for Phase I STTR proposals is $150,000.

Note that applications will be subjected to administrative and technical screening. Proposals that do not adhere to the solicitation guidelines, that do not provide enough technical information to merit review, or that do not fall within the scope of one of the topics or subtopics for this solicitation will be returned without review.

Applications will be accepted beginning November 4, 2006, and must be submitted electronically through the NSF FastLane system. The submission deadline for this solicitation is December 4, 2006. For additional information, go to: http://www.nsf.gov/eng/sbir/.

CCR Policy Change

The Central Contractor Registration changed its policy on name and address information. The following CCR data fields will now be validated with Dun & Bradstreet: Legal Business Name, Doing Business Name (DBA), Physical Address, and Postal Code/Zip+4. Registrants will not be able to enter/modify these fields in CCR. Instead, they will be populated using D&B D-U-N-S record data. Registrants needing to modify their information must first go to the D&B website (http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/), enter their changes, and then return to the CCR to “accept” the D&B changes. For more details, see: http://www.ccr.gov/newsdetail.asp?id=50&type=N. 
**Fall National SBIR/STTR Conference**

The 2006 Fall National SBIR/STTR Conference, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, will be held November 6-9 at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center in Milwaukee, WI. The conference is a great opportunity to learn more about this $2 billion resource for small businesses. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with program managers from the various federal agencies that participate in the SBIR and STTR programs, and network with SBIR/STTR awardees, business experts, potential strategic partners and investors. Hear agency overviews, understand the basics of proposal preparation, and learn how proposals are evaluated. Discuss intellectual property, technology transfer and how to value your technology. Learn how to access federal laboratory and university resources.

This will be the last of this series of conferences conducted under this format and sponsored by NSF. Future National SBIR/STTR Conferences will be organized by various states across the country. Anyone who is considering applying for SBIR or STTR funding is strongly encouraged to attend the conference.

For more information, or to register, go to: http://www.sbirworld.com/WI/.

**Technology Niche Analyses (TNA™) Available**

NIH has announced the availability of Technology Niche Analyses from Foresight Science and Technology. These assessments will be made available free on a first come, first served basis to 150 NIH Phase I SBIR winners from FY2006 and 2007. Note that STTR awardees are not eligible to participate. Each TNA™ will assess potential uses of the technology and a report that addresses the end-user needs, current and emerging competing technologies, the market dynamics, the technology’s competitive advantage, and a commercialization strategy will be provided to participants. This is an excellent opportunity for Phase I winners to obtain essential marketing and other information for developing a competitive Phase II commercialization plan.


**The assessments will be made available on a first come, first served basis**

**NIH Program Specialist Visit**

Kay Etzler, NIH SBIR/STTR Program Specialist, will be in Iowa City, Iowa on October 18, 2006 to give a presentation on the NIH’s SBIR/STTR program. The presentation will begin at 1:00 pm in 2117 MERF and the event is free. Opportunities for one-on-one sessions with Ms. Etzler will also be available in the morning.

NIH awards over $600 million annually to small businesses through SBIR and STTR grants and contracts. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn more about the NIH SBIR/STTR program and how to prepare a competitive proposal!

For more information on the presentation and to register and/or schedule a one-on-one session, contact Paula McMartin (paula-mcmartin@uiowa.edu).

NOAA Presolicitation Notice

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce has issued a presolicitation notice for its upcoming FY2007 SBIR solicitation. Topics for this solicitation will include Ecosystems, Climate, Weather and Water, and Commerce and Transportation. Each of these major topic areas will have several subtopics. Note that unsolicited proposals will not be accepted. It is anticipated that multiple Phase I awards of up to $95,000 for project periods up to six months will be made. The complete solicitation will be released on or about October 3, 2006, and will be made available on the NOAA SBIR web site (http://www.ago.noaa.gov/ad/sbirs/), as well as on the Federal Business Opportunities web site (http://www.fbo.gov/spg/DOC/NOAA/AGAMD/NOAA2D2007%2D1/listing.html). The presolicitation notice can be viewed at: http://www.fbo.gov/spg/DOC/NOAA/AGAMD/NOAA-2007-1/SynopsisP.html.

For general information about NOAA’s SBIR program, contact Dr. Joseph M. Bishop, NOAA SBIR Program Manager, at 301-713-3565 or via email: joseph.bishop@noaa.gov.

Save the Date: SBIR/STTR Phase I/II Workshop

A Phase I/Phase II SBIR/STTR Writing Workshop will be held in Ames, IA on November 15-16, 2006 in the Memorial Union on the ISU campus. The workshop will provide an overview of the SBIR/STTR programs, describe the differences between contracting agencies and granting agencies, and offer tips on how to make your proposal more competitive, as well as providing information on preparing a Phase II commercialization plan. The workshop is open to anyone planning to submit a Phase I or Phase II SBIR/STTR application or is interested in learning more about the SBIR/STTR programs.

A Phase I/Phase II SBIR/STTR Writing Workshop will be held November 15-16, 2006

Participants may attend either or both days. Phase I will be presented on November 15, while Phase II will be given on November 16. Registration fees include lunch and networking breaks, and are $25 for the Phase I portion and $15 for the Phase II session. Discounts will be given to participants registering for both days.

For more information, contact Kris Johansen, kajohans@iastate.edu or visit www.techtransfer.iastate.edu.

Key Solicitation Dates

- The Department of Homeland Security 2006.2 solicitation will be released in August, 2006.
- The NIH SBIR contracts solicitation was released August 8, 2006. Proposals are due November 6, 2006.
- The Department of Defense 2006.3 solicitation will open September 13, 2006. The application deadline is October 13, 2006.
- The Department of Energy Phase I solicitation will be released September 18, 2006. The application deadline is December 1, 2006.

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

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**Technology Spotlight**

**High Capacitance Density Materials with Low Dielectric Losses Based on Calcium Copper Titanate (ISURF #3297)**

Many current research initiatives in the area of pulsed power (power conditioning/filtering) require a new class of advanced dielectrics with ultra-high energy densities and high reliability. Calcium copper titanate has a number of favorable characteristics for pulsed power applications, including large permittivity (epsilon r is approximately 10,000) and temperature stability. However, it has previously been difficult to control insulation resistance and dielectric loss using ceramic calcium copper titanate. To overcome these drawbacks, ISU researchers have recently demonstrated that dielectric losses using calcium copper titanate can be minimized through two approaches: doping schemes and a glass ceramic composite microstructure that creates an insulating matrix phase.

By doping with ZrO\(_2\), permittivity is retained (epsilon \(r\) is greater than 4900) and dielectric loss is below 0.05 over frequency range of 50 Hz to 30 kHz. Permittivity with the glass ceramic composite microstructure is 3,500 with a dielectric loss below 0.03 for the 1-10 kHz frequency range. These modifications enhance the utility of calcium copper titanate for high capacitance density application.

For more information on this and other technologies available for licensing, go to: [www.techtransfer.iastate.edu](http://www.techtransfer.iastate.edu)