USDA FY2007 SBIR Solicitation

A temporary, abbreviated version of the USDA’s FY2007 SBIR request for applications has been released (http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/sbir/sbir_delay.html). A complete version of the solicitation is expected on or about June 20, 2006. The delay is due to revisions to the application guide to include forms and instructions necessary for electronic submission. Until the revised solicitation is completed, Phase I applicants cannot prepare or submit proposals. However, interested applicants can access the temporary guidelines to review general information and topic descriptions.

The FY2007 USDA SBIR solicitation will include twelve broad topic areas: Forests and Related Resources; Plant Production and Protection (with separate review panels for Biology and Engineering); Animal Production and Protection; Air, Water and Soils; Food Science and Nutrition; Rural and Community Development; Aquaculture; Industrial Applications; Marketing and Trade; Animal Waste Management; and Small and Mid-Size Farms. Topic areas are anticipated to be similar for FY2007, and proposals are encouraged in priority research areas that include: Anti-bioterrorism approaches for the safety of the food supply, and protection of crops and forests, as well as livestock, aquaculture and wildlife; Alternative and Renewable Energy; and Agriculturally-Related Manufacturing.

The submission deadline is September 1, 2006. Note that all proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov, and applicants are strongly encouraged to begin the registration process early. For tips on registering with Grants.gov, see: http://grants.gov/assets/Grants.govRegistrationBrochure.pdf.

NSF Updates

There are a couple of notable changes for the National Science Foundation’s FY 2007 solicitation that opened May 13, 2006. One is that the Phase I award limit for STTR applications has been increased to $150,000 from $100,000; the award limit for SBIR proposals is unchanged at $100,000.

In addition, the NSF has instituted new reporting requirements. All grantees are now required to use the “Project Report” component of NSF’s FastLane System. Additional information on these reporting requirements can be viewed at: http://www.nsf.gov/eng/sbir/reporting.jsp.
2006 Venture Forum

The 2006 Venture Forum will be held June 28-29, 2006 in the San Jose Convention Center, San Jose, CA. A Technology Innovation Showcase will be featured on June 28 and will highlight promising emerging technologies from around the world. Two expert discussion panels tracks will include the Innovation Track and Investment Track. Sessions under the Innovation Track will include: Tech Transfer: New Models in University Innovation; The New Regionalism: Nature or Nurture?; The Earth is Flat: Mining Global Innovation; and Corporate R&D/Venturing: Strategies for Innovation and Collaboration. Sessions under the Investment Track will include: Venturing Forth: Where to VC?; The Cleantech Imperative: Promise or Pandora's Box?; Media Technology: Irrelevance or Irrelevance?; and Treading with Angels: Soft Touch, Sure Bet?

NIH Life Sciences Showcase Panels will be held on June 29, and will feature sessions on Biopharma: Fatter pipelines or Sinkholes? and Medical Technologies: Learning the Dance of the Device (Emerging Companies Rising Above the Noise).

Attendees will include VC and angel investors, policymakers and university leaders, and corporate licensing/business development executives seeking innovative technologies, as well as entrepreneurs looking for partnership opportunities.

For more information, visit: http://www.theventureforum.com/about.asp.

ACF Presolicitation Notice

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), of the Department of Health and Human Services, has issued a presolicitation notice for their upcoming SBIR contract solicitation (http://www.fbo.gov/spg/HHS/PSC/DAM/06Y000000/). The solicitation will be released on or about June 16, 2006, and will include the following topics: Identify, Develop and Demonstrate Management Model(s) and Appropriate Implementation Strategies, Including the Required Training and Technical Assistance, Designed to Enhance the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Financial Management Practices and Capabilities of Indian Tribal Governments (ACF-OPRE-01-06); Design, Develop and Test Effective and Efficient Comprehensive Community-Based Outreach Strategies Aimed at Improving Access to Child Support Enforcement Services by Hispanic Communities (OCSE-01-06); and A Longitudinal Analysis of the Effects of Marriage on Father Involvement, Parenting and Child Support (OCSE-02-06).

SBIR Listservs

Several agencies that participate in the SBIR/STTR programs have listservs that you can subscribe to in order to stay informed about their topics and solicitations. These agencies include the NIH (send an email to listserv@list.nih.gov and write “subscribe NIHSTTR Your Name” in the message body); DoD (send an email to sbirlist@listserv.dodsbir.net); the DOE (go to http://www.science.doe.gov/sbir/mailform.asp and complete and submit the form); and Homeland Security (go to http://www.davincinetbook.com/hsarpa/listserv/listserv.asp and complete and submit the form).
Key Solicitation Dates

- The National Science Foundation SBIR/STTR deadline is June 13, 2006.
- The DoD SBIR 2006.2 solicitation will open on or about June 14, 2006 and close July 14, 2006.
- The deadline for non-AIDS related topics for the NIH 2006 SBIR/STTR solicitations is August 1, 2006.
- The deadline for AIDS related topics for the NIH 2006 SBIR/STTR solicitations is September 1, 2006.
- The USDA FY 2007 Request for Applications is scheduled to be released June 1, 2006. The application deadline is September 1, 2006.
- The NASA SBIR/STTR solicitation will open on or about July 7, 2006. The application deadline is September 7, 2006.
- The DoD SBIR 2006.3 solicitation will open on or about September 13, 2006 and close October 13, 2006.

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

Did You Know?

Did you know that the DoD SBIR/STTR program is the largest among the 11 participating federal agencies? The DoD anticipates awarding approximately $1.2 billion in contracts during FY2006, just over half of the roughly $2 billion in funding awarded to small businesses annually through the SBIR/STTR programs. Well over a thousand solicitation topics were issued by the various DoD components in FY2005, resulting in over 3000 contracts from over 17,000 submitted proposals. Topics cover a wide range from biology and biowarfare defense to optoelectronics to software development and space technology to medical technologies and many more. Consider the DoD SBIR/STTR program if your company is seeking funding for research and development.

For more information, visit: http://www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/sbir/. To search for DoD topics, go to: http://www.dodsbir.net/Topics/Default.asp.

The DoD SBIR/STTR programs will award approximately $1.2 billion in contracts in FY 2006

DoD SBIR 2006.2 Solicitation

The Department of Defense released its SBIR 2006.2 solicitation on May 1, 2006. The participating DoD components are the Army, Navy, DARPA, and SOCOM.

Between May 1 and June 13, 2006, proposers may contact Topic Authors Directly to ask technical questions regarding the topics. Starting June 14, 2006, proposers are not permitted to contact Topic Authors directly, but may submit written questions through the SBIR Interactive Topic Information System (SITIS). The questioner and respondent will remain anonymous and all questions and answers will be posted electronically on SITIS for general viewing.

Proposals will be accepted beginning June 14, 2006. The application deadline is 6:00 am July 14, 2006. Note that proposals must be submitted electronically. For solicitation topics and proposal preparation instructions, go to: http://www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/sbir/solicitations/
Technology Spotlight

Characterization of Metal Plates by Alternating-Current Potential-Drop Method with a Four-Point Probe (ISURF #3191)

Tools for non-destructive evaluation of case hardened parts, such as metal billets or metal alloy engine parts, include eddy current and ultrasonic methods. However, these techniques suffer from drawbacks that include an inability to evaluate ferrous materials, and a decrease in accuracy as conductivity decreases for eddy currents and confined space restrictions for in-situ and tight geometries for ultrasound methods. To overcome these limitations, ISU researchers have developed a potential-drop method with a four point probe that uses alternating rather than direct current. As a result, this method requires fewer geometric corrections, and may give a larger voltage signal than existing direct current methods while using less current. In addition, this alternating current potential drop method enables accurate determination of magnetic permeability without the use of expensive and cumbersome instruments. This technique thus represents a simple way of measuring both electrical conductivity and magnetic permeability with a single instrument.

Advantages of this method are that it is simple (requires fewer geometric corrections than direct current methods), versatile (permits testing of ferrous metals), accurate (allows a greater number of material parameters to be examined), robust (may give a larger voltage signal than other direct current methods), and comprehensive (quantifies both electrical conductivity and magnetic permeability). Applications include non-destructive quantification of electrical conductivity and magnetic permeability of metal plates and non-destructive quantification of metal thickness when access is restricted to one side.

For more information on this and other technologies available for licensing, go to: 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.*