



National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Supplemental Funding for Minority-Serving Community College Research Teams

Dear Colleague Letter

The Directorate for Engineering's Office of Industrial Innovation (OII) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, in collaboration with the Directorate for Education and Human Resources' Division of Human Resource Development (HRD) invites all active SBIR/STTR Phase II grantees to participate in a new supplemental funding opportunity. The supplements for research teams are intended to foster partnership between Minority-Serving Community Colleges (MSCCs), which educate large numbers of underrepresented students, and the small business community. NSF is seeking to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in both academic and small business research by encouraging careers in science and engineering.

Through this supplemental program small businesses will gain access to faculty and students capable of contributing to the scientific research conducted by the small business while faculty and students will gain experience by working on research projects that lead to commercial products and processes. It is anticipated that this research collaboration will lead to continued partnership between the academic institutions and small business firms, which represent the largest employer of scientists and engineers.

OVERVIEW OF WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. The Small Business Minority-Serving Community College Research Teams Supplement (henceforth referred to as SBIR/STTR Phase IICC) will award research supplements to existing SBIR/STTR Phase II grantees that are able to host a research team from a MSCC. This supplement opportunity is intended to further SBIR/STTR Phase II research and facilitate progress toward their grant goals while providing a substantial scientific research experience for the MSCC research team.

Minority-Serving Community Colleges (MSCC): Historically Black Colleges, Hispanic-Serving Colleges, and Tribal Colleges are non-profit and whose highest degree awarded is the associate degree. A list of MSCCs can be found on the SBIR/STTR home page http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/supplemental_requests.jsp under *Phase IICC Eligible MSCCs*.

MSCC Research Teams: Must consist of at least one MSCC faculty member and at least one MSCC student. (Teams with additional students or faculty are highly encouraged if supported within the standard award amount.)

Faculty at Minority-Serving Community Colleges interested in identifying SBIR/STTR Phase II grantees should consult the NSF interactive award search system (<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/>). In the text box labeled *Search Award for* enter “SBIR Phase II” or “STTR Phase II” and check the box *Active Awards Only*.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Organization Limit: Only currently funded SBIR/STTR Phase II grantees are eligible to submit proposals for supplemental funding under this initiative.

PI Eligibility Limit: The Principal Investigator must be the PI of an active SBIR/STTR Phase II award.

Limit on Number of Proposals: None

AWARD INFORMATION

- Awards will be made as supplements to active SBIR/STTR Phase II awards;
- The maximum supplemental award amount is \$40,000;
- A minimum of 75% of the supplement is required to be used as a sub-award to the Minority-Serving Community College;
- A maximum of 25% of the supplement is available to the SBIR/STTR firm (including overhead);
- Thirty (30) awards are anticipated in Fiscal Year 2006; and

Awards are subject to the availability of funds.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Proposal Preparation Instructions. Proposals must be submitted according to the instructions for submitting supplemental funding requests found on the SBIR/STTR home page <http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/> under *Supplemental Requests*.

Budgetary Information. Budgets for SBIR/STTR Phase IICC supplemental proposals may not exceed \$40,000. 75% is required to be used as a sub-award to the Minority-Serving Community College and 25% for the SBIR/STTR firm including overhead. It is expected that \$1,200,000 will be available in Fiscal Year 2006 for this supplemental funding, pending availability of funds.

Deadline Dates. Supplemental requests must be received by **April 17th, 2006** in order to assure availability of funding for activities that start in the summer of 2006. SBIR/STTR grants must be active at the time of the supplement award.

PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

Proposals for supplemental funding submitted in response to this Dear Colleague Letter will be jointly reviewed by National Science Foundation program officers in the Office of Industrial Innovation, Directorate for Engineering and the Division of Human Resource Management, Directorate for Education and Human Resources.

CONTACT PERSONNEL

Questions about this letter should be directed to Juan Figueroa (703-292-7054, jfigueroa@nsf.gov) Office of Industrial Innovation, Directorate for Engineering, or Jessie DeAro (703-292-5350, jdearo@nsf.gov) Division of Human Resource Management, Directorate for Education and Human Resources.

Other Supplemental Opportunities of Interest

All active SBIR/STTR Phase II grantees are invited to participate in two other supplement opportunities; 1) Research Assistantships for High School Students (RAHSS) and 2) Supplemental Funding for Diversity Collaborations. Both of these opportunities can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/> under *Supplemental Requests*. Through these initiatives, NSF seeks to broaden participation in science and engineering, particularly women, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities in academic and small business research.

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