



National Science Foundation
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Supplemental Opportunity for SBIR/STTR Memberships in I/UCRCs

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 21, 2008
To: NSF Small Business Innovation Research Grantees (SBIR/STTR)
Industry/University Cooperative Research Center (I/UCRC) Directors
From: Dr. Kesh Narayanan, Division Director
Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships
Re: Supplemental Opportunity for SBIR/STTR Memberships in I/UCRCs

Dear Colleagues:

We invite supplemental requests for Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) grantees to join an Industry/University Cooperative Research Center (I/UCRC). The supplements are intended to accelerate the innovation process by partnering industry-relevant academic research with commercialization focused small business research. The supplements will enable small businesses to purchase annual memberships in I/UCRCs; thus opening the doors to the benefits of the centers' collaborative research endeavors, which are directed to the needs of specific industries.

Supplement Submission Window: Proposals may be submitted for consideration to this opportunity from October 1 to May 31 annually.

Document Replaced: This document replaces [NSF 07-055](#).

Company Eligibility: Only companies with current NSF SBIR/STTR Phase II and Phase IIB awards are eligible to directly apply for this opportunity. Eligible companies may request memberships into graduated I/UCRCs that remain committed to I/UCRC principles.

I/UCRC Eligibility: Only NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers with current center awards are eligible to directly apply for this opportunity and then only when a graduated NSF SBIR/STTR grantee wants to join the center. Centers with overdue reports are not eligible.

Graduated SBIR/STTR and I/UCRC Grantees: NSF graduated I/UCRCs, or graduated SBIR/STTR Phase II and IIB companies may be considered in the supplement request submitted by an eligible institution. A graduated institution for this opportunity is defined as one which has successfully completed its NSF award within five years of the supplement request.

Estimated Number of Awards: Approximately 20 to 35 awards will be made to grantees.

Limit on the number of supplements: None – NSF SBIR/STTR firms may join more than one I/UCRC. Centers can accept multiple NSF SBIR/STTRs.

Anticipated Funding Amount: Annual membership fees generally vary at each center from \$25,000 to \$100,000 per year. This supplement enables NSF SBIR/STTR grantee firms to purchase one or two year memberships in an I/UCRC at a reduced rate capped at \$5,000 per year for centers whose annual membership fee is \$50,000 or less. For centers with membership fees greater than \$50,000, a reduced rate cap of 10 percent of the I/UCRC's annual membership may be used. For example, an annual membership fee of \$75,000 would require 10 percent or \$7,500 from the NSF SBIR/STTR firm with NSF providing the balance. All awards are subject to the availability of funds.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SUPPLEMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) program stimulates entrepreneurship in this country through government support for research in small business. These small firms often need additional research to commercialize their products. One method of providing this needed research is by enabling small businesses to obtain memberships in an I/UCRC (see <http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/iucrc/directory/index.jsp> for a list). A major advantage of I/UCRC membership for many small businesses is access to royalty-free, non-exclusive rights to center generated Intellectual Property (IP) developed during the membership and an opportunity to meet other stakeholders with similar industry and research interests.

The I/UCRC program develops long-term partnerships among industry, academe, and government. The centers are catalyzed by a small investment from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and are primarily supported by center members, with NSF taking a supporting role in their development and evolution. I/UCRCs stimulate highly leveraged industry, university, and U.S. government cooperation by focusing on research recommended by Industrial Advisory Boards. A potential list of SBIR/STTR members can be viewed using the NSF award search tool at <http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/tab.do?dispatch=4> and confining the search to Element Code 5373 or 1591 for awards whose expiration date is within five years of the anticipated supplement request date. Details about the award and PI are viewable by clicking on the award number.

Supplement Preparation Instructions: Proposals for supplemental funding must be submitted through FastLane as a supplement. The supplement must contain a letter of endorsement from the I/UCRC site director that supports the membership request. The supplement must also contain a letter of commitment from the company wishing to join the center. Proposal supplement requests must be submitted by eligible companies with current NSF awards. I/UCRCs must submit the supplement request when a graduated NSF SBIR/STTR firm seeks membership in the center.

Proposals not following these instructions will be returned without review. Call the FastLane Help Desk at 1-800-673-6188 or e-mail fastlane@nsf.gov for user support concerning supplement submissions. The FastLane Help Desk answers general technical questions related to the use of the FastLane system. When contacting FastLane, inform the technician that you are required to apply for this opportunity as a supplement.

Required Reports: I/UCRCs must submit a report prior to the SBIR/STTR membership expiration that describes the interactions and benefits realized by both the firm and center.

Review: Proposals will be reviewed internally by NSF staff.

For More Information: Please contact one of the following program officials if you have questions about the SBIR/STTR - I/UCRC Membership Supplement.

- **SBIR/STTR companies** should contact Cheryl Albus, SBIR/STTR Program Director, telephone (703) 292-7050, e-mail calbus@nsf.gov
- **I/UCRCs** should contact Glenn Larsen, I/UCRC Program Director, telephone: (703) 292-8383, e-mail: glarsen@nsf.gov