

EPA & NSF Small Business Innovation Research Opportunities in Environmental Technologies

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) SBIR Phase I Solicitation is now closed and the next SBIR solicitation will open in March 2009. However, there are nearer term opportunities for SBIR funding of environmental technologies in the **National Science Foundation (NSF)** SBIR Phase I Solicitation closing on December 4, 2008. Nearly all of EPA's technology needs have significant synergy with this NSF Solicitation. EPA technology needs are described in the last Phase I Solicitation which is still available on the EPA SBIR Website (www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir).

There are linkages between EPA needs and NSF SBIR Topics. EPA technology needs that are covered in the current NSF solicitation include: Innovation in Manufacturing, Nanotechnology, Green Buildings, Drinking Water, Water and Wastewater, Air Pollution, Vehicle Emissions, Biofuels, Waste Management, Monitoring and Remote Sensing and Homeland Security.

In many cases EPA technology needs do not correspond exactly to NSF Topics but almost all EPA needs can find a corresponding NSF Topic. NSF Topics are very broad and include the descriptive phrase "technologies **include but are not limited to ...**" to allow small businesses to submit proposals that stimulate technological innovation. Most environmental technologies are in the NSF Topic, BIOTECH AND CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGIES (BC). There are also a few environmental technologies in the Electronics, Components and Engineering Systems (EL) topic. Environmental technologies in the BC Topic include: Agricultural Biotechnology, Environmental Biotechnology including water and wastewater treatment, Real World Sensors and Biosensors, Environmental Technologies, Bioenergy Technologies, BioBased Materials, Manufacturing Innovation in Biotechnology, Energy Transportation and Fuels, Materials for Sustainability, and Manufacturing Innovation in Chemical Technology.

The National Science Foundation SBIR Phase I Solicitation closes on December 4, 2008. Small businesses should carefully read the solicitation and comply with the proposal instructions, electronic application submission procedures, administrative requirements and technical issues. The NSF SBIR Solicitation is not identical with the EPA SBIR Solicitation. Businesses are submitting proposals to NSF and only NSF (not EPA) requirements apply. Note that NSF proposals must have sufficient commercial and technical potential substance to justify review, and NSF projects are expected to have high-risk and high potential commercial payback. Proposals must include at least one letter of technology support.

The NSF Program Director for the Biotech and Chemical Technologies (BC) Topic is F. C. Thomas Allnutt, telephone (703) 292-5332, email: tallnutt@nsf.gov. The NSF SBIR Phase I Solicitation is available at: www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir. Companies can talk with the Program Director at any time before the submission deadline but note that communication will become increasingly difficult as the deadline nears. Proposals are submitted electronically and are due December 4, 2008 by 5 PM local time. For questions about EPA environmental needs or the SBIR program at EPA, contact James Gallup, phone (202) 343-9703 or email: gallup.james@epa.gov or James Gentry, Phone (202) 343-9798 or email: gentry.james@epa.gov or April Richards, Phone (202) 343-9836 or email: richards.april@epa.gov.

The NSF SBIR Phase I Solicitation is NOW available at:

www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir