

DOE Notes

SBIR Funding

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) has selected 101 proposals from small, high-technology firms in 27 states for funding under its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. The proposals were chosen on the basis of technical merit from 699 proposals submitted in 26 technical, energy-related research topics ranging from coal conversion to wind energy.

Negotiations with the firms will begin immediately and the contracts, which will average \$50,000 for about six months, are expected to be awarded by mid-July, providing the proposed projects have not been funded by another federal agency.

Under the contracts, each firm will attempt to determine the feasibility of the proposed concept. After that, each will be eligible to compete for a second phase with funding up to \$500,000 over two years. During that time, the selected concepts would be further developed; it is expected that about half the original contracts will continue into the second phase.

The states with firms receiving awards are: Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

The SBIR program implements the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982. "The program aims at strengthening the role of small, innovative firms in areas of federally funded research and development," said Energy Secretary John S. Herrington. "This R&D, in turn, will help meet agency needs and serve as a base for technological innovation."

DOE expects the next SBIR solicitation to begin in the fall of 1986. The following topics were covered in the last solicitation:

- Coal Utilization and Conversion
- Enhanced Oil Recovery and Tar Sands
- Fossil Energy Instrumentation
- Advanced Industrial Sensors and Controls
- Wind Energy Research
- Tribology
- Biofuels Energy Systems
- Health and Environmental Effects Instrumentation
- Bioenvironmental Detection and Analyses
- Health Effects Methodologies
- Botanical Research Techniques and Instrumentation
- Materials Sciences
- Advanced Control Systems
- Plasma Diagnostics
- Plasma Confinement Systems Technology
- Fusion Energy Systems

- High Energy Physics Technology and Research
- High Energy Physics Data Processing and Detector Instrumentation
- Particle Accelerator Technology
- Nuclear Physics Instrumentation and Techniques
- Advanced Technology Sensors for Nuclear Reactors
- Nuclear Reactor Signal-Processing Technology
- Computer Application to Nuclear Systems
- Special Methods and Systems for Nuclear Reactors
- Space Nuclear Power Technology
- Total Nuclear Fuel Cycle Technology

For further information about the SBIR program, contact J. Sherwood, U. S. Department of Energy, Office of the Press Secretary, Washington, DC 20585; telephone (202) 252-5806.

NSF Notes

Budget Update

On May 20, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee marked up and reported S.2184, the FY 1987 Authorization Bill for NSF. The bill authorizes \$1685.7 million, equal to the administration's request. On May 22, the House S&T Committee marked up and reported H.R. 4184, The FY 1987 NSF Authorization Bill, which also authorizes the full budget request submitted by the administration. These actions, particularly in view of the importance of controlling the budget and reducing the deficit, confirm the Congress' position that support for fundamental research and education in the sciences and engineering is of very high priority for the United States at this time. Nevertheless, because the appropriations part of the process is just beginning, the final result is still not certain. The administration's budget request included \$117.35 million for the Division of Materials Research.

NSF Organization

The Foundation recently established a new Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering. It brings together several existing organizational elements from various parts of the Foundation including: the Office of Advanced Scientific Computing; the Division of Computer Research; the Division of Information Science and Technology; the Computer Engineering Program; and the Communications and Signal Processing Program. The new Directorate will be led by Gordon Bell, who joined the NSF on July 1.

Research Potential

NSF's statutory authority directs the Foundation to strengthen the United States' research potential. An important element in accomplishing this goal is encouraging women, minorities, handicapped and other persons who may be under-represented in

science and engineering to take full advantage of opportunities for careers in these areas. The fields of materials research are particularly important in this regard because of their key role in national security and economic competitiveness. They are also fields that have attracted very few women, minorities and handicapped. The Division of Materials Research has undertaken an effort to encourage such people to explore opportunities for developing their careers in materials research. We invite the views and suggestions of the community in further shaping our efforts toward this goal.

I.M. PIKUS

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Gail Oare, Editor
MRS BULLETIN
 9800 McKnight Road
 Suite 327
 Pittsburgh, PA 15237
 telephone (412) 367-3036