NSF SBIR / STTR Programs

SBIR Phase I Solicitation FY-2014: NSF 13-546
STTR Phase I Solicitation FY-2014: NSF 13-547

NCI SBIR Workshop on Federal Resources to Accelerate Commercialization
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NSF’s SBIR Program

• Seeks to fund transformational, game-changing technology
• Early stage platforms
• Strong focus on commercialization
• Encourages ties to private sector
Award Information

• Type of Award – fixed-price grants (SBIR: 6 months; STTR: 12 months)

• Award Amount:
  – Phase I not to exceed $150,000 (STTR: $225,000)
  – Phase II not to exceed $750,000

• Estimated Number of Awards – 200 Awards
  – No obligation to make a specific number of awards

• Anticipated Phase I Funding Amount - $30,000,000 (pending availability of funds)
Funding Criteria

• We fund **high-risk, high-payback** innovations
  – With the high potential for commercialization
  – That demonstrate strategic partnerships with research collaborators, customers, industry partners, and equity investors

• We do NOT fund
  – Basic research
  – Clinical Research
  – *Evolutionary* optimization of existing products and processes or modifications to broaden the scope of an existing product, process or application
  – Analytical or “market” studies of technologies
Merit Review Criteria

• Intellectual Merit - Quality of the Research
  – A sound approach for establishing technical and commercial feasibility
  – Qualified technical team
  – Sufficient access to resources
  – Significantly advances “state-of-the-art”

• Broader Impact – Potential impact on society
  – Commercial and societal benefits
  – Marketable product
  – Commercialization track record
  – Business expertise
  – Intellectual Property/Other Competitive advantages
Merit Review Criteria

• Commercialization Potential:
  – The company’s strategic vision
  – The addressable market opportunity
    • Is this an enabling technology
  – The company/team
    • Business and commercialization experience
  – The product features and benefits compared to the competition
  – Financing and revenue model
• Positioned to attract additional investment
Proposal Guidelines

- **Phase I**
  - Feasibility and proof-of-concept research focus

- **Phase II (must receive a Phase I award to be eligible to submit a Phase II proposal)**
  - Prototype development and testing research focus

Industrial Innovation & Partnerships – Small Business Partnerships
www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/
Proposal Guidelines

• Successful proposals
  – Provide evidence of a commercially viable product, process, device, or system
  – Meet an important social or economic need
Topics

• Four broad topic areas:
  • Biological and Chemical Technologies (BC)
  • Education Applications (EA)
  • Electronics, Information and Communication technologies (EI)
  • Nanotechnology, Advanced Materials, Manufacturing (NM)
Biomedical and Healthcare Topics

- Smart Healthcare (New)
- Pharmaceutical Manufacturing (New)
- Materials for Biomedical Applications
- Diagnostic Assays and Platforms
- Drug Delivery
- Tissue Engineering Regenerative Medicine
- Biomedical Engineering
- Biomechanics (New)
- Medical Imaging Technologies
Doing Business with NSF

• NSF is not the Final Customer; NSF is not buying your product
• NSF has broad market-driven technology topics: You identify the problem/opportunity, propose the technological solution, and devise your business strategy
• NSF wants to see you commercialize your research successfully
• NSF provides incentives to encourage you to find investment $$ (Phase IB and Phase IIB Supplemental funding)
Top Reasons to Seek SBIR Funding

• Provides funding for technologies on a path toward commercialization
• Provides “pre-seed” funding to demonstrate proof-of-concept
• Not a loan/no repayment
• Provides validation, recognition, visibility
• May be leveraged to attract investment/partnerships
• Allows small business to retain IP
• Values/encourages/facilitates partnerships, which enable success

www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/
Questions?

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