

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Cooperative State Research,
Education, and Extension Service****Small Business Innovation Research
Grants Program for Fiscal Year 1998;
Solicitation of Applications**

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research,
Education and Extension Service,
USDA.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that under the authority of the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-219), as amended (15 U.S.C. 638) and Section 630 of the Act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies programs for fiscal year ending September 30, 1987, and for other purposes, as made applicable by Section 101(a) of Public Law Number 99-591, 100 Stat. 3341, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) expects to award project grants for certain areas of research to science-based small business firms through phase I of its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grants Program.

DATES: All phase I proposals must be received at USDA by September 4, 1997. Proposals not received by this date will be returned to the proposing organization without evaluation or consideration for an award, with the following exceptions. Proposals received after September 4, 1997, will be accepted provided they are postmarked (1) September 3, 1997, if sent by overnight courier; (2) September 2, 1997, if sent by priority mail; (3) or August 28, 1997, if sent by regular first class mail.

ADDRESSES: All proposals must be submitted to the following address:
Proposal Services Unit, Grants
Management Branch, Office of
Extramural Programs, Cooperative
State Research, Education, and
Extension Service, U.S. Department of
Agriculture, STOP 2245, 1400
Independence Avenue, S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20250-2245.

Note: The address for hand-delivered proposals or proposals submitted using an express mail or overnight courier service is:

Proposal Services Unit, Grants
Management Branch, Office of
Extramural Programs, Cooperative
State Research, Education, and
Extension Service, U.S. Department of
Agriculture, Room 303, Aerospace
Center, 901 D Street, S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20024, Telephone:
(202) 401-5048.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr.
Charles F. Cleland; Director, SBIR
Program; Cooperative State Research,
Education, and Extension Service; U.S.
Department of Agriculture; STOP 2243;
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.;
Washington, D.C. 20250-2243.
Telephone: (202) 401-4002. Facsimile:
(202) 401-6070.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This program will be administered by the Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. Firms with strong scientific research capabilities in the topic areas listed below are encouraged to participate. Objectives of the three-phase program include stimulating technological innovation in the private sector, strengthening the role of small businesses in meeting Federal research and development needs, increasing private sector commercialization of innovations derived from USDA-supported research and development efforts, and fostering and encouraging participation of women-owned and socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns in technological innovation.

The total amount expected to be available for phase I of the SBIR Program in fiscal year 1998 is approximately \$4,000,000. The solicitation is being announced to allow adequate time for potential recipients to prepare and submit applications by the closing date of September 4, 1997. The research to be supported is in the following topic areas:

1. Forests and Related Resources
2. Plant Production and Protection
3. Animal Production and Protection
4. Air, Water and Soils
5. Food Science and Nutrition
6. Rural and Community Development
7. Aquaculture
8. Industrial Applications

9. Marketing and Trade

The award of any grants under the provisions of this solicitation is subject to the availability of appropriations.

This program is subject to the provisions found at 7 CFR Part 3403, as amended by 61 FR 25366, May 20, 1996, and 62 FR 26168, May 12, 1997. These provisions set forth procedures to be followed when submitting grant proposals, rules governing the evaluation of proposals and the awarding of grants, and regulations relating to the post-award administration of grant projects. In addition, USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, (7 CFR Part 3015), Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace (Grants) (7 CFR Part 3017, as amended by 61 FR 250), New Restrictions on Lobbying (7 CFR Part 3018), and Managing Federal Credit Programs (7 CFR Part 3) apply to this program. Copies of 7 CFR Part 3403, 7 CFR Part 3015, 7 CFR Part 3017, 7 CFR Part 3018, and 7 CFR Part 3 may be obtained by writing or calling the office indicated below.

The solicitation, which contains research topic descriptions and detailed instructions on how to apply, may be obtained by writing or calling the office indicated below. Please note that applicants who submitted SBIR proposals for fiscal year 1997 or who have recently requested placement on the list for fiscal year 1998 will automatically receive a copy of the fiscal year 1998 solicitation.

Proposal Services Unit, Grants
Management Branch, Office of
Extramural Programs, Cooperative
State Research, Education, and
Extension Service, U.S. Department of
Agriculture, STOP 2245, 1400
Independence Avenue, S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20250-2245,
Telephone: (202) 401-5048.

Done at Washington, D.C., this 27th day of
June 1997.

B.H. Robinson,

*Administrator, Cooperative State Research,
Education, and Extension Service.*

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