

awards. However, the decrease in cost sharing will not be applied retroactively.

Finally, based on prior experience with community-based organizations, MBDA has determined that it is in the interest of the MBDC program to encourage the participation of such organizations in the competition to operate MBDCs. Therefore, MBDA has determined that it is an agency priority to extend the policy of allowing 10 bonus points during the evaluation process to community-based organizations, which was limited to certain designated locations in the **Federal Register** notice of May 31, 1996, to all future MBDC solicitations. The MBDC evaluation scoring system will add 10 bonus points to the applications of community-based organizations which receive a programmatically acceptable and responsive score. Each qualifying application will receive the full 10 points. Community-based applicant organizations are those organizations currently located within the geographic service area designated in the solicitation for the award, and whose headquarters and/or principal place of business have been located within the geographic service area during the last five years. Where an applicant organization has been in existence for fewer than five years or has been present in the geographic service area for fewer than five years, the individual years of experience of the applicant organization's principals may be applied toward the requirement of five years of organization experience. The individual years of experience must have been acquired in the geographic service area which is the subject of the solicitation.

Statement of Policy

In order to implement its revised program in support of the minority business sector, MBDA hereby revises its policy of requiring a 40% cost-share requirement for MBDC awards in certain locations and establishes a cost-share requirement for all prospective MBDC awards of at least 15% of total project cost for financial assistance recipients. In addition, the cost-share requirement of existing MBDC operators will be decreased from 40% to 15% at the time of renewal and/or extension of awards. However, this decrease in cost sharing will not be applied retroactively. MBDA will also extend the policy of allowing 10 bonus points during the evaluation process to community-based organizations, which was limited to certain designated locations in the **Federal Register** notice of May 31, 1996, to all future MBDC solicitations.

Executive Order 12866

This policy revision was determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

Administrative Procedure Act

Since this notice of policy revision is a matter relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts under 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2), the requirements of section 553 do not apply.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act does not apply to this notice of policy change because the notice was not required to be promulgated as a proposed rule before issuance in final form by 5 U.S.C. § 553 or by any other law. As a result, neither an initial nor final Regulatory Analysis was required, and none has been prepared.

Executive Order 12612

This policy statement does not contain policies with Federalism implications sufficient to warrant preparation of a Federalism assessment under Executive Order 12612.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 1512 and Executive Order 11625.

Dated: June 4, 1998.

Juanita E. Berry,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, Minority Business Development Agency.

Courtland Cox,

Director, Minority Business Development Agency.

[FR Doc. 98-15869 Filed 6-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-21-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Notice of Government Owned Invention Available for Licensing and Prospective Grant of Exclusive Patent License

SUMMARY: The invention listed below is owned by the United States Government, as represented by the Department of Commerce. The Government's ownership interest in the invention is available for licensing in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 and 37 CFR part 404 to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of Federally funded research and development.

This Notice is also in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 209(c)(1) and 37 CFR 404.7(a)(1)(i) that the National Institute of Standards and Technology ("NIST"), U.S. Department of Commerce, is

contemplating the grant of an exclusive license to practice the invention embodied in the invention listed below, U.S. Patent Number 5,620,857, titled, "Optical Trap for Detection and Quantitation of Subzeptomolar Quantities of Analytes," in the field of use of diagnostic, analytical and research applications for the detection, measurement and/or monitoring of analytes, and in the licensed territory of the United States of America, its territories, possessions and commonwealths and all other countries in which NIST obtains patent protection at the request and expense of Bayer Corporation, to Bayer Corporation, having a place of business in Tarrytown, NY.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing no later than September 14, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Prospective Grant must be submitted to: Terry Lynch, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Industrial Partnerships Program, Building 820, Room 213, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Terry Lynch, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Industrial Partnership Program, Building 820, Room 213, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The invention available for licensing is:

NIST Docket Number: 94-042.

Title: Optical Trap for the Detection and Quantitation of Subzeptomolar Quantities of Analytes.

Abstract: Tightly focused beams of laser light are used as "optical tweezers" to trap and manipulate polarizable objects such as microspheres of glass or latex with diameters on the order of 4.5 micrometers. When analytes are allowed to adhere to the microspheres, small quantities of these analytes can be manipulated, thus allowing their detection and quantitation even when amounts and concentrations of the analytes are extremely small. Illustrative examples include measuring the strength needed to break antibody-antigen bonds and the detection of DNA sequences.

The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within ninety days from the date of this published Notice, NIST receives written evidence and argument which establish that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Dated: July 9, 1998.

Robert E. Hebner,

Acting Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 98-15867 Filed 6-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 980413092-8092-1]

RIN 0648-ZA39

NOAA Climate and Global Change Program, Program Announcement

AGENCY: Office of Global Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Climate and Global Change Program represents a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) contribution to evolving national and international programs designed to improve our ability to observe, understand, predict, and respond to changes in the global environment. This program builds on NOAA's mission requirements and longstanding capabilities in global change research and prediction. The NOAA Program is a key contributing element of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), which is coordinated by the interagency Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources. NOAA's program is designed to complement other agency contributions to that national effort.

DATES: Strict deadlines for submission to the FY 1999 process are: Letters of intent must be received at OGP no later than July 16, 1998. Full proposals must be received at OGP no later than September 30, 1998. Applicants who have not received a response to their letter of intent by August 21, 1998, should contact the program office. The time from target date to grant award varies with program area. We anticipate that review of full proposals will occur during late 1998 and funding should begin during the spring of 1999 for most approved projects. May 1, 1999, should be used as the proposed start date on proposals, unless otherwise directed by the appropriate Program Officer. Applicants should be notified of their status within 6 months. All proposals must be submitted in accordance with the guidelines below. Failure to heed these guidelines may result in proposals being returned without review.

ADDRESSES: Proposals may be submitted to: Office of Global Programs, National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1225, Silver Spring, MD 20910-5603.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Irma duPree at the above address, or at phone: (301) 427-2089 ext. 17, fax: (301) 427-2073, Internet: duPree@ogp.noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Funding Availability

NOAA believes that the Climate and Global Change Program will benefit significantly from a strong partnership with outside investigators. Current Program plans assume that over 50% of the total resources provided through this announcement will support extramural efforts, particularly those involving the broad academic community. Because of ongoing debates on the Federal budget, it is uncertain how much money will be available through this announcement. Actual funding levels will depend upon the final FY 1999 budget appropriations. This Program Announcement is for projects to be conducted by investigators both inside and outside of NOAA, primarily over a one, two or three year period. The funding instrument for extramural awards will be a grant unless it is anticipated that NOAA will be substantially involved in the implementation of the project, in which case the funding instrument should be a cooperative agreement. Examples of substantial involvement may include but are not limited to proposals for collaboration between NOAA or NOAA scientists and a recipient scientist or technician and/or contemplation by NOAA of detailing Federal personnel to work on proposed projects. NOAA will make decisions regarding the use of a cooperative agreement on a case-by-case basis. Funding for non-U.S. institutions and contractual arrangements for services and products for delivery to NOAA are not available under this announcement. Matching share is not required by this program.

Program Authority

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 44720 (b); 33 U.S.C. 883d, 883e; 15 U.S.C. 2904; 15 U.S.C. 2931 et seq.

(CFDA No. 11.431)—Climate and Atmospheric Research: Program Objectives

The long term objective of the Climate and Global Change Program is to provide reliable predictions of climate change and associated regional implications on time scales ranging from seasons to a century or more.

NOAA believes that climate variability across these time scales can be modeled with an acceptable probability of success and are the most relevant for fundamental social concerns. Predicting the behavior of the coupled ocean-atmosphere-land surface system will be NOAA's primary contribution to a successful national effort to deal with observed or anticipate changes in the global environment. NOAA has a range of unique facilities and capabilities that can be applied to Climate and Global Change Investigations. Proposals that seek to exploit these resources in collaborative efforts between NOAA and extramural investigators are encouraged.

Program Priorities

In FY 1999, NOAA will give priority attention to individual proposals in the areas listed below. Investigators are asked to specify clearly which of these areas is being pursued. The names, affiliations and phone numbers of relevant Climate and Global Change Program Officers are provided. Funding for some programs may be limited to ongoing projects or may be used to fund projects proposed in FY 1998 that were unable to be funded due to budgetary circumstances. Prospective applicants should communicate with Program Officers for information on priorities within program elements and prospects for funding. Applicants should send letters of intent and proposals to the NOAA Office of Global Programs rather than to individual Program Officers.

- **Aerosols**—The Aerosols Project focuses on research to improve the predictive understanding of the role of anthropogenic aerosols in climate forcing. Due to limited funds anticipated in FY 1999, all funding is expected to be used to maintain support for ongoing research activities. Unfortunately, therefore, we are unable to seek applications to fund new starts. For further information contact: Joel M. Levy, NOAA/Office of Global Programs, 301-427-2089 ext. 21, Internet: levy@ogp.noaa.gov.

- **Atlantic Climate Change Program (ACCP)**—NOAA/OGP is currently developing a refocused, follow-on program to ACCP that will address modes of climate variability in the Atlantic sector. This new program is being developed in close collaboration with the International Climate Variability and Predictability Program (CLIVAR). A science plan for the emerging Atlantic program is in preparation and it is anticipated that a program announcement will be issued later in FY 1999.

- **Atmospheric Chemistry**—The Atmospheric Chemistry Project focuses