

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Cooperative State Research,
Education, and Extension Service****Small Business Innovation Research
Grants Program for Fiscal Year 1996;
Solicitation of Applications**

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 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. This program will be administered by the Office of Grants and Program Systems, 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 1996 is approximately \$3,500,000. The solicitation is being announced to allow adequate time for potential recipients to prepare and submit applications by the closing date of September 1, 1995. 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. 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, as amended (7

CFR Part 3015), Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace (Grants) (7 CFR Part 3017), 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 1995 or who have recently requested placement on the list for fiscal year 1996 will automatically receive a copy of the fiscal year 1996 solicitation.

Proposal Services Branch, Awards Management Division, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ag Box 2245, Washington, D.C. 20250-2245, Telephone: (202) 401-5048.

Done at Washington, D.C., this 22nd day of May 1995.

William D. Carlson,

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