

EIDL Loan Application Deadline Date: 05/01/2009.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to:

U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: M. Mitravich, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, SW., Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of the President's major disaster declaration for the State of Texas, dated 07/31/2008 is hereby amended to establish the incident period for this disaster as beginning 07/22/2008 and continuing through 08/01/2008.

All other information in the original declaration remains unchanged.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 59002 and 59008)

Herbert L. Mitchell,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. E8-18916 Filed 8-14-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration # 11288 and # 11289]

Wisconsin Disaster Number WI-00013

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Amendment 8.

SUMMARY: This is an amendment of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of Wisconsin (FEMA-1768-DR), dated 06/14/2008.

Incident: Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding.

Incident Period: 06/05/2008 through 07/25/2008.

Effective Date: 07/29/2008.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 09/15/2008.

EIDL Loan Application Deadline Date: 03/13/2009.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, SW., Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of the President's major disaster declaration for the State of Wisconsin, dated 06/14/2008 is hereby amended to

extend the deadline for filing applications for physical damages as a result of this disaster to 09/15/2008.

All other information in the original declaration remains unchanged.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 59002 and 59008)

Herbert L. Mitchell,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

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BILLING CODE 8025-01-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

RIN 3245-AF61

Small Business Innovation Research Program Policy Directive

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice of proposed amendments to Policy Directive.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) proposes to adjust the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program award threshold amounts to offset the effect of inflation that has occurred since the amounts were last set in 1992. Current threshold amounts were set by Congress in 1992 at \$100,000 for Phase I awards and \$750,000 for Phase II awards. SBA is authorized by statute to adjust the award amounts once every 5 years to reflect economic adjustments and programmatic considerations. SBA proposes to increase the award amounts to \$150,000 and \$1,000,000, respectively, to account for increases in the costs of performing research and development.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before September 15, 2008. SBA intends to make these comments available to the public.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by RIN 3245-AF61 by any of the following methods: (1) Federal Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>, follow the instructions for submitting comments; (2) Mail: Office of Technology, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416; or (3) Hand Delivery/Courier: Edsel Brown, Assistant Director, Office of Technology, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edsel Brown, Assistant Director, Office of Technology, at (202) 205-7343. You may also e-mail questions to technology@sba.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The statutory purpose of the SBIR program is to stimulate innovation in the economy through a stronger role for innovative small business concerns in Federally-funded research and research and development (R/R&D). The SBIR program is a competitive program wherein agencies offer solicitations for proposals and award-phased funding agreements for R/R&D to meet stated agency needs or missions. Phase I and Phase II agreements are funded through the portion of agency budgets reserved by statute for the program. Phase III funding comes from other Federal or non-federal sources.

At the inception of the SBIR program in 1982, award guideline, or threshold, amounts were established at \$50,000 for Phase I and \$500,000 for Phase II. SBA's first SBIR policy directive required agencies to notify SBA within 30 days after award of any funding agreement exceeding these amounts, and to justify the award. 48 FR 38794, 38802 (Aug. 26, 1983). In the program's 1992 reauthorization legislation, Congress established award thresholds of up to \$100,000 for Phase I and up to \$750,000 for Phase II. SBA has statutory authority to increase these award amounts to adjust for inflation or other economic or programmatic considerations once every five years. 15 U.S.C. 638(j)(2)(D).

The regulatory guideline for the SBIR award amounts can be found in § 7(h)(1) of the SBIR Policy Directive. 67 FR 60072, 60088 (Sept. 24, 2002). Participating agencies are to keep the majority of their awards close to these amounts; however, they may exceed them occasionally, provided they submit to SBA a written justification for doing so. SBIR Policy Directive, § 7(h)(2), 67 FR 60088. In addition, agencies have the flexibility to make awards at levels below these amounts.

As the costs of conducting R&D have increased over time, along with general price level increases and increases in wages and salaries, the real value of a typical, guideline amount, SBIR award has declined. Since 1992, the general price level has increased by almost 39 percent. SBA has determined that to restore the average economic value of the SBIR awards, the award threshold amounts should be increased at this time. SBA's analysis is explained in further detail below.

B. Proposed Amendments

SBA proposes to amend Sections 7(h) and 10(b) of the current SBIR Policy Directive to raise SBIR Phase I award threshold amounts from \$100,000 to \$150,000, and Phase II award threshold