

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Cooperative State Research Grants  
Program for Fiscal Year 1997;  
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 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. This program will be administered by the Office of Extramural Programs, 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 1997 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 5, 1996. 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 3915), 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 1996 or who have recently requested placement on the list for fiscal year 1997 will automatically receive a copy of the fiscal year 1997 solicitation.

Proposal Services, Grants Management Branch, Office of Extramural Programs, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AG Box 2245, Washington, DC 20250-2245, Telephone: (202) 401-5048

Done at Washington, DC, this 18th day of June 1996.

B.H. Robinson,

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

[FR Doc. 96-16033 Filed 6-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-M