Army SBIR Newsletter

SBIR PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE http://www.armysbir.com/

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Photo by Spc. Mike Pryor
October 28, 2005
Spc. Ronald Turner provides security for fellow Soldiers searching for insurgents and weapons in Afghanistan.

The purpose of the this newsletter is to provide the small business and Army, DoD and other government leadership with additional insight into the vital contributions made by the Army SBIR program to Army R&D.

Army SBIR Vision

To be the Army's premier source of innovative technology solutions, providing direct access to America's high-tech small business Research & Development community, enabling our Soldiers deployed around the world.

Army SBIR Helpdesk

The Army SBIR help desk is provided to assist small businesses and Government participants with questions and issues regarding the Army SBIR program. The Army SBIR help desk is operated Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm (except on Federal holidays). You may reach the held desk by email at army.sbir@us.army.mil or by calling (703) 806-2085.

SBIR Program Office

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New PM, Army SBIR

I would like to introduce myself as the new Program Manager for the Army SBIR Program. I have a long history of supporting research for the Department of Defense (DoD), resulting in over twenty-seven years experience. I have worked extensively with the Army Program and Budget, providing leadership, guidance and supervision to a headquarters staff that integrates Army technology and budget processes valued at approximately $2.7B annually. In addition, I have worked with the Army's Science and Technology community, management, and business offices, spending the last seven years with the Army's Materiel Command and Research, Development and Engineering Command, pioneering a new management paradigm to integrate Science and Technology initiatives across multiple Army laboratories, Industry and Academy.

I would like to thank John Pucci for serving as Acting Program Manager for the last few months and am pleased to announce that he will remain as a permanent member of the Army SBIR team. I would also like to introduce MAJ Shane Sullivan who will join the team as the Deputy PM. I look forward to working with all of you and hope to make a great program even better.

Christopher S. Rinaldi, P.E.
PM, Army SBIR

Spotlight on Army SBIR Program Coordinators

Army SBIR Program Coordinators (PCs) administer the program at each Army laboratory, research center, and acquisition organization that participates in the SBIR Program. Responsibilities of PCs include identifying, assigning, and supervising members of their organizations who have the requisite technical expertise for topic preparation and evaluation of proposals; ensuring successful and timely execution of the source selection process; facilitating Phase I and Phase II contract awards; overseeing the debriefing process; conducting outreach, to include internal and external communication on SBIR matters within their organization; and transitioning SBIR developed technologies to Phase III.

Photo by Spc. Gul A. Alisan, December 21, 2005. A Soldier from Company A, 720th Military Police Battalion, 151st Field Artillery Regiment, reacts to small-arms fire during a patrol in the Al Madain section of Baghdad

PCs should be considered the focal point for questions related to proposal selections/debriefs and awarding of contracts, as well as suggestions for research topics specific to the organization they represent. A list of PCs and their contact information can be found at http://armysbir.com/sbir/sbir_poc_lc.htm.

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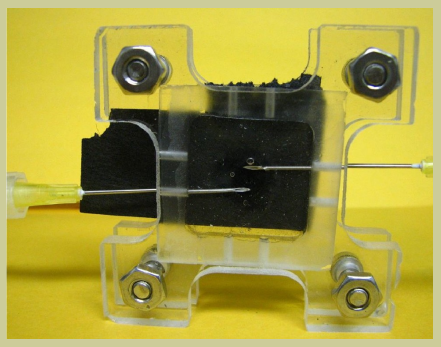
Featured Army SBIR Success Story

CFD Research Corporation
www.cfdrc.com
Huntsville, AL

US Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development & Engineering Command

Biobattery System

The need for a renewable micropower source has long been recognized, and is increasingly relevant in today's mobile, energy hungry world. Computational Fluid Dynamics Research Corporation (CFDRC) has developed a Biobattery system to harvest energy from biological fuels (such as sugars) directly into electrical energy. The Biobattery system contains high efficiency electrodes that use a unique combination of biological catalysts, carbon nanotubes and nanoparticles for effective extraction of electrical energy. The system offers several advantages such as operation at ambient temperature, neutral pH, low manufacturing cost, superior selectivity, and renewability. The availability of fuel (glucose) in the Army supply chain also makes the use of the Biobattery logistically favorable.



The primary outcome of this project will be a working Biobattery system that can power applications for both military and civilian needs. Military applications include power sources for the Warfighter Physiological Status Monitor device, as well as wireless sensor networks used for monitoring physical or environmental conditions, sniper tracking, battlefield surveillance, healthcare monitoring, and motion detection. An autonomous power source in inaccessible areas (e.g. in hostile territory) would eliminate the need for battery changes. Civilian applications in the microelectronics industry include Biobattery-based trickle-charging of Lithium-ion batteries used in cell phones and PDAs. Conservative estimates of the power market (based on microelectronics needs alone) exceed several hundred million dollars. Applications in the life science area are also foreseen with implanatable monitors and therapeutic/drug delivery systems.

PHASE III IMPACTS

CFDRC has received nearly $2M in additional funding from the U.S. Army to adapt the Biobattery system for specific Army applications. This is supplemented by nearly $1M in funding for development of spin-off technologies from the Biobattery effort.

Photo by Department of Defense, June 23, 2004
From his vantage point in his M1A1 Abrams tank, Staff Sgt. Keith Eudy communicates through a microphone while scanning Baghdad streets for possible enemy activity and suspicious items that might indicate explosive devices.

Photo by the Department of the Army, Oct. 24, 2005
Task Force Baghdad Soldiers patrol an east Baghdad neighborhood

SOLICITATION DATES:

09.1	
Solicitation Opens	08 Dec 08
Solicitation Closes: Phase I proposals due	14 Jan 09

09.2	
Solicitation Opens	18 May 09
Solicitation Closes: Phase I proposals due	17 June 09

DATES TO REMEMBER THIS

Fall National SBIR Conference	Nov 12-14

www.ccat.us/sbir_conference_08

26th Army Science Conference	Dec 1-4

www.asc2008.com

Defense Manufacturing Conference	Dec 1-4

www.dmc2008.com

Did you know…
The 2008 Army Achievement Awards Ceremony will take place on 25 November at the Pentagon, with Dr. John Parmentola. The Achievement Awards recognizes exceptional Army SBIR projects based on originality and innovation of research, relevance of the research to the Army mission, and immediate commercialization potential of the research.

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