

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH**  
**PHASE I**

**RFP# PR-NC-09-10319**

**ISSUE DATE: March 19, 2009**

**CLOSING DATE: May 20, 2009 \***

\* **CAUTION** - See Section V., Paragraph J.9(c), Instructions to Offerors, Concerning Late Proposals and Modifications.

Your proposal with an **original and two (2) copies** (including all appendices) shall be received at one of the following addresses by **12:00 p.m. (Noon) local time on May 20, 2009**. Offerors are encouraged to also include one CD-ROM with a Portable Document Form (PDF) copy of your proposal.

**U.S. MAIL:**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Solicitation No. PR-NC-09-10319 - SBIR Phase I  
Closing Date: May 20, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)  
Attention: Stacey Passwaters, SBIR Phase I  
RTP Procurement Operations Division (E105-02)  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

**HAND-CARRIED/COURIER ADDRESS:** (Includes U.S. Postal Service Express mail requiring delivery signature)

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RTP Procurement Operations Division (E105-02)  
4930 Old Page Road  
Durham, NC 27703

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## **SBIR PHASE I SOLICITATION**

### **I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

A. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites small business firms to submit research proposals under this Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Solicitation. The SBIR program is a phased process uniform throughout the Federal Government of soliciting proposals and awarding funding agreements for research (R) or research and development (R&D) to meet stated agency needs or missions.

EPA is interested in advanced technologies that address GREEN BUILDINGS and EPA TECHNOLOGY NEEDS. The following topics are included in this solicitation: Green Building Materials and Systems, Innovation in Manufacturing, Nanotechnology, Greenhouse Gases, Drinking Water and Water Monitoring, Water Infrastructure, Air Pollution, Biofuels and Vehicle Emissions Reduction, Waste Management and Monitoring, and Homeland Security. The proposed research must directly pertain to EPA's environmental mission and must be responsive to EPA program interests included in the topic descriptions in this solicitation. (See page 2 for a summary listing of all research topics included in this solicitation.)

In order to facilitate proposal reviews by external peer reviewers with specialized expertise and by EPA technical personnel with focused program needs and priorities, offerors must designate a research topic for their proposal. The same proposal may not be submitted under more than one topic. An organization may, however, submit separate proposals on different topics, or different proposals on the same topic, as long as the proposals are not duplicates of the same research principle modified to fit the topic. If such duplicates are submitted, only one will be reviewed. Refer to Sections IV, V, and VI for additional requirements. Where similar research is discussed under more than one topic, the offeror shall choose the topic most relevant to the proposed research. It is the complete responsibility of offerors to select and identify the best topic for their proposals.

## **SBIR PHASE I RESEARCH TOPICS**

### **GREEN BUILDING**

- A. GREEN BUILDING MATERIALS AND SYSTEMS
  - Building Materials and Site Management
  - Energy and Indoor Environmental Quality
  - Water Use and Management

### **EPA TECHNOLOGY NEEDS**

- B. INNOVATION IN MANUFACTURING
- C. NANOTECHNOLOGY
- D. GREENHOUSE GASES
- E. DRINKING WATER AND WATER MONITORING
- F. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
- G. AIR POLLUTION
  - Air Pollution Control
  - Air Pollution Monitoring
- H. BIOFUELS AND VEHICLE EMISSIONS REDUCTION
  - Ethanol, Biodiesel and Other Biofuels
  - Diesel Construction and Truck Retrofits
- I. WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING
  - Cleanup of Contaminated Sediments
  - Waste-to-Energy Systems
  - Hazardous Waste Monitoring
- J. HOMELAND SECURITY
  - Decontamination
  - Detection
  - Microbial Viability Assessment
  - Drinking Water and Wastewater Security

B. Offerors are responsible for submitting proposals, and any modifications or revisions, so as to reach the Government office designated in this solicitation by the time specified in this solicitation. See Section V, Paragraph J.9(c), Instructions to Offerors, concerning Late Proposals and Modifications.

**THIS SOLICITATION IS FOR PHASE I PROPOSALS ONLY.**

To stimulate and foster technological innovation, including increasing private sector applications of Federal research or R&D, EPA's program follows the SBIR program's uniform process:

(1) **PHASE I.** Phase I involves a solicitation of proposals to conduct feasibility related experimental research or R&D related to described agency requirements. The objective of this phase is to determine the technical feasibility and preliminary commercialization potential of the proposed effort and the quality of performance of the small concern with a relatively small agency investment before consideration of further Federal support in Phase II. The Government is not obligated to fund any specific Phase I proposal. The maximum dollar amount of awards under this Phase I solicitation is \$70,000 and the term of performance should not exceed six months.

(2) **PHASE II.** Phase II proposals may only be submitted by Phase I awardees invited to submit proposals. Phase II is the principal research or R&D effort and Phase II projects should normally be completed in 24 months. The objective is to continue the research or R&D initiated under Phase I and work toward commercialization of the technology. Phase II awards are expected to include full scale testing of the technology, but may not necessarily complete the total research and development that may be required to satisfy commercial or federal needs beyond the SBIR program. Completion of the research and development may be through Phase III.

It is anticipated that approximately 10 Phase II awards will be made, each with a dollar amount of \$225,000 and 24 - month term of performance. For Phase II, the Agency is planning to require two Phase II Options: (1) Phase II Commercialization Option under which Phase II offerors shall submit a proposal for \$70,000 additional funding to expand R&D efforts to accelerate the project from full scale testing and demonstration to full commercialization; and (2) Phase II Verification Testing Option under which Phase II offerors shall submit a proposal for up to \$50,000 additional funding to facilitate third party R/R&D verification testing that will improve the quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) of the technology and accelerate the acceptance and use of improved and more cost-effective technologies. EPA federal funds must be designated strictly for advancing the research related elements of the project. The entire Phase II proposal including the options will be evaluated together. The Agency would have a unilateral right to exercise the options after EPA's acceptance of the company's option documentation. Documentation for the Phase II Commercialization Option are receipts showing that at least \$100,000 was transferred to the contractor from one or more

third party investors, such as a venture capital firm, an individual "angel" investor, state or local funding source, or another company under a partnership, licensing or joint venture arrangement, or any combination of third parties. Documentation for the Verification Testing Option is the signed Commitment Letter with the third party testing organization. The Government is not obligated to fund any specific Phase II proposal.

For technologies awarded Phase I contracts under this solicitation and invited to submit a follow-on EPA Phase II Proposal, the follow-on Phase II Solicitation will be issued on/about June 17, 2010, and proposals will be due on/about September 15, 2010. The EPA Phase II evaluation criteria will be as follows:

#### PHASE II CRITERIA

1. Results of Phase I and degree to which research objectives and identified customer needs were met. Demonstration of performance/cost effectiveness and environmental benefits associated with the proposed research, including risk reduction potential.
2. Quality and soundness of the Phase II research plan to establish the technical and commercial viability of the proposed concept as evidenced through technology prototypes or initial commercial demonstrations.
3. Qualifications of the principal investigator, supporting staff and consultants. Time commitment of principal investigator and project team, adequacy of equipment and facilities and proposed budget to accomplish the proposed research. Adequacy of Phase II Quality Assurance Summary.
4. Potential of the proposed concept for significant commercialization applications. The quality and adequacy of the commercialization plan to produce an innovative product, process or device and getting technology prototypes or initial Phase II applications into commercial production and sales.
5. The offeror's SBIR or other research commercialization record. Existence of second phase funding commitments from private sector or non-SBIR funding sources. Existence of third phase follow-on commitments and presence of other indicators of commercial potential of the idea.

(3) **PHASE III.** Where appropriate and needed in order to complete the research and development, there may be a third phase which is funded by:

1. Non-federal sources of capital for commercial applications of SBIR funded research or research and development.



2. Federal government with non-SBIR federal funds for SBIR derived products and processes that will be used by the federal government.
3. Non-SBIR federal funds for the continuation of research or research and development that has been competitively selected using peer review or scientific review criteria.

C. Each offeror submitting a proposal must qualify as a small business for research or R&D purposes at the time of award of Phase I and Phase II funding agreements. In addition, the primary employment of the principal investigator must be with the small business firm at the time of contract award and during the conduct of the proposed research. Principal investigators who appear to be employed by a university must submit a letter from the university stating that the principal investigator, if awarded a SBIR contract, will become a less-than-half-time employee of the university. Also, a principal investigator who appears to be a staff member of both the applicant and another employer must submit a letter from the second employer stating that, if awarded a SBIR contract, he/she will become a less than half-time employee of such organization. Letters demonstrating that these requirements have been fulfilled shall be submitted prior to contract award to the addressee stated in Section VI of this solicitation. Failure to do so may jeopardize award. Also, for both Phase I and Phase II, the research or R&D work must be performed in the United States. (For definition of the United States, see Section II. J.)

D. **For Phase I the Government anticipates the award of approximately \$1.8M in firm fixed price contracts at approximately \$70,000 each including profit**, but reserves the right to change either the number of awards or the amount of the individual awards depending on the outcome of the selection process. The contractor's period of performance is expected to be 6 months. Source selection will not be based on a comparison of cost or price. However, cost or price will be evaluated to determine whether the price, including any proposed profit, is fair and reasonable and whether the offeror understands the work and is capable of performing the contract.

E. All inquiries concerning this solicitation shall be submitted to the following E-mail address:

passwaters.stacey@epa.gov

If E-mail is not available to you, written or telephone inquiries may be directed to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Attention: Stacey Passwaters, SBIR Phase I  
RTP Procurement Operations Division (E105-02)  
Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27711  
Telephone: (919) 541-1344  
Fax: (919) 685-3196

Potential offerors are encouraged to communicate via E-mail.

## **II. DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this solicitation, the following definitions apply:

A. Research or Research and Development (R/R&D): Any activity that is:

(1) A systematic, intensive study directed toward greater knowledge or understanding of the subject studied;

(2) A systematic study directed specifically toward applying new knowledge to meet a recognized need; or

(3) A systematic application of knowledge toward the production of useful materials, devices, and systems or methods, including design, development, and improvement of prototypes and new processes to meet specific requirements.

B. Funding Agreement: Any contract, grant, or cooperative agreement entered into between any Federal Agency and any small business concern for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work, including products or services, funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government.

C. Subcontract: Any agreement, other than one involving an employer-employee relationship, entered into by an awardee of a funding agreement calling for supplies or services for the performance of the original funding agreement.

D. Small Business Concern: A small business concern is one that, at the time of award of Phase I and Phase II, meets all of the following criteria:

(1) Is organized for profit, with a place of business in the United States (US), which operates primarily within the US or which makes a significant contribution to the US economy through payment of taxes or use of American products, materials or labor;

(2) Is in the legal form of an individual proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, joint venture, association, trust, or cooperative, except that where the form is a joint venture, there can be no more than 49 percent participation by business entities in the joint venture;

(3) Is at least 51% owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are citizens of, or permanent resident aliens in, the United States or it must be a for-profit business concern

that is at least 51% owned and controlled by another for-profit business concern that is at least 51% owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are citizens of, or permanent resident aliens in, the US – (except in the case of a joint venture); and

(4) Has, including its affiliates, not more than 500 employees.

E. Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Small Business Concern: A socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern is one that is at least 51% owned and controlled by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, or an Indian tribe, including Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs), a Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO), or a Community Development Corporation (CDC). Control includes both the strategic planning (as that exercised by boards of directors) and the day-to-day management and administration of business operations. See 13 CFR 124.109, 124.110, and 124.111 for special rules pertaining to concerns owned by Indian tribes (including ANCs), NHOs or CDCs, respectively.

F. Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individual: A member of any of the following groups:

- (1) Black Americans;
- (2) Hispanic Americans;
- (3) Native Americans (American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts, or Native Hawaiians);
- (4) Asian-Pacific Americans (persons with origins from Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Japan, China (including Hong Kong), Taiwan, Laos, Cambodia (Kampuchea), Vietnam, Korea, The Philippines, U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Republic of Palau), Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Samoa, Macao, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu, or Nauru);
- (5) Subcontinent Asian Americans (persons with origins from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, the Maldives Islands, or Nepal); and
- (6) Other groups designated from time to time by SBA pursuant to Section 124.103 (d) of 13 CFR Ch.1(1-1-02 Edition).

G. Women-Owned Small Business Concern: A small business concern that is at least 51 % owned by and controlled by a woman or women. Control includes both the strategic planning (as that exercised by boards of directors) and the day-to-day management and administration of business operations.

H. Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone): A small business concern meeting the following requirements:

- (1) Located in a HUBZone area located in one or more of the following:
  - a) A qualified census tract (as defined in Section 42(d)(5)(C)(i)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

b) A qualified "non-metropolitan county" (as defined in Section 143 (k)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the State median household income or with an unemployment rate of not less than 140 percent of the Statewide average, based on US Department of Labor recent data; or,

c) Lands within the boundaries of federally recognized Indian reservations.

(2) Owned and controlled by one or more US Citizens; and,

(3) At least 35% of its employees must reside in a HUBZONE.

I. Primary Employment: More than one-half of the principal investigator's time is spent in the employ of the small business concern.

J. United States: The 50 States, the Territories and possessions of the Federal Government, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

K. Commercialization: The process of developing marketable products or services and producing and delivering products or services for sale (whether by the originating party or by others) to Government or commercial markets.

L. SBIR Technical Data: All data generated during the performance of an SBIR award.

M. SBIR Technical Data Rights: The rights a small business concern obtains in data generated during the performance of any SBIR Phase I, Phase II, or Phase III award that an awardee delivers to the Government during or upon completion of a Federally-funded project, and to which the Government receives a license.

### III. PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

#### A. PROPOSAL PAGE LIMIT

Proposals submitted in response to this Phase I of the SBIR program shall not exceed a total of **25 pages**, one side only. The only exception would be regarding the requirements set forth in Section III.D.12, "Prior SBIR Awards". The **25 pages** shall include the cover page, budget, and all enclosures or attachments. Pages (including enclosures or attachments such as letters of recommendation) should be of standard size (8 ½" x 11"; 21.6 cm x 27.9 cm) with 2.5 cm margins and type no smaller than 10 point font size. All pages shall be consecutively numbered. **Proposals in excess of the 25 page limitation shall not be considered for review or award.** Any additional attachments, appendices or references beyond the 25-page limitation shall result in the proposal not being considered for review or award. A letter of transmittal is not necessary. If one is furnished, it shall not be attached to every copy of the proposal. If a

letter of transmittal is attached to every copy of the proposal, it will be counted as page 1 of the proposal. No binders are necessary. If binders are provided, they will be counted as pages even if no printing or writing is thereon.

#### B. PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

The offeror shall photocopy (or download from the Internet) and complete Appendix A of this solicitation which has the relevant solicitation number as page 1 of each copy of each proposal. **No other cover shall be permitted.** When downloading the solicitation from the Internet, Appendix A may print on no more than two pages, but will only count as one page per Appendix. If Appendix A exceeds two pages, any additional pages will count toward the 25-page limitation. Offerors may reformat the forms to correct spacing and pagination errors, however, identical information shall be provided.

The original of the cover sheet shall contain the pen-and-ink signatures of the principal investigator and the corporate/business official authorized to sign the proposal.

#### C. PROJECT SUMMARY

The offeror shall complete Appendix B as page 2 of each proposal. Appendix B may be no more than two pages, but will only count as one page per Appendix. If Appendix B exceeds two pages, any additional pages will count toward the 25-page limitation. Offerors may reformat the forms to correct spacing and pagination errors, however, identical information shall be provided. The Project Summary shall include a technical abstract with a brief description of the problem or opportunity, the innovation, project objectives, and description of the effort. In summarizing anticipated results, the implications of the approach (for both Phases I and II) and the potential commercial applications of the research shall be stated. **THE ABSTRACT (APPENDIX B) IS USED EXTENSIVELY DURING THE EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW AND EPA INTERNAL PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW.** The project summary and proposal title (Appendix B) of successful proposals will be published by EPA and, therefore, must not contain proprietary information. No changes shall be allowed.

#### D. TECHNICAL CONTENT

Begin the main body of the proposal on page 3. As a minimum, the following shall be included:

1. IDENTIFICATION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM OR OPPORTUNITY. A clear statement of the specific technical problem or opportunity addressed and the environmental benefits. **INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TECHNOLOGY IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW AND EPA INTERNAL PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW.** Where appropriate, proposals should describe the positive

and negative environmental benefits based on an assessment of the full life cycle of the new product or technology. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) refers to the analysis of impacts throughout all stages of a product or process from production to use to disposal. Integration of a live cycle perspective into the environmental analysis typically considers impacts from raw materials extraction, manufacture, packaging, distribution and disposal.

2. **PHASE I OBJECTIVES.** State the specific objectives of Phase I research and development effort, including the technical questions it will try to answer to determine the feasibility of the proposed approach.

3. **PHASE I WORK PLAN.** This section provides a detailed description of the work plan. The work plan should describe what will be done, where it will be done and how the R/R&D will be carried out. The work planned to achieve each task should be discussed in detail, to enable a complete scientific and technical evaluation of the work plan. A work schedule should also be provided.

4. **RELATED RESEARCH OR R&D.** Describe significant research or R&D that is directly related to the proposal including any conducted by the project manager/principal investigator or by the proposing firm. Describe how it relates to the proposed effort, and any planned coordination with outside sources. Offerors must demonstrate their awareness of key recent research or R&D conducted by others in the specific topic area by providing appropriate references from the literature and other published documents.

5. **KEY PERSONNEL AND BIBLIOGRAPHY OF DIRECTLY RELATED WORK.** Identify key personnel involved in Phase I including their directly related education, experience and bibliographic information. Where vitae are extensive, summaries that focus on the most relevant experience or publications are desired and may be necessary to meet proposal size limitations.

6. **RELATIONSHIP WITH FUTURE RESEARCH OR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.** State the anticipated results of the proposed approach if the project is successful (Phase I and II). A discussion of cost-effectiveness is paramount, especially comparing the state-of-the-art approaches with the proposed approach. Discuss the significance of the Phase I effort in providing a foundation for Phase II R/R&D effort.

7. **FACILITIES.** A detailed description, availability and location of instrumentation and physical facilities proposed for Phase I shall be provided.

8. **CONSULTANTS.** Involvement of consultants in the planning and research stages of the project is permitted. If such involvement is intended, it should be described in detail and vitae should be provided.

9. **COMMERCIALIZATION PLAN.** Provide an abbreviated 2-3 page plan related

directly to producing an innovative product, process or device and getting it into commercial production and sales. Comprehensive business plans (that are company rather than project oriented) are not desired. The Phase I plan is a roadmap toward producing a detailed Phase II Commercialization Plan which shall be required as part of the Phase II Application.

NOTE: The Small Business Research and Development Enhancement Act of 1992 allows discretionary technical assistance to SBIR awardees. The Agency may provide up to \$4,000 of SBIR funds for technical assistance per award. EPA intends to provide Phase I awardees with technical assistance through a separate EPA arrangement. For Phase I, this assistance will be in addition to the award amount. For Phase II, the law allows each awardee to expend up to \$4,000 per year of the award amount for technical assistance services.

The Phase I plan shall provide limited information on the subjects described below. Explain what will be done during Phase I to decide on applications, markets, production and financing. The Commercialization Plan shall address:

- a. **SBIR Project:** Brief description of the company, its principal field(s) of interest, size and current products and sales. A concise description of the SBIR project and its key technical objectives.
- b. **Commercial Applications:** Potential commercial applications of the research results specifying customers and specific needs that will be satisfied. Have you or do you intend to file for one or more patents as a result of the SBIR project?
- c. **Competitive Advantages:** What is particularly innovative about the anticipated technology or products? (Innovation may be expressed in terms of applications, performance, efficiencies or reduced cost. To determine if your innovation is likely to result in intellectual property that may be legally protected, it helps to conduct a patent search and look for related work being funded by EPA or another Federal agency. A fact sheet on how to search for patents and related federally-funded work is provided in Appendix E.) What significant advantages in application, performance, technique, efficiency, or costs, do you anticipate your new technology will have over existing technology? (In order to assess such advantages, it is useful to compare the anticipated performance of your technology against substitutable products currently being sold or emerging out of R&D. If regulations, industry standards or certifying requirements apply to your technology or product, these provide useful criteria for comparing your anticipated performance with potentially competing technology and products. However, other expressions of end-user needs may also contain important criteria).
- d. **Markets:** What are the anticipated specific markets for the resulting technology, their estimated size, classes of customers, and your estimated market share 5 years after the project is completed and/or first sales? Who are the major competitors in the markets,

present and/or anticipated?

- e. Commercialization: Briefly describe how you plan to produce your product. Do you intend to manufacture it yourself, subcontract the manufacturing, enter into a joint venture or manufacturing agreement, license the product, etc.? Briefly describe the approach and steps you plan to take to commercialize the research results to significant sales. Do you plan to market the product yourself, through dealers, contract sales, marketing agreements, joint venture, sales representatives, foreign companies, etc.? How do you plan to raise money to support your commercialization plan?

10. SIMILAR OR CLOSELY RELATED SBIR AWARDS. If the small business concern has received ANY prior Phase I or Phase II award(s) from EPA or any Federal agency for similar or closely related research, submit name of awarding agency, date of award, funding agreement number, amount and topic or subtopic title. **DESCRIBE THE TECHNICAL DIFFERENCES AND REASONS WHY THE PROPOSED NEW PHASE I RESEARCH IS DIFFERENT FROM RESEARCH CONDUCTED UNDER PRIOR SBIR AWARDS.** (This required proposal information **shall** be counted toward proposal pages count limitation.)

11. DUPLICATE OR EQUIVALENT SBIR PROPOSALS. A firm may elect to submit essentially equivalent work under other Federal Program Solicitations. In these cases, a statement shall be included in each such proposal indicating: the name and address of the agencies to which proposals were submitted or from which awards were received; date of proposal submission or date of award; title, number, and date of solicitations under which proposals were submitted or awards received; specific applicable research topics for each proposal submitted or award received; titles of research projects; name and title of project manager or principal investigator for each proposal submitted or award received. (This information **shall** count toward proposal pages count limitation.)

12. PRIOR SBIR AWARDS. If the small business concern has received ANY prior Phase II award from any Federal agency in the prior 5 fiscal years, submit name of awarding agency, date of award, funding agreement number, amount, topic or subtopic title, follow-on agreement amount, source and date of commitment and current commercialization status for each Phase II. (This required proposal information shall be included as an attachment to the proposals and **shall not** be counted toward proposal pages count limitation.) **Information provided shall be limited to what has been requested. Proposals that contain information in the attachment beyond what is requested shall count toward the 25 page limitation.**

#### E. COST BREAKDOWN/PROPOSED BUDGET

Complete the budget form in Appendix C and include the completed form immediately after proposal Section D.11. Photocopy the form for the required copies for submission. Incorporate the copy of the budget form bearing the original signature into the copy of the proposal bearing the original signature on the cover page. The completed budget form will



count as one page in the 25 page limit. If budget explanation pages are included, they will count toward the 25 page limit. Offerors are encouraged to include the travel expenses on the budget form to attend a one-day SBIR Phase I Kick-Off Meeting in Washington, DC.

#### F. PHASE I QUALITY ASSURANCE STATEMENT (QAS)

Offerors must state whether or not their proposal involves data collection or processing, environmental measurements, modeling, or the development of environmental technology (whether hardware-based or via new techniques). The QAS describes processes that will be used to assure that results of the research satisfy the intended project objectives. EPA is particularly interested in the quality controls for data generation and acquisition, and how data validation and usability will be verified. This QAS should not exceed one page and will be included in the 25 page limitation for the proposal. The QAS should briefly address each of the sections below. If a section does not apply, provide a brief justification of why.

(1) Identify the individual who will be responsible for the quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) aspects of the research along with a brief description of this person's functions, experience and authority within the firm. Describe the firm's general approach for conducting quality research. (QA is a system of management activities to ensure that a process or product is of the type and quality needed for the project. QC is a system of activities that measure the attributes and performance of a process or product against the standards defined in the project to verify that they will meet those stated requirements.)

(2) Discuss project objectives, including quality objectives, any hypotheses to be tested, and the quantitative and/or qualitative procedures that will be used to evaluate the success of the project. Include any plans for peer or other reviews of the study design or analytical methods.

(3) Address the collection of new primary data, if applicable: (Note: In this case the word "sample" is intended to mean any finite part of a statistical population whose properties are studied to gain information about the whole. If certain attributes listed below do not apply to the type of samples to be used in the research, simply explain why those attributes are not applicable.)

Discuss the plan for sample collection and analysis. As applicable, include sample type(s), frequency, locations, sample sizes, sampling procedures, and the criteria for determining acceptable data quality (e.g., precision, accuracy, representativeness, completeness, comparability, or data quality objectives). Describe the procedures for the handling and custody of samples including sample collection, identification, preservation, transportation, storage and how the accuracy of test measurements will be verified. Describe or reference each analytical method to be used, any QA or QC checks or procedures with the associated acceptance criteria, and any procedure that will be used in the calibration and performance evaluation of the analytical instrumentation. Discuss the procedures for overall data reduction,

analysis and reporting. Include a description of all statistical methods to make inferences and conclusions, acceptable error rates and any statistical software to be used.

(4) Address the use of existing/secondary data (i.e., data previously collected for other purposes or from other sources), if applicable: Describe or reference each analytical method to be used, any QA or QC checks or procedures with the associated acceptance criteria, and any procedures that will be used in the calibration and performance evaluation of the analytical instrumentation. Discuss the procedures for overall data reduction, analysis and reporting. Include a description of all statistical methods to make inferences and conclusions, acceptable error rates and any statistical software to be used.

(5) Address method development, if applicable: (Note: The data collected for use in method development or evaluation should be described in the QAS as per the guidance in sections 3 and/or 4 above.) Describe the scope and application of the method, any tests (and measurements) to be conducted to support the method development, the type of instrumentation that will be used and any required instrument conditions (e.g., calibration frequency), planned QC checks and associated criteria (e.g., spikes, replicates, blanks), and tests to verify the method's performance.

(6) Address development or refinement of models, if applicable: (Note: The data collected for use in the development or refinement of models should be described in the QAS as per the guidance in sections 3 and/or 4 above.)

Discuss the scope and purpose of the model, key assumptions to be made during development/refinement, requirements for code development and how the model will be documented. Discuss verification techniques to ensure the source code implements the model correctly. Discuss validation techniques to determine that the model (assumption and algorithms) captures the essential phenomena with adequate fidelity. Discuss plans for long-term maintenance of the model and associated data.

(7) Address development or operation of environmental technology, if applicable: (Note: The data collected for use in the development or evaluation of the technology should be described in the QAS as per the guidance in sections 3 and/or 4 above.)

Describe the overall purpose and anticipated impact of the technology. Describe the technical and quality specifications of each technology component or process that is to be designed, fabricated, constructed and/or operated. Discuss the procedure to be used for documenting and controlling design changes. Discuss the procedure to be used for documenting the acceptability of processes and components, and discuss how the technology will be benchmarked and its effectiveness determined. Discuss the documentation requirements for operating instructions/guides for maintenance and use of the system(s) and/or process(s).

(8) Discuss data management activities (e.g., record-keeping procedures, data-handling procedures, and the approach used for data storage and retrieval on electronic media). Include any required computer hardware and software and address any specific performance requirements for the hardware/software configuration used.

A more detailed Proposal Quality Assurance Plan will be required in Phase II. The plan will be required as part of the first monthly report under the Phase II contract.

#### **IV. METHOD OF SELECTION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA**

All Phase I proposals will be evaluated and judged on a competitive basis by peer reviewers from outside EPA. Proposals will be initially screened to determine responsiveness. As noted in Section III, proposals exceeding the 25-page limitation will not be considered for review or award. Also, as noted in Section I, any proposal addressing more than one research topic and failing to identify the research topic by letter symbol on the cover page will not be considered for review or award. Proposals passing this initial screening will be reviewed for technical merit by external peer review meetings with technical experts, using the technical evaluation criteria described in A.1 below. Each of the criteria are equal in value. Peer reviewers will assign each proposal an adjectival rating of “excellent”, “very good”, “good”, “fair” or “poor”, using the specified criteria. Proposals rated “good”, “fair”, or “poor” will not be considered for award. The proposals assigned “excellent” and “very good” ratings, will then be subjected to the programmatic review within EPA, to further evaluate these applications in relation to program priorities and balance using the criteria specified in A.2 below. Each proposal will be judged on its own merit. The Agency is under no obligation to fund any proposal or any specific number of proposals in a given topic. It also may elect to fund several or none of the proposed approaches to the same topic or subtopic.

##### **A. TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA**

1. EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW. The external peer review meetings will utilize the following evaluation criteria to rate each proposal. The criteria are of equal importance.

##### **CRITERIA**

- a. The scientific and technical significance of the proposed technology and its appropriateness to the research topic. Quality and soundness of the research plan to establish the technical and commercial feasibility of the concept.
- b. The uniqueness/ingenuity of the proposed concept or application as technological innovation. Originality and innovativeness of the proposed research toward meeting customer needs and achieving commercialization of the technology.
- c. Potential demonstration of performance/cost effectiveness and environmental benefits

associated with the proposed research, including risk reduction potential.

- d. Qualifications of the principal investigator, supporting staff and consultants. Time commitment of principal investigator and project team, adequacy of equipment and facilities and proposed budget to accomplish the proposed research. Adequacy and quality of the Quality Assurance Statement.
- e. Potential of the proposed concept for significant commercial applications. Potential for the commercialization plan to produce an innovative product, process or device and to put it into commercial production and sales. Potential market and competition and other financial/business indicators of commercialization potential and the offeror's SBIR or other research commercialization record.

Peer Review Panels exclude personnel from current Phase I contractors, Phase I offerors, and Phase II offerors from the panel. All peer reviewers will be queried on their SBIR contracts or proposals and will be required to sign an agreement to protect the confidentiality of all proposal material and to certify that no conflict of interest exists between the reviewer and the offeror. A copy of both forms is available upon request; however, the identity of the reviewer will not be released.

2. EPA PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW. The proposals that received ratings of "excellent" or "very good" by the external peer reviewers will be subject to the programmatic review by EPA program managers using the criteria set forth below to select which of the "excellent" and "very good" proposals will be funded. Please note that not all of the proposals rated "Excellent" or "Very Good" will receive a contract award. Projects will not be funded where EPA determines the proposed research is already being supported by EPA or another known source. The evaluation criteria "a" through "c" are of equal value and will be used to evaluate the applications in relation to program priorities, balance and programmatic relevancy.

#### CRITERIA

- a. The potential of the technology to meet Agency program priorities and to strengthen the overall balance of the SBIR program. How well the technology fits into EPA's overall research strategy or program within the Phase I research topic.
- b. The potential of the technology for significant environmental benefits and for strengthening the scientific basis for risk assessment/risk management in the Agency research topic area.
- c. The potential of the technology to have broad application or to impact large segments of the population.

B. RELEASE OF PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION. After final award decisions have been announced, the technical evaluations of the offeror's proposal will be provided to the

offeror. The identity of the reviewer shall not be disclosed.

## **V. CONSIDERATIONS**

### **A. AWARDS**

The Government anticipates award of approximately 25 firm-fixed-price contracts of up to \$70,000 each including profit. It is expected that these contracts will be awarded with a contract start date of February 1, 2010. The period of performance for the contracts should not exceed six (6) months. The primary consideration in selecting proposals for award will be the technical merit of the proposal. Proposals shall be evaluated in accordance with the Technical Evaluation Criteria stated in IV.A. above. Source selection will not be based on a comparison of cost or price. However, cost or price will be evaluated to determine whether the price, including any proposed profit, is fair and reasonable and whether the offeror understands the work and is capable of performing the contract.

This current solicitation is for Phase I only, and the Government is not obligated to fund any specific Phase I proposal.

Funds are not presently available for this contract. The Government's obligation under this contract is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from which payment for contract purposes can be made. No legal liability on the part of the Government for any payment may arise until funds are made available to the Contracting Officer for this contract and until the Contractor receives notice of such availability, to be confirmed in writing by the Contracting Officer.

### **B. REPORTS**

1. All reports shall include the following information: EPA Contract Number; Project Title; and Period covered by the report.

2. The Contractor shall furnish a Monthly Report stating progress made. One (1) copy of the report shall be submitted to the Contract-level Contracting Officer's Representative with one (1) paper copy to the Contract Specialist. The report shall be submitted within 7 calendar days after the end of the reporting period. Specific areas of interest shall include progress made and difficulties encountered during the reporting period, and a statement of activities anticipated during the subsequent reporting period. The report shall include any changes in personnel associated with the project. Also, the first month's report shall contain a summary and schedule of accomplishments for the subsequent months of the project. The Monthly Report shall include, as an attachment, a copy of the monthly voucher for the same period.

3. One (1) copy of a comprehensive Final Report on the Phase I project must be

submitted to the Contract-level Contracting Officer's Representative by the completion date of the contract. The Contract Specialist shall receive one paper copy. This Final Report shall include a single-page project summary as the first page, identifying the purpose of the research, a brief description of the research carried out, the research findings or results, and potential applications of the research in a final paragraph. The balance of the report should indicate in detail the research objectives, research work carried out, results obtained, and estimates of technical feasibility. The report should include a discussion of any commercialization activity carried out during Phase I as well as future commercialization plans.

4. One (1) copy of a publishable (cleared for the general public) 2-3 page Executive Summary of the Final Report for Phase I must be submitted to the Contract-level Contracting Officer's Representative by the completion date of the contract. This special report should be a true summary of the report, including the purpose of the project, work carried out and results. The summary should stress innovativeness and potential commercialization. The Executive Summary will be placed on the EPA SBIR website, and therefore, it should include the specific results the company is willing to release to the public.

C. PAYMENT SCHEDULE - Phase I payments will be made as follows:

Eighteen percent (18%) of the total contract price upon receipt and acceptance of a proper invoice with each of the first five monthly reports. The remainder shall be paid upon receipt and acceptance of the final report. Pursuant to the provisions of FAR 52.232-25, "Prompt Payment", payment will be rendered within thirty (30) days after receipt of a proper invoice.

D. INNOVATIONS, INVENTIONS AND PATENTS

1. LIMITED RIGHTS INFORMATION AND DATA

a. Proprietary Information

Information contained in unsuccessful proposals will remain the property of the offeror. The Government may, however, retain copies of all proposals. Public release of information in any proposal submitted will be subject to existing statutory and regulatory requirements.

If proprietary information is provided by an offeror in a proposal, which constitutes a trade secret, proprietary commercial or financial information, confidential personal information or data affecting the national security, it will be treated in confidence, to the extent permitted by law. This information must be clearly marked by the offeror with the term "confidential proprietary information" and the following legend must appear on the cover page of the proposal:

"These data shall not be not be disclosed outside the

Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed in whole or in part for any other purpose other than evaluation of this proposal. If a funding agreement is awarded to this offeror as a result of or in connection with the submission of these data, the Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the funding agreement and pursuant to applicable law. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use information contained in the data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in pages \_\_\_\_\_ of this proposal."

Any other legend may be unacceptable to the Government and may constitute grounds for removing the proposal from further consideration, without assuming any liability for inadvertent disclosure. The Government will limit dissemination of such information to within official channels.

b. Alternative to Minimize Proprietary Information: Offerors shall limit proprietary information to only that absolutely essential to their proposal.

c. Rights in Data Developed Under SBIR Funding Agreements: The Contract will contain a data clause which will provide the following:

#### SBIR RIGHTS NOTICE (MAR 1994)

These SBIR data are furnished with SBIR rights under Contract No. \_\_\_\_\_ (and subcontract \_\_\_\_\_ if appropriate). For a period of four (4) years after acceptance of all items to be delivered under this contract, the Government agrees to use these data for Government purposes only, and they shall not be disclosed outside the Government (including disclosure for procurement purposes) during such period without permission of the Contractor, except that, subject to the foregoing use and disclosure prohibitions, such data may be disclosed for use by support Contractors. After the aforesaid 4-year period the Government has a royalty-free license to use, and to authorize others to use on its behalf, these data for Government purposes, but is relieved of all disclosure prohibitions and assumes no liability for unauthorized use of these data by third parties. This Notice shall be affixed to any reproductions of these data, in whole or in part.

#### d. Copyrights

With prior written permission of the Contracting Officer, the Awardee normally may copyright and publish (consistent with appropriate national security considerations, if any) material developed with EPA support. EPA receives a royalty-free license for the Federal

Government and requires that each publication contain an appropriate acknowledgment and disclaimer statement.

e. Patents

Small business concerns normally may retain the principal worldwide patent rights to any invention developed with Governmental support. The Government receives a royalty-free license for Federal Government use, reserves the right to require the patent holder to license others in certain circumstances, and requires that anyone exclusively licensed to sell the invention in the United States must normally manufacture it domestically. To the extent authorized by 35 U.S.C. 205, the Government will not make public any information disclosing a Government-supported invention for a 4-year period to allow the Awardee a reasonable time to pursue a patent.

E. COST SHARING

Cost sharing is permitted for proposals under this Program Solicitation; however, cost sharing is not required nor will it be an evaluation factor in consideration of your proposal.

F. PROFIT OR FEE

Reasonable fee (estimated profit) will be considered under this solicitation. For guidance purposes, the amount of profit shall not exceed 10% of total project costs.

G. JOINT VENTURES OR LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS

Joint ventures and limited partnerships are eligible provided the entity created qualifies as a small business as defined in this Program Solicitation.

H. RESEARCH AND ANALYTICAL WORK

1. For a SBIR Phase I proposal, a minimum of two-thirds of the research and/or analytical effort, as measured by the budget, must be performed by the proposing small business concern and the balance of one third may be outsourced to a consultant or subcontract or a combination of the two.

2. For a SBIR Phase II proposal, a minimum of one-half of the research and/or analytical effort, as measured by the budget, must be performed by the proposing small business concern and the balance of one-half may be outsourced to a consultant or subcontract or a combination of the two.

I. CONTRACTOR COMMITMENTS



Upon award of a funding agreement, the Awardee will be required to make certain legal commitments through acceptance of numerous clauses in Phase I funding agreements. The outline that follows is illustrative of the types of clauses to which the Contractor would be committed. This list should not be understood to represent a complete list of clauses to be included in Phase I funding agreements, nor to be specific wording of such clauses. Copies of complete terms and conditions are available upon request.

1. **INSPECTION.** Work performed under the contract is subject to Government inspection and evaluation at all times.
2. **EXAMINATION OF RECORDS.** The Comptroller General (or a duly authorized representative) shall have the right to examine any directly pertinent records of the awardee involving transactions related to this contract.
3. **DEFAULT.** The Government may terminate the contract if the Contractor fails to perform the work contracted.
4. **TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE.** The contract may be terminated at any time by the Government if it deems termination to be in its best interest, in which case the Contractor will be compensated for work performed and for reasonable termination costs.
5. **DISPUTES.** Any dispute concerning the funding agreement that cannot be resolved by agreement shall be decided by the Contracting Officer with right of appeal.
6. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.** The awardee will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
7. **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR VETERANS.** The awardee will not discriminate against any employee or application for employment because he or she is a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era.
8. **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR HANDICAPPED.** The awardee will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because he or she is physically or mentally handicapped.
9. **OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT.** No Government official shall benefit personally from the contract.
10. **COVENANT AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES.** No person or agency has been employed to solicit or secure the contract upon an understanding for compensation except bonafide employees or commercial agencies maintained by the Contractor for the purpose of securing business.

11. GRATUITIES. The contract may be terminated by the Government if any gratuities have been offered to any representative of the Government to secure the contract.

12. PATENT INFRINGEMENT. The Contractor shall report each notice or claim of patent infringement based on the performance of the contract.

13. AMERICAN MADE EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS. When purchasing equipment or a product under the SBIR funding agreement, purchase only American-made items whenever possible.

#### J. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. The Program Solicitation is intended for informational purposes and reflects current planning. If there is any inconsistency between the information contained herein and the terms of any resulting SBIR funding agreement, the terms of the funding agreement are controlling.

2. Before award of an SBIR funding agreement, the Government may request the offeror to submit certain organizational, management, personnel, and financial information to assure responsibility of the offeror.

3. The Government is not responsible for any monies expended by the offeror before award of any funding agreement.

4. This Program Solicitation is not an offer by the Government and does not obligate the Government to make any specific number of awards. Also, awards under the SBIR program are contingent upon the availability of funds.

5. The EPA SBIR program is not a substitute for existing unsolicited proposal mechanisms. Unsolicited proposals shall not be accepted under the EPA SBIR program in either Phase I or Phase II.

6. If an award is made pursuant to a proposal submitted under this Program Solicitation, the Contractor will be required to certify that he or she has not previously been, nor is currently being, paid for essentially equivalent work by any agency of the Federal Government.

7. Notwithstanding the relatively broad definition of R/R&D in Section II, Definitions, hereof, awards under this solicitation are limited to APPLIED forms of research. Proposals that are surveys, including market, state-of the-art and/or literature surveys, which should have been performed by the offeror prior to the preparation of the proposal, or the preparation of allied questionnaires and instruction manuals, shall not be accepted. If such proposals are submitted, they shall be considered as not in compliance with the solicitation intent, and therefore, technically unacceptable.

8. The requirement that the offeror designate a topic, and only one topic, (see page 1, Section I above) is also necessary. EPA receives hundreds of proposals each year and has special teams of reviewers for review of each research topic. In order to assure that proposals are evaluated by the correct team, it is the complete responsibility of the offeror to select and identify the best topic.

9. Instructions to Offerors - Competitive Acquisition (Jan 2004) FAR 52.215-1

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this provision- Discussions are negotiations that occur after establishment of the competitive range that may, at the Contracting Officer's discretion, result in the offeror being allowed to revise its proposal.

"In writing," "writing," or "written" means any worded or numbered expression that can be read, reproduced, and later communicated, and includes electronically transmitted and stored information.

"Proposal modification" is a change made to a proposal before the solicitation's closing date and time, or made in response to an amendment, or made to correct a mistake at any time before award.

"Proposal revision" is a change to a proposal made after the solicitation closing date, at the request of or as allowed by a Contracting Officer as the result of negotiations.

"Time," if stated as a number of days, is calculated using calendar days, unless otherwise specified, and will include Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. However, if the last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the period shall include the next working day.

(b) *Amendments to solicitations.* If this solicitation is amended, all terms and conditions that are not amended remain unchanged. Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this solicitation by the date and time specified in the amendment(s).

(c) *Submission, modification, revision, and withdrawal of proposals.* (1) Unless other methods (e.g., electronic commerce or facsimile) are permitted in the solicitation, proposals and modifications to proposals shall be submitted in paper media in sealed envelopes or packages (I) addressed to the office specified in the solicitation, and (ii) showing the time and date specified for receipt, the solicitation number, and the name and address of the offeror. Offerors using commercial carriers should ensure that the proposal is marked on the outermost wrapper with the information in paragraphs (c)(1)(i) and (c)(1)(ii) of this provision.

(2) The first page of the proposal must show-

(i) The solicitation number;

(ii) The name, address, and telephone and facsimile numbers of the offeror (and electronic address if available);

(iii) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions included in the solicitation and agreement to furnish any or all items upon which prices are offered at the price set opposite each item;

(iv) Names, titles, and telephone and facsimile numbers (and electronic addresses if available) of persons authorized to negotiate on the offeror's behalf with the Government in connection with this solicitation; and

(v) Name, title, and signature of person authorized to sign the proposal. Proposals signed by an agent shall be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.

(3) *Submission, modification, revision, and withdrawal of proposals.* (i) Offerors are responsible for submitting proposals, and any modifications or revisions so as to reach the Government office designated in the solicitation by the time specified in the solicitation. If no time is specified in the solicitation, the time for receipt is 4:30 p.m., local time, for the designated Government office on the date that proposal or revision is due.

(ii)(A) Any proposal, modification or revision received at the Government office designated in the solicitation after the exact time specified for receipt of offers is "late" and will not be considered unless it is received before award is made, the Contracting Officer determines that accepting the late offer would not unduly delay the acquisition; and--

(1) If it was transmitted through an electronic commerce method authorized by the solicitation, it was received at the initial point of entry to the Government infrastructure not later than 5:00 p.m. one working day prior to the date specified for receipt of proposals; or

(2) There is acceptable evidence to establish that it was received at the Government installation designated for receipt of offers and was under the Government's control prior to the time set for receipt of offers; or

(3) It is the only proposal received.

(B) However, a late modification of an otherwise successful proposal that makes its terms more favorable to the Government, will be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.

(iii) Acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the Government installation includes the time/date stamp of that installation on the proposal wrapper, other documentary

evidence of receipt maintained by the installation, or oral testimony or statements of Government personnel.

(iv) If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal Government processes so that proposals cannot be received at the office designated for receipt of proposals by the exact time specified in the solicitation, and urgent Government requirements preclude amendment of the solicitation, the time specified for receipt of proposals will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the solicitation on the first work day on which normal Government processes resume.

(v) Proposals may be withdrawn by written notice received at any time before award. Oral proposals in response to oral solicitations may be withdrawn orally. If the solicitation authorizes facsimile proposals, proposals may be withdrawn via facsimile received at any time before award, subject to the conditions specified in the provision at 52.215-5, Facsimile Proposals. Proposals may be withdrawn in person by an offeror or an authorized representative, if the identity of the person requesting withdrawal is established and the person signs a receipt for the proposal before award.

(4) Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, the offeror may propose to provide any item or combination of items.

(5) Offerors shall submit proposals in response to this solicitation in English, unless otherwise permitted by the solicitation, and in U.S. dollars, unless the provision at FAR 52.225-17, Evaluation of Foreign Currency Offers, is included in the solicitation.

(6) Offerors may submit modifications to their proposals at any time before the solicitation closing date and time, and may submit modifications in response to an amendment, or to correct a mistake at any time before award.

(7) Offerors may submit revised proposals only if requested or allowed by the Contracting Officer.

(8) Proposals may be withdrawn at any time before award. Withdrawals are effective upon receipt of notice by the Contracting Officer.

(d) *Offer expiration date.* Proposals in response to this solicitation will be valid for the number of days specified on the solicitation cover sheet (unless a different period is proposed by the offeror).

(e) *Restriction on disclosure and use of data.* Offerors that include in their proposals data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose, or used by the Government except for evaluation purposes, shall-

(1) Mark the title page with the following legend: This proposal includes data that shall not

be disclosed outside the Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed-in whole or in part-for any purpose other than to evaluate this proposal. If, however, a contract is awarded to this offeror as a result of-or in connection with-the submission of this data, the Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting contract. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets [insert numbers or other identification of sheets]; and

(2) Mark each sheet of data it wishes to restrict with the following legend: Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this proposal.

(f) *Contract award.* (1) The Government intends to award a contract or contracts resulting from this solicitation to the responsible offeror(s) whose proposal(s) represents the best value after evaluation in accordance with the factors and subfactors in the solicitation.

(2) The Government may reject any or all proposals if such action is in the Government's interest.

(3) The Government may waive informalities and minor irregularities in proposals received.

(4) The Government intends to evaluate proposals and award a contract without discussions with offerors (except clarifications as described in FAR 15.306(a)). Therefore, the offeror's initial proposal should contain the offeror's best terms from a cost or price and technical standpoint. The Government reserves the right to conduct discussions if the Contracting Officer later determines them to be necessary. If the Contracting Officer determines that the number of proposals that would otherwise be in the competitive range exceeds the number at which an efficient competition can be conducted, the Contracting Officer may limit the number of proposals in the competitive range to the greatest number that will permit an efficient competition among the most highly rated proposals.

(5) The Government reserves the right to make an award on any item for a quantity less than the quantity offered, at the unit cost or prices offered, unless the offeror specifies otherwise in the proposal.

(6) The Government reserves the right to make multiple awards if, after considering the additional administrative costs, it is in the Government's best interest to do so.

(7) Exchanges with offerors after receipt of a proposal do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by the Government.

(8) The Government may determine that a proposal is unacceptable if the prices proposed

are materially unbalanced between line items or subline items. Unbalanced pricing exists when, despite an acceptable total evaluated price, the price of one or more contract line items is significantly overstated or understated as indicated by the application of cost or price analysis techniques. A proposal may be rejected if the Contracting Officer determines that the lack of balance poses an unacceptable risk to the Government.

(9) If a cost realism analysis is performed, cost realism may be considered by the source selection authority in evaluating performance or schedule risk.

(10) A written award or acceptance of proposal mailed or otherwise furnished to the successful offeror within the time specified in the proposal shall result in a binding contract without further action by either party.

(11) If a post-award debriefing is given to requesting offerors, the Government shall disclose the following information, if applicable:

(i) The agency's evaluation of the significant weak or deficient factors in the debriefed offeror's offer.

(ii) The overall evaluated cost or price and technical rating of the successful and the debriefed offeror and past performance information on the debriefed offeror.

(iii) The overall ranking of all offerors, when any ranking was developed by the agency during source selection.

(iv) A summary of the rationale for award.

(v) For acquisitions of commercial items, the make and model of the item to be delivered by the successful offeror.

(vi) Reasonable responses to relevant questions posed by the debriefed offeror as to whether source-selection procedures set forth in the solicitation, applicable regulations, and other applicable authorities were followed by the agency.

(10) Organizational Conflicts of Interest (EPAAR 1552.209-71) (May 1994) Alternate I (May 1994)

(a) The Contractor warrants that, to the best of the Contractor's knowledge and belief, there are no relevant facts or circumstances which could give rise to an organizational conflict of interest, as defined in FAR Subpart 9.5, or that the Contractor has disclosed all such relevant information.

(b) Prior to commencement of any work, the Contractor agrees to notify the Contracting

Officer immediately that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, no actual or potential conflict of interest exists or to identify to the Contracting Officer any actual or potential conflict of interest the firm may have. In emergency situations, however, work may begin but notification shall be made within five (5) working days.

(c) The Contractor agrees that if an actual or potential organizational conflict of interest is identified during performance, the Contractor will immediately make a full disclosure in writing to the Contracting Officer. This disclosure shall include a description of actions which the Contractor has taken or proposes to take, after consultation with the Contracting Officer, to avoid, mitigate, or neutralize the actual or potential conflict of interest. The Contractor shall continue performance until notified by the Contracting Officer of any contrary action to be taken.

(d) Remedies - The EPA may terminate this contract for convenience, in whole or in part, if it deems such termination necessary to avoid an organizational conflict of interest. If the Contractor was aware of a potential organizational conflict of interest prior to award or discovered an actual or potential conflict after award and did not disclose it or misrepresented relevant information to the Contracting Officer, the Government may terminate the contract for default, debar the Contractor from Government contracting, or pursue such other remedies as may be permitted by law or this contract.

(e) The Contractor agrees to insert in each subcontract or consultant agreement placed hereunder provisions which shall conform substantially to the language of this clause, including this paragraph, unless otherwise authorized by the Contracting Officer.

(11) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number, (Oct 2003), FAR 52.204-6

(a) The offeror shall enter, in the block with its name and address on the cover page of its offer, the annotation "DUNS" or "DUNS+4" followed by the DUNS number or "DUNS+4" that identifies the offeror's name and address exactly as stated in the offer. The DUNS number is a nine-digit number assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. The DUNS+4 is the DUNS number plus a 4-character suffix that may be assigned at the discretion of the offeror to establish additional CCR records for identifying alternative Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) accounts (see Subpart 32.11) for the same parent concern.

(b) If the offeror does not have a DUNS number, it should contact Dun and Bradstreet directly to obtain one.

(1) An offeror may obtain a DUNS number--

(i) If located within the United States, by calling Dun and Bradstreet at 1-866-705-5711 or via the Internet at <http://www.dnb.com>; or



(ii) If located outside the United States, by contacting the local Dun and Bradstreet office.

(2) The offeror should be prepared to provide the following information:

(i) Company legal business name.

(ii) Tradestyle, doing business, or other name by which your entity is commonly recognized.

(iii) Company physical street address, city, state and Zip Code.

(iv) Company mailing address, city, state and Zip Code (if separate from physical).

(v) Company telephone number.

(vi) Date the company was started.

(vii) Number of employees at your location.

(viii) Chief executive officer/key manager.

(ix) Line of business (industry).

(x) Company Headquarters name and address (reporting relationship within your entity).

(12) Central Contractor Registration, (July 2006), FAR 52.204-7

(a) Definitions. As used in this clause--

“Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database” means the primary Government repository for Contractor information required for the conduct of business with the Government.

“Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number” means the 9-digit number assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to identify unique business entities.

“Data Universal Numbering System +4 (DUNS+4) number” means the DUNS number assigned by D&B plus a 4-character suffix that may be assigned by a business concern. (D&B has no affiliation with this 4-character suffix.) This 4-character suffix may be assigned at the discretion of the business concern to establish additional CCR records for identifying alternative Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) accounts (see the FAR at Subpart 32.11) for the same parent concern.

“Registered in the CCR database” means that--

(1) The Contractor has entered all mandatory information, including the DUNS number or the DUNS+4 number, into the CCR database; and

(2) The Government has validated all mandatory data fields, to include validation of the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and has marked the record “Active”. The Contractor will be required to provide consent for TIN validation to the Government as a part of the CCR registration process.

(b)(1) By submission of an offer, the offeror acknowledges the requirement that a prospective awardee shall be registered in the CCR database prior to award, during performance, and through final payment of any contract, basic agreement, basic ordering agreement, or blanket purchasing agreement resulting from this solicitation.

(2) The offeror shall enter, in the block with its name and address on the cover page of its offer, the annotation “DUNS” or “DUNS +4” followed by the DUNS or DUNS +4 number that identifies the offeror's name and address exactly as stated in the offer. The DUNS number will be used by the Contracting Officer to verify that the offeror is registered in the CCR database.

(c) If the offeror does not have a DUNS number, it should contact Dun and Bradstreet directly to obtain one.

(1) An offeror may obtain a DUNS number--

(i) If located within the United States, by calling Dun and Bradstreet at 1-866-705-5711 or via the Internet at <http://www.dnb.com>; or

(ii) If located outside the United States, by contacting the local Dun and Bradstreet office.

(2) The offeror should be prepared to provide the following information:

(i) Company legal business.

(ii) Tradestyle, doing business, or other name by which your entity is commonly recognized.

(iii) Company Physical Street Address, City, State, and Zip Code.

(iv) Company Mailing Address, City, State and Zip Code (if separate from physical).

(v) Company Telephone Number.

(vi) Date the company was started.

(vii) Number of employees at your location.

(viii) Chief executive officer/key manager.

(ix) Line of business (industry).

(x) Company Headquarters name and address (reporting relationship within your entity).

(d) If the Offeror does not become registered in the CCR database in the time prescribed by the Contracting Officer, the Contracting Officer will proceed to award to the next otherwise successful registered Offeror.

(e) Processing time, which normally takes 48 hours, should be taken into consideration when registering. Offerors who are not registered should consider applying for registration immediately upon receipt of this solicitation.

(f) The Contractor is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the data within the CCR database, and for any liability resulting from the Government's reliance on inaccurate or incomplete data. To remain registered in the CCR database after the initial registration, the Contractor is required to review and update on an annual basis from the date of initial registration or subsequent updates its information in the CCR database to ensure it is current, accurate and complete. Updating information in the CCR does not alter the terms and conditions of this contract and is not a substitute for a properly executed contractual document.

(g)(1)(i) If a Contractor has legally changed its business name, "doing business as" name, or division name (whichever is shown on the contract), or has transferred the assets used in performing the contract, but has not completed the necessary requirements regarding novation and change-of-name agreements in Subpart 42.12, the Contractor shall provide the responsible Contracting Officer a minimum of one business day's written notification of its intention to (A) change the name in the CCR database; (B) comply with the requirements of Subpart 42.12 of the FAR; and (C) agree in writing to the timeline and procedures specified by the responsible Contracting Officer. The Contractor must provide with the notification sufficient documentation to support the legally changed name.

(ii) If the Contractor fails to comply with the requirements of paragraph (g)(1)(i) of this clause, or fails to perform the agreement at paragraph (g)(1)(i)(C) of this clause, and, in the absence of a properly executed novation or change-of-name agreement, the CCR information that shows the Contractor to be other than the Contractor indicated in the contract will be

considered to be incorrect information within the meaning of the “Suspension of Payment” paragraph of the electronic funds transfer (EFT) clause of this contract.

(2) The Contractor shall not change the name or address for EFT payments or manual payments, as appropriate, in the CCR record to reflect an assignee for the purpose of assignment of claims (see FAR Subpart 32.8, Assignment of Claims). Assignees shall be separately registered in the CCR database. Information provided to the Contractor's CCR record that indicates payments, including those made by EFT, to an ultimate recipient other than that Contractor will be considered to be incorrect information within the meaning of the “Suspension of payment” paragraph of the EFT clause of this contract.

(h) Offerors and Contractors may obtain information on registration and annual confirmation requirements via the internet at <http://www.ccr.gov> or by calling 1-888-227-2423, or 269-961-5757.

(13) Annual Representations and Certifications, (Jan 2006), FAR 52.204-8

(a)(1) The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for this acquisition is 541712.

(2) The small business size standard is 500 employees.

(3) The small business size standard for a concern which submits an offer in its own name, other than on a construction or service contract, but which proposes to furnish a product which it did not itself manufacture, is 500 employees.

(b)(1) If the clause at 52.204-7, Central Contractor Registration, is included in this solicitation, paragraph (b) of this provision applies.

(2) If the clause at 52.204-7 is not included in this solicitation, and the offeror is currently registered in CCR, and has completed the ORCA electronically, the offeror may choose to use paragraph (b) of this provision instead of completing the corresponding individual representations and certifications in the solicitation. The offeror shall indicate which option applies by checking one of the following boxes:

(i) Paragraph (b) applies.

(ii) Paragraph (b) does not apply and the offeror has completed the individual representations and certifications in the solicitation.

(c) The offeror has completed the annual representations and certifications electronically via the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA) website at <http://orca.bpn.gov>. After reviewing the ORCA database information, the offeror verifies by

submission of the offer that the representations and certifications currently posted electronically have been entered or updated within the last 12 months, are current, accurate, complete, and applicable to this solicitation (including the business size standard applicable to the NAICS code referenced for this solicitation), as of the date of this offer and are incorporated in this offer by reference (see FAR 4.1201); except for the changes identified below [*offeror to insert changes, identifying change by clause number, title, date*]. These amended representation(s) and/or certification(s) are also incorporated in this offer and are current, accurate, and complete as of the date of this offer.

<u>FAR Clause #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Change</u>
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Any changes provided by the offeror are applicable to this solicitation only, and do not result in an update to the representations and certifications posted on ORCA.

(14) Small Business Program Representations (May 2004) FAR 52.219-1

(a)(1) The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for this acquisition is 541712.

(2) The small business size standard is 500 employees.

(3) The small business size standard for a concern which submits an offer in its own name, other than on a construction or service contract, but which proposes to furnish a product which it did not itself manufacture, is 500 employees.

(b) *Representations.*

(1) The offeror represents as part of its offer that it [ ]is, [ ]is not a small business concern.

(2) [*Complete only if the offeror represented itself as a small business concern in paragraph (b)(1) of this provision.*] The offeror represents, for general statistical purposes, that it [ ]is, [ ]is not, a small disadvantaged business concern as defined in 13 CFR 124.1002.

(3) [*Complete only if the offeror represented itself as a small business concern in paragraph (b)(1) of this provision.*] The offeror represents as part of its offer that it [ ]is, [ ]is not a women-owned small business concern.

(4) *[Complete only if the offeror represented itself as a small business concern in paragraph (b)(1) of this provision.]* The offeror represents as part of its offer that it [ ] is, [ ] is not a veteran-owned small business concern.

(5) *[Complete only if the offeror represented itself as a veteran-owned small business concern in paragraph (b)(4) of this provision.]* The offeror represents as part of its offer that is [ ] is, [ ] is not a service-disabled veteran-owned small business concern.

(6) *[Complete only if the offeror represented itself as a small business concern in paragraph (b)(1) of this provision.]* The offeror represents, as part of its offer, that--

(i) It [ ] is, [ ] is not a HUBZone small business concern listed, on the date of this representation, on the List of Qualified HUBZone Small Business Concerns maintained by the Small Business Administration, and no material change in ownership and control, principal office, or HUBZone employee percentage has occurred since it was certified by the Small Business Administration in accordance with 13 CFR part 126; and

(ii) It [ ] is, [ ] is not a joint venture that complies with the requirements of 13 CFR part 126, and the representation in paragraph (b)(6)(i) of this provision is accurate for the HUBZone small business concern or concerns that are participating in the joint venture. *[The offeror shall enter the name or names of the HUBZone small business concern or concerns that are participating in the joint venture: \_\_\_\_\_.]* Each HUBZone small business concern participating in the joint venture shall submit a separate signed copy of the HUBZone representation.

(c) *Definitions.* As used in this provision--

"Service-disabled veteran-owned small business concern"-

(1) Means a small business concern-

(i) Not less than 51 percent of which is owned by one or more service-disabled veterans or, in the case of any publicly owned business, not less than 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more service-disabled veterans; and

(ii) The management and daily business operations of which are controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans or, in the case of a service-disabled veteran with permanent and severe disability, the spouse or permanent caregiver of such veteran.

(2) Service-disabled veteran means a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(2), with a disability that is service-connected, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(16).

"Small business concern," means a concern, including its affiliates, that is independently owned and operated, not dominant in the field of operation in which it is bidding on

Government contracts, and qualified as a small business under the criteria in 13 CFR Part 121 and the size standard in paragraph (a) of this provision.

"Veteran-owned small business concern" means a small business concern-

(1) Not less than 51 percent of which is owned by one or more veterans (as defined at 38 U.S.C. 101(2)) or, in the case of any publicly owned business, not less than 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more veterans; and

(2) The management and daily business operations of which are controlled by one or more veterans.

"Women-owned small business concern," means a small business concern --

(1) That is at least 51 percent owned by one or more women; or, in the case of any publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more women; and

(2) Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more women.

(d) *Notice.*

(1) If this solicitation is for supplies and has been set aside, in whole or in part, for small business concerns, then the clause in this solicitation providing notice of the set-aside contains restrictions on the source of the end items to be furnished.

(2) Under 15 U.S.C. 645(d), any person who misrepresents a firm's status as a small, HUBZone small, small disadvantaged, or women-owned small business concern in order to obtain a contract to be awarded under the preference programs established pursuant to section 8(a), 8(d), 9, or 15 of the Small Business Act or any other provision of Federal law that specifically references section 8(d) for a definition of program eligibility, shall --

(i) Be punished by imposition of fine, imprisonment, or both;

(ii) Be subject to administrative remedies, including suspension and debarment; and

(iii) Be ineligible for participation in programs conducted under the authority of the Act.

## **VI. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

A. Your proposal with an original and two (2) copies shall be received at one of the following addresses by 12:00 p.m. (Noon), local time, on May 20, 2009. Three copies of the application must be submitted: 1) an original, signed copy; 2) a single-sided copy on plain white paper; and 3) another copy for administrative purposes. Offerors are encouraged to also include one CD-ROM with a Portable Document Form (PDF) copy of your proposal.

### **U.S. MAIL ADDRESS:**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Solicitation No. PR-NC-09-10319 - SBIR Phase I  
Closing Date: May 20, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)  
Attention: Stacey Passwaters, SBIR Phase I  
RTP Procurement Operations Division (D143-01)  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

**HAND CARRIED/COURIER ADDRESS:** (Includes U.S. Postal Service Express mail requiring delivery signature)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Solicitation No. PR-NC-09-10319 - SBIR Phase I  
Closing Date: May 20, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)  
Attention: Stacey Passwaters, SBIR Phase I  
RTP Procurement Operations Division (D143-01)  
4930 Old Page Road  
Durham, NC 27703

**IMPORTANT!!! Please note Section V, Paragraph J.9(c) concerning Late Proposals, Modifications of Proposals and Withdrawal of Proposals.**

**Telegraphic, telecopied or facsimile proposals will NOT be considered for award.**

B. Please do not use special bindings or covers. The original can be stapled in the upper left corner of the proposal. Do not permanently bind or staple the copies; please use either binder or paper clips to secure them.



C. All copies of a proposal shall be sent in the same package.

D. The proposal should be self-contained and written with the care and thoughtfulness accorded papers for publication.

## **VII. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION SOURCES**

(See Appendix D)

## **VIII. SBIR PHASE I RESEARCH TOPICS**

**Program Scope:** The objective of this solicitation is to increase the incentive and opportunity for small firms to undertake cutting edge, high-risk, or long-term research that has a high potential payoff if the research is successful. Federal support of the front-end research on new ideas, often the highest risk part of the innovation process, may provide small businesses sufficient incentive to pursue such research.

SBIR proposals should consider the lifecycle environmental impacts of the technology including (if applicable) minimizing resource use, minimizing toxicity of materials, efficient use of water and energy, minimizing pollution and minimizing impacts of disposal. EPA's Program does not fund basic research or literature searches. It is recognized that any research and development project starts out as a concept of the inventor. Basic theoretic research studies and preliminary laboratory testing of the concept are often needed to develop an idea. Literature and other surveys and questionnaires are also needed to rule out duplication and inappropriate research study and process detail, finally leading to the process design of a prototype apparatus or process that could be tested to show the feasibility of the innovation. These basic research activities and preliminary studies should be completed before preparing an SBIR proposal.

**Research Topics:** The proposed research must directly pertain to EPA's environmental mission and must be responsive to EPA program interests included in the topic descriptions of this solicitation. The research should be the basis for technological innovation resulting in new commercial products, processes, or services which benefit the public and promote the growth of the small business. This year's solicitation includes topics in two areas, GREEN BUILDINGS and EPA TECHNOLOGY NEEDS. There are 10 topics in these areas: Green Building Materials and Systems, Innovation in Manufacturing, Nanotechnology, Greenhouse Gases, Drinking Water and Water Monitoring, Water Infrastructure, Air Pollution, Biofuels and Vehicle Emissions Reduction, Waste Management and Monitoring, and Homeland Security. This solicitation is open from March 19, 2009 until May 20, 2009 and is available on the EPA SBIR website ([www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir](http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir)).

## **A. GREEN BUILDING MATERIALS AND SYSTEMS**

Green building is the practice of: (1) increasing the efficiency with which buildings and their sites use energy, water, and materials; and (2) reducing building impacts on human health and the environment through better siting, design, material selection, construction, operation, maintenance, and removal of structures – encompassing the complete building lifecycle. The many elements of green buildings include healthier indoor environments, conservation of energy, water and materials, minimization of waste and reduction of environmental impacts ranging from stormwater runoff to ecological toxicity to climate change. This topic includes new materials, technologies and processes that can be used to meet green building goals and green building rating system certification criteria. (See [www.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.usgbc.org/leed).) Topics promote the Four Rs of green building and going green: Reduce, Reuse, Reclaim and Recycle.

Identifying ways to reduce negative multi-media impacts of buildings and construction on human health and the environment is an EPA priority. Buildings in the US use more than one-third of all energy, more than two-thirds of all electricity, 12 percent of all water and produce more than one-third of all carbon dioxide emissions. Their construction consumes one-fourth of all harvested wood and their construction renovation and demolition produce more than 136 million tons of waste annually. Health and productivity losses associated with indoor air pollution are estimated to cost tens of billions of dollars annually.

The area of green building includes creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's lifecycle. The rapidly growing field is driven by public concerns about climate change, cost and availability of energy resources, and the impacts of buildings on human health and the environment. Design and construction of green buildings has increased dramatically in recent years, and this expansion has given rise to a host of technical, scientific, and economic questions that building professions are not currently configured to answer. In order to ensure Green Buildings are sustainable for the long-term and effectively address environmental and human health issues relating to energy, water, and material consumption; land use; and indoor air exposure at a national scale, these questions must be answered. The areas listed below will begin to address some of the most critical green building problems and needs.

### **BUILDING MATERIALS AND SITE MANAGEMENT**

New building materials and products are needed which have minimal environmental and public health impacts over their lifecycles. Examples of building material attributes may include water efficiency, biodegradability, enhanced indoor environmental quality, low embodied energy, recyclable or reusable components or recycled content, and reduced or eliminated toxic substances. Innovative chemical transformations utilizing green and sustainable chemistry and engineering need to be developed and applied. Areas of interest include:

- New building materials, chemicals, processes, and systems (e.g., safer alternative to polyurethane spray foam insulation) with minimal environmental and public health impacts and reduced carbon footprints over their lifecycles.
- Direct testing methods for building materials (e.g., insulation, dry wall, ceiling tiles, etc.) that assess current conditions and identify potential indoor air or other building problems.
- Alternate processes for making building materials that reduce their overall lifecycle environmental impacts and carbon footprints. Alternative materials that do not require heating processes to be manufactured. (i.e., bricks that do not need to be fired).

Land use pressures are increasing and will continue to increase. Building demolition and reconstruction activities are increasing, and some old brownfield sites have the potential to contaminate soil and water beyond return. Research outcomes have the potential to make a significant impact on land use and development patterns in many parts of the country while protecting water and other ecological resources. A significant percentage of available building sites, especially in urban areas, are contaminated by hazardous chemicals. Areas of interest include:

- Site design technologies and remediation process improvements for streamlined, cost-effective site brownfield remediation—including such strategies as bioremediation and phytoremediation.
- Construction materials and methods that minimize waste during construction and promote recycling and materials reuse over the entire building lifecycle.
- New technologies for building demolition, increasing recycling of old building materials and reducing the amounts of waste materials and waste disposal problems.

## ENERGY AND INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Commercial and residential buildings consume about one-third of the world's energy. In particular, U.S. buildings account for about 40 percent of total U.S. energy consumption, including 72 percent of electricity generation. If current trends continue, by 2025, buildings worldwide will be the largest consumer of global energy, consuming as much energy as the transportation and industry sectors combined. Building materials, technologies, and tools are needed to enhance the energy efficiency of buildings at multiple scales. Areas of interest include:

- Devices, technologies, and materials which reduce energy needs in existing buildings, including efficient distributed energy delivery systems.

- Building intelligence systems that increase overall building energy efficiency and reduce total energy use. Includes variable frequency drives, smart motors that adjust speed and other technologies that result in minimal wasted energy.
- Technologies to reduce uncontrolled air exchange between the inside and outside of a building which can be responsible for up to half of the total heat loss.

Contaminants in the indoor environment may increase human health problems such as sensitization, allergy and irritation health effects, cancer, neurotoxic or other developmental impacts. Innovations are needed in sensors and technologies that measure indoor air pollution effects of building materials, furnishings, and consumer products to reduce harmful indoor air quality. Additional research is needed that will fill knowledge gaps of indoor chemical pollutants including development of methods for assessing the individual and combined effects of indoor environmental conditions and research that leads to cost-effective methods to reduce exposures through source modification, ventilation, or contaminant removal. Additionally, research and development is needed to transform the building industry by collecting data which is standardized, reliable and replicable. Better monitoring should provide feedback for further improvements in design, construction, operations, and deconstruction related to individual and collective building impact. Areas of interest include:

- Technologies to measure and characterize source emissions (and transfer methods to the emissions testing stakeholders through consensus standard-setting bodies such as ASTM, ANSI, etc.).
- Sensors and technologies, including in-situ and portable instrumentation, to assist in evaluation of building performance for air quality, mold, energy, water, ecosystems, and human health.
- Advanced measurement systems that can be used to continuously measure and characterize contaminants in buildings and associated process control systems that adjust the need for outside air based on contaminant levels.
- Low cost indoor air cleaners with low pressure drop and minimal maintenance requirements.

## WATER USE AND MANAGEMENT

The development or improvement of on-site stormwater management methods for green building, including effective utilization, treatment, infiltration and storage will help reduce the environmental footprint of buildings. Future goals will be to eliminate all stormwater runoff and to maximize the use of storm and rainwater to reduce the need for piped water supplies. Achieving these goals demands innovations in both practices and

technologies, and research into long-term performance, environmental benefits, maintenance requirements, and cost-effectiveness of these systems. There is a need for significant additional research in these areas, especially pollutant removal systems and the design of infiltration and storage capability of landscapes, as well as the integrated systems that will support effective use and reuse of on-site water. Specific research areas of interest include:

- Systems to reduce stormwater runoff and remove pollutants from stormwater at existing homes and buildings. Systems that promote stormwater reuse are included.
- Porous pavement systems that work efficiently with minimum maintenance.
- Cost effective green roofing systems with innovative reflective materials, vegetation, soil or other growing medium that enhances water management (and energy efficiency) in homes and buildings.
- Building systems that conserve overall building water needs, increase water recycling and reuse.

## **B. INNOVATION IN MANUFACTURING**

Executive Order 13329 directs EPA to properly and effectively assist the private sector in its manufacturing innovation in order to sustain a strong manufacturing sector in the US economy by advancing innovation. Manufacturing-related R&D encompasses improvements in existing methods or processes, or wholly new processes, machines or systems. Manufacturing innovation is fostered by technology R&D aimed at increasing the competitive capability of manufacturing concerns. Areas of interest include unit process level technologies that create or improve manufacturing processes, machine level technologies that create or improve manufacturing equipment, systems level technologies for innovation in the manufacturing enterprise, and environmental technologies that improve workforce abilities and manufacturing competitiveness. Companies seeking assistance with project development in this topic area are encouraged to contact their local National Institutes of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership office at <http://www.mep.nist.gov>. Specific areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Manufacturing process changes that utilize green technology to improve process efficiency and reduce pollution. These technologies may include non-traditional reactors, novel processing methods, new feedstocks, solvents or chemical systems that improve production efficiency and performance while eliminating or minimizing the use or generation of harmful materials.
- New filtration membranes for organic solvent recovery and similar applications. Also, development of technology for solvent free production of chemical products and new or

improved catalyst products.

- Prevention or reuse of paint sludges from captured overspray in painting operations and use of low volatile organic compounds (VOC) products for purging paint lines and painting guns, and alternate filter technologies, reusable filters or new technologies for collection of spray in dry paint booths.

### C. NANOTECHNOLOGY

Research is also needed to apply the principles of manufacturing using nanotechnology to the areas of environmental monitoring, detection and control. Nanotechnology is the understanding and control of matter at dimensions of roughly 1 to 100 nanometers, where unique phenomena enable novel applications. Encompassing nanoscale science, engineering and technology, nanotechnology involves imaging, measuring, modeling, and manipulating matter at the nanoscale.

EPA is particularly interested in **sensors** that detect multiple pollutants in water, air and soil environments with speed, robustness, fewer false readings and the ability to function unattended in unusual, extreme and complex environments. The Agency is also interested in nanotechnologies that can detect and distinguish engineered nanomaterials from natural or anthropogenic nanoscale materials and that result in reductions in the use and release of toxic compounds, especially persistent, bioaccumulative toxics (PBTs), hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Specific areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Development of microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) and nanotechnology based devices for use in environmental analytical and monitoring instrument devices including sensors and nanocomponents.
- Nanomaterial sensors for rapid and precise process control and environmental monitoring. EPA is particularly interested in remote, in-situ, real-time and continuous measurement of species at trace (ppt) concentrations. Sensors that utilize lab-on-a-chip technology are also of interest.
- In-situ groundwater remediation technologies incorporating nanomaterials as part of the clean-up system. Such methods are needed to replace extraction and treatment of contaminated groundwater at Superfund sites.
- New nanoporous filters for removal of gaseous pollutants and particulates from contaminated air streams, and nanoparticulate catalysts for utilization in VOC treatment devices and related applications.
- Metal-free nanolaminated coatings and nanomaterials with smart characteristics including reactive coatings that destroy or immobilize toxic compounds. High surface area

nanomaterials for new coatings and environmental applications.

#### **D. GREENHOUSE GASES**

Greenhouse gases (e.g., carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide) are emitted by a variety of natural and man-made sources. The increasing atmospheric concentrations of these gases have been linked to climate change which has a myriad of environmental and human health implications. As the nation considers a variety of approaches to respond to the climate challenge, government, industry, and academia will be working together to identify the next generation of technologies for use in the power generation, industrial, commercial and residential sectors to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It will be critical to ensure this next generation of technologies are sustainable for the long-term and do not result in any adverse implications to the environment. In addition, as EPA and other agencies consider how to respond to future climate change, it will be critical to understand emissions from the numerous sources that will likely be impacted. EPA is particularly interested in proposals that minimize environmental impacts of CO<sub>2</sub> control technologies and technologies that reduce non-CO<sub>2</sub> pollutants that contribute to warming (e.g., methane, black carbon, nitrous oxides). In order to design mitigation strategies, improved techniques are needed to better quantify emissions, particularly from dispersed sources. Examples of GHG source measurement and control technology research include, but are not limited to:

- Technologies and process modifications that can reduce undesirable by-product formation resulting from the use of CO<sub>2</sub> capture technologies.
- Technologies that reduce emissions and harmful by-products associated with the expanded use of renewable sources of energy for power production.
- Systems that minimize the environmental impact of carbon sequestered from coal-fired power plants including impurities in the captured carbon stream.
- Advanced process changes or use of new materials that can be incorporated into industrial production to reduce overall carbon footprint while minimizing emissions/releases to other environmental media.
- Innovative source measurement techniques for dispersed sources of GHG emissions.
- Advanced technologies that control methane and other non-CO<sub>2</sub> gases from industrial and commercial operations.

#### **E. DRINKING WATER AND WATER MONITORING**

EPA needs new treatment and measurement technologies for organic and inorganic contaminants and disease-causing organisms, especially for small systems. Microorganisms of concern include *Cryptosporidium* and other cyst-like organisms and emerging pathogens such as

caliciviruses, microsporidia, echoviruses, coxsackieviruses, adenoviruses, and others on the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List. (See <http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/ccl/>) Areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Improved detection and measurement techniques including screening kits for algal neurotoxins (especially cyanobacterial anatoxin) and cytotoxins in drinking water systems.
- Improved detection and measurement techniques for microbial pathogens that also address viability or infectivity, including online devices for continuous monitoring of pathogens and optimization of three-dimensional cell culture systems for growth of waterborne enteric viruses and bacteria for routine laboratory use.
- New amplification systems used in conjunction with microarrays that detect multiple classes of pathogens (viruses, protozoa, bacteria) found in water and improved microfluidics-based devices for concentrating organisms in large volume samples.
- Field test kits for rapid, cost-effective detection of Type E Botulism Toxin. Botulism is a neuromuscular disease caused by several strains of *Clostridium botulinum*. The toxin is often produced when spores in sediments germinate and the bacterium enters the vegetative growth cycle. Type E is one of the strains that cause human botulism and it has caused waterfowl and fish kills in the Great Lakes and other US waters.
- Development of innovative unit processes, particularly for small drinking water systems, for removal or inactivation of contaminants such as pesticides, organic pollutants, pharmaceuticals and personal care products and pathogens.

## **F. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

Much of the water infrastructure in this country is aging. It has been estimated that as much as an additional \$23 billion/year for the next 20 years are required to keep the U.S. water and wastewater infrastructure functional and in compliance with applicable drinking water and water quality regulations. This water infrastructure challenge provides an important research area addressing economic and efficient condition assessment and rehabilitation of drinking water, stormwater and wastewater infrastructure. For more information on EPA's water infrastructure program, visit [www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure](http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure). Areas of needed research and interest include, but are not limited to:

- More effective and less expensive technologies are needed to detect leaks, forecast structural failures, and repair/rehabilitate sewers and water distribution systems. Current approaches (e.g., closed-circuit TV, visual observation, and other in-line methods) do not adequately address detection and analysis of critical defects in drinking water distribution and stormwater and wastewater collection systems.



- Technologies that significantly increase the life expectancy of wastewater collection and drinking water distribution systems, water and wastewater treatment systems, and related monitoring equipment. New technologies to more effectively construct, maintain, and repair new and existing urban wastewater collection and water distribution infrastructure at an acceptable cost.
- New technologies aimed at reducing energy requirements, better managing energy use and the cost-effective production and recovery of renewable energy (green power) by wastewater treatment facilities. New technologies that can be incorporated into existing treatment plants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- New non-leachable/inert pipe materials, relining techniques and innovative materials for water distribution and sewer systems that improve performance and lifecycle cost. Improved construction, cleaning, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement techniques and technologies to substantially reduce lifecycle cost and failure rates of distribution and collection system pipes and other components (e.g., manholes).

## **G. AIR POLLUTION**

This topic addresses air toxics and fine particulate (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) air pollution (less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter). Priorities include reducing emissions from small air pollution sources with large numbers of establishments, particularly small industrial boilers, auto body and paint shops and restaurants. This topic also includes air pollution monitoring.

### **AIR POLLUTION CONTROL**

Many air pollution sources emit multiple pollutants which are released from a variety of processes present at a particular facility. These emissions are either released out of a stack (point source) or at many points throughout a process (fugitive). Over the last twenty to thirty years, many of the pollutants and processes have been regulated through a multitude of different regulatory actions. Future efforts to address source emissions and associated risks will increasingly address an entire facility rather than individual emission points. In order to effectively implement such an approach, technologies are needed that can more holistically address emissions from key sectors contributing to air pollution. The goal will be to identify technological options that can address multiple emissions of concern with integrated technologies that are less costly than the technologies used to address the pollutants individually. While innovative approaches for all types of sources are of interest, there is particular interest in small sources that collectively are a significant pollution source and often do not have the economic means or expertise to install multiple costly technologies. Examples of these types of sources include small industrial boilers and auto body shops and paint plants that emit particulates and volatile organics.

Restaurants and establishments that use fryers, broilers, grills and other cookers to prepare food products are a problem source of particulates and other air pollutants. Large numbers of small sources collectively become a significant contributor to air pollution. EPA needs include, but are not limited to:

- New technologies, process redesigns or other approaches that can reduce multiple pollutants from key sectors including refinery operations, pulp and paper mills and cement kilns at equal or lower costs than existing single pollutant technologies.
- Retrofit and inexpensive air pollution control devices for small oil and coal-fired industrial boilers. These small sources (between 10 and 100 million BTU boilers) are collectively large contributors to PM and other air pollution. EPA is also interested in technologies that help small fabric filters and electrostatic precipitators (ESPs) function more effectively.
- Commercial, institutional and residential gas and oil fired combustion units that can maintain low emissions of methane, PM, NO<sub>x</sub>, VOCs and achieve high energy efficiency over long periods with less reliance on periodic manual maintenance and tune ups.
- New technologies, process designs or other approaches that can cost effectively reduce condensable particulate matter emissions from a wide variety of industrial, commercial and institutional sources.
- Inexpensive and low maintenance retrofit technologies are needed for auto body shops and paint plants. Reformulations of stains and lacquers that reduce VOCs and particulate matter are also needed. Reformulations should be less expensive and easier to use than retrofit technologies.
- Effective and inexpensive air pollution control devices for restaurants and establishments that use fryers, broilers, grills and other cookers to prepare food products. Simple retrofit technologies are needed to remove particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), VOCs and other air pollutants. Retrofit technologies need to be inexpensive, easy to operate and low maintenance.
- Power plant systems that utilize biomass mixed with coal to reduce particulate matter, mercury and/or other air pollutants.

## AIR POLLUTION MONITORING

Better and lower cost ambient air and stationary source pollution monitors are needed. Both devices that operate continuously which are suitable for fixed installation or small

highly portable hand held devices for easy transport are desired. Instruments capable of measuring particulate matter (PM), ammonia, toxic metals, toxic organic compounds and other air pollutants are of particular interest. Needs include but are not limited to:

- Ambient air instruments that can quantify and or speciate the coarse, fine and nanoscale size fractions of PM on a real-time or near real-time basis as needed by the new NCore monitoring network. PM coarse fraction is defined as the fine particles in the 10 micron to 2.5 micron size range. Nanoscale size PM fraction are defined as particles in the 1 to 100 nanometer size range.
- Instruments that can quantify semi-volatile compounds (e.g., naphthalene and other polycyclic compounds) in a semi-continuous time scale.
- Development of an improved reliable and real time instrument for methane and non-methane organic compounds (NMOC). Instrument should have an internal zero air supply and no carrier gas or at least carrier gas at low flow to extend operation times to months instead of weeks. Detection limits for NMOC should be in the ppb range, auto range capability to catch events at more than 50 ppm. Full remote control capability by modem and capability of being networked to other continuous instruments at the site.
- Stationary Source measurement instruments and continuous monitoring instruments that can quantify and or speciate the coarse, fine and nanoscale size fractions of PM on a real-time or near real-time basis. For both the fine and nanoscale size fractions, PM includes both material that is solid at stack conditions and material that is either a vapor or a gas at stack conditions but that condenses to form a solid or liquid at ambient air (30 °C).
- Stationary Source measurement instruments and continuous monitoring instruments that can quantify coarse, fine and nanoscale size fraction PM contained in exhaust gas saturated with water and containing entrained water droplets.

## **H. BIOFUELS AND VEHICLE EMISSIONS REDUCTION**

This topic includes two subtopics: (1) Ethanol, Biodiesel and Other Biofuels and (2) Diesel Construction and Truck Retrofits.

### **ETHANOL, BIODIESEL AND OTHER BIOFUELS**

New technologies are converting agricultural materials into biobased fuels and materials. New ethanol production facilities are converting biomass into fuel, fuel substitutes and fuel additives. Meat rendering, greases and food wastes are used to produce biodiesel

products. Technologies are being developed for isobutanol and other non-ethanol and non-biodiesel biofuels. EPA is interested in developing environmentally friendly technologies that improve efficiency, enhance recovery of waste materials and reduce lifecycle environmental impacts. Technologies should consider the overall energy balance of the proposed fuel. Needs include, but are not limited to:

- Technologies to improve efficiencies at ethanol, biodiesel and other biofuels production plants and further reduce air, water and waste disposal impacts from these plants.
- Environmentally friendly denaturants or technologies that eliminate the need for denaturants used in the transport of ethanol from production plants. New coatings or fuel additives that eliminate corrosion and other problems between storage tanks, dispensers, etc.
- Innovative thermochemical or biochemical technologies or integrated gasification systems that produce ethanol, biofuels or energy from waste materials, including forest wood biomass, grassland biomass, organic non-recyclable components of municipal solid waste, biosolids from wastewater treatment plants or other cellulosic waste material.
- New, more efficient and cost effective methods for production of biodiesel fuels. Sound and economical technologies for utilizing meat rendering, greases and food wastes for biodiesel production are of particular interest.

## DIESEL CONSTRUCTION AND TRUCK RETROFITS

In recent years, EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) has established new regulations that reduce nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions from new diesel engines and NO<sub>x</sub>, total hydrocarbons (THC) and carbon monoxide (CO) from gasoline-fueled vehicles. While new individual engine and vehicle emissions levels have decreased, the emissions from the overall fleet of engines and vehicles are still significant contributors to high ozone levels in many urban areas. This topic has been developed in cooperation with the Texas Environmental Research Consortium (TERC), Texas New Technology Research and Development (NTRD) Program and the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC). Collaboration between these Texas programs and SBIR awardees, including assistance with prototype development, demonstration and verification testing programs, is possible in Phase II and beyond. The Texas NTRD program also provides non-SBIR grants for technologies that show potential for commercialization and significant reduction of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. For more information about the Texas NTRD Program, visit their website at: [www.tercairquality.org](http://www.tercairquality.org).

The construction industry uses more than two million pieces of diesel-powered off-road

(nonroad) equipment across the country and about 95 percent does not meet EPA's Tier 3 emissions level. Mobile nonroad diesel powered equipment used by the construction industry, ports, material handling and other industries are significant sources of NOx emissions. This equipment includes, excavators, crawler tractors/dozers, rubber tire loaders, rollers, tractors/loaders/backhoes, surfacing equipment, graders, material handling equipment, and bore/drilling equipment. In addition, diesel exhaust emissions are significant contributors of ozone and particulate matter that form nitrogen oxide emissions. Specific research needs include, but are not limited to:

- Technologies that can significantly reduce NOx emissions from diesel engines with duty cycles resulting in exhaust gas temperatures below 225C for a majority of the time the engine is operating. (SCR technologies typically are most effective at temperatures above 225C.) Similar low exhaust temperatures can occur in cases where available space for installation of exhaust treatment devices is far enough removed from the engine so that a significant portion of the exhaust thermal energy is lost.
- New technologies for the construction industry and other sectors that reduce NOx emissions without reliance on urea or ammonia. While it is preferable that these new technologies also improve engine or operational performance, they should, at a minimum, not affect equipment warranty, reliability or durability.
- After treatment devices for heavy-duty diesel engines that are Tier II compliant and can be used with B20, B50 and B100 biodiesel fuels. EPA needs improved diesel particulate filters that can be used with these biodiesel fuels.

## **I. WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING**

This topic includes three subtopics: (1) Cleanup of contaminated sediments; (2) Waste-to-Energy Systems; and (3) Hazardous waste monitoring. Innovative approaches are needed to clean up sediments contaminated by industry. Agricultural wastes and wastes from animal feeding operations are included under Waste-to Energy Systems and hazardous waste monitoring is the third subtopic.

### **CLEANUP OF CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS**

Hazardous waste contamination of near-shore and other sediments have impacted marine life, disrupted the ecological food chain and resulted in fish advisories to protect human health. Many urban rivers, harbors and bays are much cleaner now, but the sediments have concentrated many persistent bioaccumulative and toxic substances including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), creosote, pentachlorophenol and heavy metals like arsenic and mercury. Years of dumping by chemical plants, refineries, wood preservers, painting and electroplating shops, shipyards

and others have contaminated the sediments.

Dredging has often been the preferred solution, but it is expensive and has impacts on the ecosystem. Even specialized equipment resuspends some of the contaminated sediment within the water column. There are also challenges associated with disposal of the dredged sediment, particularly when the sediments are extremely contaminated.

Areas of needed research include, but are not limited to:

- New technologies for beneficial use of contaminated sediments and/or dredged materials either alone or in combination with other industrial or municipal residuals or agricultural waste.
- Development of technologies that inject materials like highly reactive metal particles, iron oxide, calcium carbonate or nanoparticles and other materials for in-situ cleanup of highly contaminated sediments. Other improvements are needed to accelerate in-situ decontamination, such as using specialized catalysts or coatings or delivering the material more effectively, such as in the form of an emulsion. Specialized technologies such as in-situ elution or desorption are needed. Also, more effective ways to immobilize, detoxify or remove sediment contaminants and in-situ bioremediation techniques that use a mixture of bacteria, nutrients and sediment conditions to accelerate contaminant detoxification rates.
- Improved sediment capping materials such as reactive core mats where materials like coke-filled carpets are laid on the river bottom to detoxify or bind contaminants to prevent escape from the sediments into the water. Development of new techniques that work in the absence of oxygen deep within sediments and also utilize oxygen to detoxify upper reaches of sediments.

## WASTE-TO-ENERGY SYSTEMS

EPA is interested in “waste-to-energy” technologies that combine energy efficiency with solving waste management problems. There are environmental problems associated with agricultural wastes as well as with cattle feedlots, hog operations, dairies and poultry operations that confine large numbers of animals and store wastewater and manure in a contained area for extended periods of time. Among technologies of interest are gasification systems that include an enclosed thermal device and associated gas cleaning system. These systems limit oxygen concentrations in the enclosed thermal device to prevent the full oxidization of thermally disassociated gaseous compounds. Specific needs include:

- Cost effective gasification technologies and systems designed or modified to gasify animal and farm wastes, including wastes from AFOs. (For more

information on AFOs, see: [www.epa.gov/npdes/afo](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/afo).)

- Gasification technologies and systems using AFO wastes that are part of another operation or application where technology improvements reduce or improve quality of residuals or significantly improve overall pollutant emission levels.
- Waste-to-energy systems may include high efficiency anaerobic digestion systems that produce pipeline quality methane or lower quality gas that can be used on-site to reduce farm energy requirements from outside sources.
- Biological systems that produce an enriched, easily transported feedstock for the above or other digester systems. Includes scaling down of anaerobic digesters to smaller, easier to operate, lower operation and maintenance systems that are cost effective for small farms.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE MONITORING

EPA's waste management programs are seeking better sampling, analysis, and monitoring technologies to improve landfills, advance hazardous waste site cleanup and regulated waste process activities. This area includes technologies to address industrial and waste processes, accurate and cost effective identification and characterization of contaminants at waste sites, monitoring the performance of site cleanup activities and remedies both during construction and also during long-term operations, and techniques to support the closeout of cleanup activities and to support land revitalization beyond site cleanup phases. More information on these needs is available at <http://clu-in.org/programs/21m2/needs.cfm> Areas with significant technology needs and gaps include:

- Technologies or systems for detecting releases that are more sensitive, less prone to human error and that are as cost effective as current leak detection methods. Development of such new technologies would demonstrate to underground storage tank (UST) owners and regulatory agencies the feasibility of improving current methods. One area of particular need is the acceptability of vapor monitoring to determine the relatively low volatile emissions characteristic of diesel fuel releases. Better leak detection techniques including improved and reliable vapor detection systems that determine leakage from low-volatile carbon compounds such as diesel.
- Improved testing methods for vapor intrusion. Currently sampling methods are expensive and the analysis and validation of data is lengthy. Less expensive methods are needed that yield reproducible, defensible results in an expeditious timeframe to assist with decisions regarding the need to address sub-slab vapors.

- Sensor technologies for long-term monitoring of groundwater. Chemical specific (e.g., perchloroethene or trichloroethene) in-situ sensors are needed that can be queried remotely multiple times without biofouling or need for maintenance re-calibration. Sensors should meet required pollutant detection levels and be small enough, yet robust and at a reasonable cost to deploy with flux meters and piezometers to characterize change over small vertical and horizontal scales.
- Cost-effective leak detection technologies are needed for small municipal landfills. In addition, sensors are needed to monitor the integrity and effectiveness of slurry walls and liners and passive treatment (e.g., permeable reactive barrier systems).

## **J. HOMELAND SECURITY**

There are significant efforts throughout the government to develop and implement homeland security systems. Following September 11, 2001, EPA was designated in Homeland Security Presidential Directives as the Agency responsible for cleanup of deliberate chemical and/or biological contamination resulting from a terrorist act. EPA needs improved technologies that detect acts of terrorism, contain and respond to the problem and protect the American people and the environment. This topic includes four subtopics: (1) Decontamination; (2) Detection; (3) Microbial Viability Assessment; and (4) Drinking Water and Wastewater Security.

### DECONTAMINATION

One of EPA's goals following the events of September 11, 2001 is to evaluate, characterize and develop tools that can be used to decontaminate and manage hazardous chemical, radiological and biological materials purposefully introduced into buildings and outdoor spaces. Needs include, but are not limited to:

- Biological, radiological and chemical decontamination technologies and systems that can be applied safely, effectively and quickly at reasonable cost to fully remediate enclosed, semi-enclosed or outdoor facilities (commercial, private or governmental owned), structures, vehicles and other critical infrastructure and equipment. Such methods would need to address decontamination of common indoor and/or outdoor environmental surfaces. Important considerations, in addition to efficacy of decontamination, are materials compatibility, cost, safety, availability, ease of use, expendable supply needs and associated disposal requirements.
- Safe, efficient and cost-effective treatment and disposal methods for biological, radiological and/or chemical contaminated waste material.

### DETECTION



To optimize response-time and accelerate cleanup and recovery, EPA needs versatile detection technology platforms that are highly sensitive with low false positive rate and can rapidly and accurately detect the presence and also determine the identity of multiple chemical or biological threat agents.

- Early warning field test kits and detection technologies to rapidly (10 min or less) collect, quantify and identify hazardous biological and chemical contaminants on indoor surfaces with very low rates of false positives/negatives and low detection limits. Kits should be sensitive to relevant health effects levels or other levels of concern, easy to use, relatively inexpensive (\$200 or less) and stable during prolonged storage. EPA is interested in detection technologies for anthrax, smallpox, plague, ricin, botulinum toxin, and chemical contact poisons (e.g., highly toxic commercial pesticides) and chemical warfare agents.
- Rugged, portable real-time detection technology platforms that provide rapid, accurate (low false-positive) specific and sensitive identification of biological threat agents in single test or multi-test formats in five minutes or less. Detection platforms need to rapidly and accurately detect multiple chemical or biological threat agents simultaneously whether released into air and/or water.

#### MICROBIAL VIABILITY ASSESSMENT

As an adjunct to reducing the cost and time of biodecontamination, EPA needs rapid, cost-effective, culture-free assays for determining the viability of microorganisms that lessen the time and the cost of establishing extent of viability of microbes in a surface sample subjected to decontamination. Specific needs include but are not limited to:

- Assays based on flow cytometry for determining the amount of fluorescent dye taken up by each cell in a population. Since quantitative measurements can be made very rapidly on a large number of individual cells, a picture of the distribution of dye uptake by many thousands of cells may be possible within a few minutes of obtaining a sample.
- Assays for single-step extraction and detection of ATP levels from microbial cells. The disclosed compositions could be formulated to efficiently elicit bioluminescent detection of ATP among a broad variety of different microorganisms using a common single-step reagent composition. This type of assay should be applicable for rapid determination of viability of microbes left on hard surfaces after biodecontamination.
- Rapid colorimetric assays that directly measure viability as the active reduction capacity of microbes. The change in color of the indicator should indicate presence of an active reducing potential and subsequently indicate viability of the tested microbes.

## DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER SECURITY

This research may address either physical or cyber threats potentially resulting in disablement and disruption in services provided by various-sized drinking water and wastewater systems. Technologies, equipment, and other tools are needed to detect, measure, monitor and warn of the presence of chemical and biological contaminants. These technologies could be used by drinking water and wastewater utility operators, emergency response personnel and other decision officials. Classes of contaminants of concern include: biological organisms (e.g., spores, viruses, bacteria); biotoxins and chemicals (including pesticides, toxic industrial chemicals, chemical warfare agents, persistent, bioaccumulative toxins both metal-based (e.g., mercury) and organic-based (e.g., PCBs)). Ideally, research in this area should also benefit the larger context of safe water even under non-threat situations. Needs include but are not limited to:

- Technologies for detecting, measuring and monitoring water and wastewater for the presence of chemical, biological and radiological contaminants that could be introduced pre- or post- treatment. These technologies include hand-held, in-line or slip stream devices that can provide a result in near-real-time and that can be used as part of an early warning system. Research is also needed for improved equipment longevity and reliability under conditions relevant to drinking water or wastewater systems.
- Security systems and technologies including early warning “smart” systems which use detection devices and techniques in combination with computer-based software, to help drinking water and wastewater utility operators identify changes in contaminants in water systems. Research is also needed on software or computer-driven planning tools to provide analysis and operational optimization when a portion of a water system becomes disabled or disrupted.

## IX. SUBMISSION FORMS AND CERTIFICATIONS

The attached forms, Appendix A - Proposal Cover Sheet, Appendix B - Project Summary, and Appendix C - SBIR Proposal Summary Budget, should be downloaded and printed from the Internet or photocopied, and completed as indicated under Section III, Proposal Preparation Instructions and Requirements. The purpose of these forms is to meet the mandate of law or regulation and simplify the submission of proposals.

**Appendix A**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM**  
**SOLICITATION NO. PR-NC-09-10319**  
**SBIR PHASE I**

**PROPOSAL COVER SHEET**

PROPOSAL TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

FIRM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT REQUESTED:\$ \_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSED DURATION (PHASE I): 6 MOS

(Not to Exceed \$70,000)

\*\*\*\*\*Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation will be valid for 300 days\*\*\*\*\*

RESEARCH TOPIC (check one)

- A. Green Building Materials and Systems
- B. Innovation in Manufacturing
- C. Nanotechnology
- D. Greenhouse Gases
- E. Drinking Water and Water Monitoring
- F. Water Infrastructure
- G. Air Pollution
- H. Biofuels and Vehicle Emissions Reduction
- I. Waste Management and Monitoring
- J. Homeland Security

CERTIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZATIONS: Answer Y (Yes) or N (No)

- 1. The above concern certifies that it is a small business concern and meets the definition as stated in the program solicitation.
- 2. The above concern certifies that a minimum of 2/3 of the research and/or analytical effort will be performed by the proposing firm.
- 3. If the proposal does not result in an award, is the Government permitted to disclose the title and technical abstract page of your proposed project, and the name, address, and telephone number of the official of the proposing firm to any inquiring parties?
- 4. The above concern certifies that it is a woman owned small business concern and meets the definition as stated in the program solicitation.\*
- 5. The above concern certifies that it is a socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern and meets the definition as stated in the program solicitation.\*
- 6. The above concern certifies that it is a HUBZone small business concern and meets the definition as stated in the program solicitation.\*
- 7. Do you plan to send, or have you sent, this proposal or a similar one to any other federal agency? If yes, which? Use acronym(s) for each agency, (e.g., DOD, NIH, DOE, NASA, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Choose one of the following to describe your Organization Type:  
 Individual  Partnership  Corporation  LLC
- 9. Provide the following information: Tax Identification No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dun & Bradstreet Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Common Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\* For statistical purposes only.

**ENDORSEMENTS**

Principal Investigator:  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate/Business Official:  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPRIETARY NOTICE: These data shall not be disclosed outside the Government and shall not be duplicated, used or disclosed in whole or in part for any purpose other than evaluation of this proposal. If a funding agreement is awarded to this offeror as a result of or in connection with the submission of these data, the Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the funding agreement and pursuant to applicable law. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use information contained in the data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained on pages \_\_\_\_\_ of this proposal.

**Appendix B**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM**  
**SOLICITATION NUMBER PR-NC-09-10319**  
**SBIR PHASE I**  
**PROJECT SUMMARY (Limit to Two Pages)**

FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Firm Name:

Telephone:

Address:

Fax:

City

State:

TITLE OF PROPOSAL:

RESEARCH TOPIC LETTER AND DESCRIPTION:

NAME, TITLE AND E-MAIL ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR/PROJECT MANAGER:

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**TECHNICAL ABSTRACT, RESULTS, AND POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL APPLICATION**  
**(Limit to 400 Words; Must be Publishable):**

**Appendix C**  
**SBIR PROPOSAL SUMMARY BUDGET**

(See Instructions on Reverse Side)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization and Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
A. DIRECT LABOR (PI and other staff, list separately) Hours/Est. Rate: \$

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-----  
-----

\_\_\_\_\_  
B. OVERHEAD: \$

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\_\_\_\_\_  
C. OTHER DIRECT COSTS: (list separately) \$

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-----  
-----

\_\_\_\_\_  
D. TRAVEL: List purpose and individuals and or title \$

-----  
Attend one-day SBIR Kick-Off Meeting in Washington, DC

\_\_\_\_\_  
E. CONSULTANTS: (List Est. Rate and Hours) \$

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-----

\_\_\_\_\_  
F. GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE: \$

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL COSTS (Total of A thru F above)**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
G. PROFIT ( \_\_\_\_%) Not to exceed 10% of total project costs

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

=====

\_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL PROJECT PRICE (Total costs + Profit)**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE SUBMITTED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
This proposal is submitted in response to EPA SBIR Program Solicitation No. PR-NC-09-10319 and reflects our best estimate as of this date.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPENDIX C**

The purpose of this form is to provide a vehicle whereby the offeror submits to the Government a pricing proposal of estimated costs with detailed information for each cost element, consistent with the offeror's cost accounting system.

If the completed summary is not self-explanatory and/or does not fully document and justify the amounts requested in each category, such documentation should be contained, as appropriate, on a budget explanation page immediately following the budget in the proposal. The form Appendix C will count as one page in the 25 page limit, and any budget explanation pages included will count separately toward the 25 page limit. (See below for discussion on various categories.)

A. Direct Labor - List individually all personnel included, the estimated hours to be expended and the rates of pay (salary, wages, and fringe benefits).

B. Overhead - Specify current rate(s) and base(s). Use current rate(s) negotiated with the cognizant federal negotiating agency, if available. If no rate(s) has (have) been negotiated, a reasonable rate(s) may be requested for Phase I which will be subject to approval by EPA. Offerors may use whatever number and types of overhead rates that are in accordance with their accounting systems and approved by the cognizant federal negotiating agency, if available.

C. Other Direct Costs - List all other direct costs which are not otherwise included in the categories described above, i.e., computer services, publication costs, subcontracts, etc. List each item of permanent equipment to be purchased, its price, and explain its relation to the project.

D. Travel - Address the type and extent of travel and its relation to the project. Include travel expenses for a one-day SBIR Phase I Kick-Off Meeting in Washington, DC.

E. Consultants - Indicate name, daily compensation, and estimated days of service.

F. General and Administrative (G&A) - Same as B. above.

G. Profit - Reasonable fee (estimated profit) will be considered under this solicitation. For guidance purposes, the amount of profit should not exceed 10% of total project costs.

## Appendix D

### SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION SOURCES

State-of-the-art information, including service and cost details, useful in preparing SBIR proposals or in guiding research efforts may be obtained from the following sources:

National Technical Information Service (NTIS)  
5288 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, VA 22161  
(513) 569-7562

EPA Headquarters Library (3404)  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20460  
(202) 260-5922

The Hazardous Waste Collection and Database are available for use in the EPA Headquarters Library, the 10 EPA Regional libraries, EPA laboratories in ADA, OK; Edison, NJ; Las Vegas, NV; Research Triangle Park, NC and the National Enforcement Investigations Center in Denver, CO. The Database runs on an IBM AT/XT or compatible equipment and may be purchased from NTIS using the NTIS order number PB87-945000.

The Environmental Quality Instructional Resources Center  
1200 Chambers Road, R.310  
Columbus, OH 43212  
(614) 292-6717  
[Especially related to Drinking Water and Waste Water Treatment]  
National Small Flows Clearinghouse (SWICH)  
P.O. Box 7219  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
1-800-677-9424  
[Topic themes include source reduction, recycling, composting, waste combustion, collection, transfer, disposal, landfill gas, and special wastes]

ACCESS EPA (#055-000-00509-5) 1995 Edition

A consolidated guide to EPA information resources, services, and products. It provides access to:

Public information tools  
Major EPA dockets  
Clearing houses and hot lines  
Records management programs  
Major EPA environmental database  
Library and information services  
State environmental libraries

"ACCESS EPA" may be ordered at a cost of \$16.00 each from the U.S. Government Printing Office, New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954, or telephone (202)512-1800, or from NTIS using order number PB-147438.

Vendor Information System for Innovative Treatment Technologies (VISITT) Profiles 325 innovative technologies available from 204 vendors to treat ground water in situ, soil, sludges, and sediments. Includes technologies in all stages of development-bench, pilot, or full. VISITT is available at no charge on diskettes compatible with personal computers using DOS operating systems. To order VISITT diskettes and user manual, and to become a registered user, call the VISITT Hotline at 1-800-245-4505.

## **Appendix E: COMMERCIALIZATION FACT SHEET**

(Finding Commercial Products; Conducting a Patent Search; Searching for Federal Research; Standards/Certifying Bodies)

### ***FINDING COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS***

The technology you are proposing may already be being sold in the market. There are five web searches recommended as the minimum for determining if the technology is commercially available. In each case, when having trouble look for the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) or other advice on searching.

#### *Web Search using General Search Engines*

There are around 320 million indexed web pages and the web continues to grow exponentially. One problem with this rate of growth is that no single web search engine is capable of indexing the whole of cyberspace. We recommend using at least one meta-engine and two search engines.

A meta-engine is a search engine which searches other engines that actually catalog or index sites. Examples are Metacrawler, <http://www.metacrawler.com/>, and Dogpile, <http://www.dogpile.com>. We use that search to identify which search engines seem to be producing the best results and then use those engines for more complicated queries which cannot be supported by metacrawler and other meta-engines.

Three engines for more detailed searches at present are Hotbot (<http://www.hotbot.com/>), Yahoo (<http://www.yahoo.com/>) and Google (<http://www.google.com>).

When searching, expand or narrow your keywords over time. For example, when searching for "sapphire liquid crystal displays," you may want to broaden to liquid crystal displays or just displays. Also remember to use abbreviations such as LCD.

*Thomas Register of American Manufacturers:* Long a staple of corporate buyers and market researchers, you can access Thomas Register on-line for free at <http://www.thomasnet.com/>. Once you obtain your free membership, you can search the 155,000 companies by product. You may have to try a few different keywords to get hits.

*Hoovers :* Hoovers on-line at <http://www.hoovers.com> provides access to profiles on over 12,000 companies. These are the major firms in America, including subsidiaries of foreign operations. By using the keyword search, you can look for companies making products in areas related to your technology. Hoovers provides hypertext links to go to the company's web page. Phone, fax, and street address are also provided. If you cannot find the information on the web, ask for relevant product literature from their marketing departments.

*Press Releases:* PR Newswire (<http://www.prnewswire.com/>) redistributes corporate press releases. It provides coverage of newly released products that might not otherwise be found on the web.

*Patents:* We discuss patent searches in the next section of this FactSheet. Look for patents related to your technology, then examine the assignee field. Companies licensing or patenting technology in areas related to your technology are competitors that may be introducing products similar to the one you are considering proposing. Search for their web pages using one of the resources above.



## *CONDUCTING A PATENT SEARCH*

*What is a patent?* A patent is a right to an invention that is granted by the U.S. Government or a foreign government. It gives the holder an exclusive right to use an invention during a period of time. In the United States, before a patent can be issued, the inventor must demonstrate his or her invention is new and non-obvious. To be new, an invention must not have been known nor made by others in the U.S. The invention also can not have been previously patented or presented in a publication prior to the claimed date on which the invention was made. Patents are handled by the U.S. Patent Office.

Non-obvious is established with reference to what would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the relevant technology (or technologies) at the time of the invention. A general rule is that the more complicated the technology and the greater the rate at which it is developing, the higher the skill-level of that hypothetical ordinary person. Non-obvious is determined by examining prior patents, technical publications, and non-secret work being conducted. Usually some aspect of an invention will be non-obvious and thus capable of being patented.

It is important to recognize that different rules apply in different countries. In the U.S., you have one year from the time of first disclosure, use, publication, or sale of an invention to patent the invention. Where more than one person or group makes a claim to be the inventor, the patent goes to the person or group that can demonstrate priority in time. Overseas, the rules are different. Usually the invention must be patented before any public disclosure, use, publication, or sale. In case of a dispute, priority goes to the first person or group to apply for a patent, regardless of who may actually be the inventor. You can, however, get the same overseas priority rights you would get from simultaneously filing overseas and in the U.S. if you file in each relevant country within 12 months of a U.S. patent application.

*How to search for U.S. patents:* To search the Patent Office go to <http://patents.uspto.gov/index.html>.

The Boolean search capability of the Patent Office enables constructing complicated searches to narrow in on patents of interest. It allows two terms Booleans in the first search, with more complicated queries when refining a search. You can search specific sets of years or the entire database. The advanced search gives you the ability to look in any or all of the fields in the patent -- a very nice feature. Coverage includes all patents issued no later than one week earlier. It includes all utility, design, and plant patents since 1976. Claims and pictures are not included. (See below, Reading Patents.)

The IBM Patent server contains over 2 million patents. Where drawings are part of the patent, they have been scanned in and can be viewed. Off the home page, you have the option of searching from 1995 to present or 1971 to present. Hypertext links on the home page let you search by patent number, use Boolean Logic, or do a text search in various sections of the patent. Try to be as targeted as possible in your search terms. For example, "environmental monitor" will return 42 patents issued in 1995 or later on IBM's server. "Mercury monitor," by comparison, returns only three.

*Reading Patents:* Once you have found a patent that looks relevant for your interests, examine the abstract and the claims. The abstract provides an overview of what is covered. The claims give you the specific scope of the patent.

There are three paths for finding other patents of interest, once you have found the first one. The first method is to look at the class (or classes) of the patent. You can find patents addressing similar problems by looking in those classes. To fine tune the classes to use, look at a number of relevant patents. Examine

the classes that are listed on the patent. Select those classes that most frequently appear across your sample of patents for further examination.

The second method is to look at the patents cited as references. The final method is to look at patents that reference the one you are examining. By searching text, relevant classes, and patents referred to or referencing relevant patents you can quickly determine if a U.S. patent has issued on a technology of interest. CAUTION: Examining U.S. patents does not assure you the technology has not been patented elsewhere. Further, if the patent is only applied for and has not yet been issued, you will not find it.

### ***SEARCHING FOR FEDERAL RESEARCH***

There are two sets of publicly available data on Federal Research. FEDRIP, or Federal Research in Progress, provides access to current civilian agency research. FEDRIP includes:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Energy
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Highway Administration
- National Institutes of Health
- NASA
- National Science Foundation
- US Geological Survey
- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Small Business Innovation Research

Parts of FEDRIP may be searched for free at The Community of Science, <http://fundedresearch.cos.com/>. Separate databases exist for the National Institutes of Health, NSF, USDA, and the SBIR program -- which means you must do multiple searches. You can also search projects of the Medical Research Council of the United Kingdom. To search all of FEDRIP, go to <http://grc.ntis.gov/fedrip.htm>. There is a \$350 fee.

In addition, by going to an agency's web site, you can find information on their current and/or past awards. The National Technical Information Service (NTIS) is the designated repository of research reports. It contains technical reports and other government-produced information products. The free access parts may be searched at <http://www.ntis.gov/>.

Perhaps the best comprehensive resource for searching is the RAND's RaDiUS at <http://www.rand.org/radius/>. RaDiUS, stands for "Research and Development in the United States." It is the first comprehensive database that tracks in real-time the research and development activities and resources of the U.S. Government. Among its sources are the following: the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA); USDA's Current Research Information System (CRIS); HHS's Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects (CRISP) and Information for Management, Planning, Analysis, and Coordination (IMPAC) system; DoD's R-1 and R-2 Budget Exhibits and Work Unit Information Summaries (WUIS); DOE's laboratory information system; the Federal Assistance Awards Data System

(FAADS); the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS); OMB's MAX system; DVA's R&D Information System (RDIS); NSF's Science and Technology System (STIS); and NASA's 507 System.

You must be a Government Contractor to subscribe to RaDiUS. The small business fee is \$1,000 per year per password.

### ***STANDARDS AND CERTIFYING BODIES***

If you are going to introduce a commercial product, it most likely will have to meet certain standards and be certified as meeting those standards. For example, we all are familiar with the Underwriter Laboratories seal found on household electrical products -- a certification of safety under normal use. A wide range of bodies creates standards or certifies products. To find relevant standards, we recommend beginning at the American National Standards Institute's "Internet Resources for Standards Developers", located at: <http://www.ansi.org>. The site provides links to U.S. bodies developing standards.

In the U.S., private sector laboratories, like UL commonly do certification. These organizations rely on standards developed by consensus bodies such as the American Society for Testing and Materials (<http://www.astm.org/>) or federal agencies such as EPA. ASTM maintains an International Directory of Testing Laboratories at: <http://www.astm.org/labs/>. The Directory can be searched by geographic location, lab name, subject area, or keywords.

**IMPORTANT!!**

**IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT CARD TO CONFIRM RECEIPT OF YOUR PROPOSAL, PLEASE COMPLETE A STANDARD SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED POSTCARD CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND ATTACH TO THE ORIGINAL OF EACH PROPOSAL:**

Please type the following and fill in the blanks as appropriate:

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**This will acknowledge the receipt of your proposal titled:**

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**Topic Letter \_\_\_\_\_. The evaluation of proposals and the award of SBIR Contracts will require approximately 10 months, and no information on proposal status will be available until final selection(s) is made. Your proposal has been assigned EPA No. \_\_\_\_\_ (to be filled in by EPA).**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**REVERSE SIDE:** Please type the following in the upper left-hand corner (return address) and self-address the card to your corporate official: (Post cards that do not meet postal service standards will not be returned).

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U.S. EPA  
RTP/POD (D143-01)  
RTP, NC 27711

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Your Firm Name  
Address  
City, State Zip Code

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