$1.7 Billion to be Distributed for Defense Reinvestment and Conversion

On March 11, President Clinton announced a major Defense Reinvestment and Conversion Initiative to distribute $1.4 billion that Congress appropriated last year for defense conversion. Another $300 million of proposed FY93 spending has also been redirected. The $1.7 billion conversion package includes four major areas of new investment: (1) worker training and adjustment, (2) investment in hard-hit communities, (3) dual-use technology and commercial-military integration, and (4) conversion opportunities in new civilian technology

As part of the conversion, the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA, formerly DARPA) is accepting proposals for the use of about $500 million to support industry-led R&D consortia in critical dual-use technologies and to pioneer state/local efforts to commercialize and deploy technology. Through the Technology Reinvestment Project (TRP), ARPA, the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) (within the Department of Commerce), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are cooperating to implement these programs. TRP is administered by the Defense Technology Conversion Council, chaired by ARPA.

A Program Information Package dated March 10, 1993 addresses defense industry and technology-based activities under eight statutory programs and sets forth planned selection criteria by which proposals received under a future solicitation (expected around the time of this printing) will be evaluated. Program funds are for technology development, technology deployment, and manufacturing education and training, but not for basic research. Programs require matching funds and selection is based on merit review.

Although not strictly limited to the following topics, the technology development focus areas to be emphasized are:

- information infrastructure,
- electronics design and manufacturing,
- mechanical design and manufacturing,
- materials/structures manufacturing,
- health care technology,
- training/instruction technology,
- environmental technology,
- aeronautical technology,
- vehicle technology,
- shipbuilding industrial infrastructure, and
- advanced battery technology.

In addition to the $500 million proposal solicitation, more than $200 million of new money is going for industry research to develop electronics and materials technologies with both commercial and military applications. These funds are aimed at industry research to develop dual-use technologies in high definition systems, optoelectronics, metal matrix and ceramics, multichip

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modules and integration, advanced lithography, diamond substrates, multichip modules/high-temperature superconductivity, battery technology, and composite materials manufacturing.

Also, the overall package calls for the funding of Small Business Innovation Research for companies developing dual-use technology in such areas as electronics, materials, and instrumentation; for DOE research and development partnerships with industry; and to boost funds for the Advanced Technology Program and other activities of NIST.

To obtain the Program Information Package for Defense Technology Conversion, Reinvestment, and Transition Assistance, call 1-800-DUAL-USE. Also by mid- to late May, the official solicitation for proposals should be available at the same number. The planned deadline for submission of proposals is **July 23, 1993**.

DOE Solicits Innovative R&D Grant Applications from Small Businesses

The Department of Energy is inviting firms to submit grant applications to its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program to help increase small business participation in federal research and development. Grant applications will be reviewed competitively. Approximately 40 winners will receive awards of up to $75,000 to explore the feasibility of their ideas; up to $500,000 will be available in a second phase for those ideas having the highest potential to meet the SBIR program objectives.

The SBIR program aims to increase private-sector commercialization of technology developed through federal research and development, thereby contributing to the growth and strength of the nation's economy. The Small Business Research and Development Enhancement Act of 1992 now requires the participation in SBIR of the department's programs in Environmental Restoration and Waste Management, Arms Control and Nonproliferation, and Security Affairs. Recipients of the department's first fiscal-year 1993 solicitation will automatically receive the second solicitation. The closing date for receipt of grant applications is **June 28, 1993**.

Firms with strong research capabilities in science and engineering in any of the following categories are encouraged to participate: Sensors for Monitoring Environmental Remediation Activities, *In-Situ* Treatment of Heavy-Metal Contaminated Soils and Groundwater, Waste Stream Diagnostics and Controls, On-Site Treatment of Surface Water and Groundwater, *In-Situ* Bioremediation of Contaminated Sites, Arms Control and Nonproliferation Verification and Detection Technology, International Atomic Energy Agency Special Safeguards Inspections, and Technologies for Domestic Nonproliferation and Safeguards. Additional information can be obtained by calling (301) 903-5707.

DOE Publications Facilitate Industry Access to National Labs

The Department of Energy has published two documents that will make it easier for industry to take advantage of DOE's technology transfer initiative: *Technology Transfer 92/93* and *DOE New Technology—Sharing New Frontiers*. The documents provide an overview of DOE's programs and capabilities and information on how to work with DOE for mutual benefit and the enhancement of the U.S. economy and security.

Technology Transfer 92/93 is a technology transfer user guide. It outlines the mechanisms for interacting with DOE laboratories and facilities that are available to schools and firms. It profiles these facilities, listing their missions, programs, expertise, facilities, equipment, and the people to contact. *Technology Transfer 92/93* also summarizes DOE's major research and development programs and provides information on how to access DOE scientific and technical information.

DOE New Technology—Sharing New Frontiers provides information on how to access specific technologies developed through research sponsored by DOE and performed by DOE laboratories and contracted researchers. It describes technologies that have been identified as having potential commercial applications. In addition, it has a catalog of current patent applications and patents available for licensing from DOE and DOE contractors.

Copies are available from the Office of Public Information at (202) 586-5575. □

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