



California State University, San Bernardino / 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Greg Zerovnik
Communications Manager
909-537-7785 (office, direct line)
909-730-8428 (cell)
gzerovni@csusb.edu

OTTC Opens Solicitation Round for CCAT grants

Group looks to fund robotics, biometrics technologies

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – August 15, 2006 – The Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization (OTTC) at California State University, San Bernardino has announced it is now accepting proposals to help advanced technologies get commercialized. The solicitation round runs from August 15 through September 17. OTTC is looking for very specific technologies in either of two areas: robotics and biometrics.

“The technologies we are looking to fund are especially in demand right now for defense and homeland security,” says OTTC Acting Director Dr. Klaus Brasch.

All grant proposals must be completed online using OTTC’s Internet-based Solicitation Management System (SMS). Once an applicant has completed the process, their proposal is then matched with evaluators who are best suited to conduct a peer review of the technology itself, as well as more business-side concerns about commercial and government procurement prospects.

“The online application process ends up saving quite a bit of time on evaluations,” notes Dr. Brasch. “In fact, we will be able to complete the first round of scoring and proposal evaluation in less than a week. Peer reviews will be wrapped up in October, about a month after the close of the application period.”

Once finalists have been selected, they will be scheduled to make in-person presentations to a panel of technology and business experts, as well as OTTC staff, during the month of November. Winners will be notified in December.

As soon as all the contractual paperwork is completed, each new grant winner is assigned to a designated client manager who is responsible for mentoring them throughout the grant performance period, even continuing to provide support beyond the submission of a project final report in order to help the technology achieve commercialization.

“We use what we call a ‘Virtual Incubator’ system to work very closely with our clients,” says Brasch, who adds that the program’s high success rate at helping clients cover “the last mile” to commercialization is due to the client management system used by OTTC.

The technologies being solicited in the upcoming round include the following:

- Robotics technologies that can be integrated with existing iRobot “PackBot” and Foster Miller TALON™ platforms. These would include ways to help these systems move from the existing teleoperated system to autonomous, self-guided operation. A variety of sensor and navigation technologies are being sought.
- Biometrics technologies for fool-proof identification screening in both attended and unattended application scenarios, from document verification to personal identification and authorization.

OTTC has provided more detailed descriptive information on its Web site for both of these technology categories. Interested parties are encouraged to visit: <http://ottc.csusb.edu>.

The money for these awards comes from the Office of Naval Research, which funds the Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology (CCAT). CCAT has two program centers in Southern California, one in San Diego and the other at CSU San Bernardino, which is managed by OTTC.

About the Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization (OTTC)

OTTC (<http://www.ottc.csusb.edu>) is the management office for a grant program known as CCAT, Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology, funded by the Office of Naval Research (ONR) through Congressman Jerry Lewis’s office. The Foundation for California State University, San Bernardino hosts and oversees OTTC. CCAT provides grants intended to be used in two ways: (1) to help companies develop commercial applications for technologies that have been developed in government laboratories; and (2) to help the government find technologies it needs for defense and homeland security needs and help them along so they can enter government procurement channels. OTTC is a two-way conduit that acts as a virtual incubator for advanced technology.