



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: December 4, 2000

Contact: Tiffani Clements (202) 205-6740

Release Number: 00-106

Internet Address: www.sba.gov/news/indexheadline.html

MINORITY FIRMS, UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS URGED TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL R&D DOLLARS

Federal Agencies Spend \$1 Billion A Year On Qualified R&D Projects

WASHINGTON – Minority research and development firms and researchers from Historically Black Colleges and Universities today attended the first-ever Advanced Technology Development and Commercialization Conference in Atlanta to find out how to take advantage of the \$1 billion spent annually by the federal government on research and development projects.

The money is provided in the form of grant awards through the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) program.

The two-day conference (Dec. 4-5) brings together entrepreneurs, researchers, business specialists and program managers from businesses, universities and federal agencies, including the SBA, to discuss how to apply for funding to take R&D projects from the lab to the marketplace. The conference will provide opportunities for mentoring, networking and one-on-one interviews with federal agencies and corporations.

“At the SBA, we are stepping up our efforts to reach out to women and minorities who have been underrepresented in the business sector, and that has to include research and development,” Administrator Aida Alvarez said. **“This conference is a step in the right direction to make sure that everyone has equal access to resources that will enable them to remain on the cutting edge of every major technological development.”**

SBA representatives are on hand at the conference at Clark Atlanta University to discuss the latest programs and services available to budding and existing entrepreneurs. On the conference's first day, representatives of the Departments of Defense and Energy made presentations on the funding available for a broad range of military technology, energy efficiency and innovation projects.

On Dec. 5, the Army Materiel Command will discuss funding availability to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and minorities.

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The National Institute of Standards and Technology sponsored the conference. The fee for the conference is \$125. For additional information, visit the Web Site at <http://www.seeport.com/Conference/registration.htm> or call at (561) 588-8825.

The SBIR program is coordinated by the SBA, and it accounts for more than \$1 billion per year in federal research and development funds, through 10 other federal agencies with large research and development budgets. Details on the program are available on the SBA's home page at <http://www.sba.gov/sbir>.

Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available at SBA's Web site: <http://www.sba.gov> or by calling the SBA's Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA.

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