**Nancy Fallon-Houle, P.C.**

Attorney At Law

5449 bending oaks place

downers grove, illinois 60515-4456

nfallon@nfhlaw.com [www.nfhlaw.com](http://www.nfhlaw.com)

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| phone: 630-963-0439 | fax: 630-963-0489 |

**Government Resources: Grants, Loans & Equity Investments**

**From State and Federal Government**

**for Specific Businesses**

*Sources for Seed Capital Infusion Prior to Raising Equity Capital From Investors*

1. ***State of Illinois***
2. **Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (Chicago Office) (“DCCA” – pronounced “Decca”)**

***Technology Challenge – Grant Program***

* + State of Illinois DCCA Innovation Research Grants for Small Businesses.
	+ $4.5 million in 2001 awarded to 20 companies $250,000 each
	+ $3.0 million budget for 2002 approximately 10 to 15 companies will be awarded $200,000 to $250,000 each. Usually 120 proposals, with 60 selections, narrowed down to 10 to 15 finalists.
	+ Purely a grant: No repayment required, and no equity relinquished by inventor/entrepreneur
	+ Grants for seed or pre-seed money, R & D
	+ For “Creation of Jobs in Illinois” Company Receiving Grant Must
	+ Illinois Coalition is the screener and partner
	+ Submit 8-10 page plan
	+ Submissions between February and August; selections usually made in August; final evaluations & selections in October and November.
	+ January to February, distribution of the grants.
	+ Award success odds: This past cycle ≈ 10 to 1
	+ May combine grant with federal grants and private investment.

Illinois DCCA [www.commerce.state.il.us/](http://www.commerce.state.il.us/)

100 West Randolph, Chicago, IL

After reading website, if additional questions email Dave Gallagher at dgallagh@commerce.state.il.us

[http://www.commerce.state.il.us/technology/Tech Dev.htm](http://www.commerce.state.il.us/technology/Tech%20Dev.htm)

**2. Illinois Finance Authority** – [www.idfa.com](http://www.idfa.com) (go to “products”)

* ***Technology Development Bridge (Venture Capital Investment)***. Illinois State provides Venture Capital Investments through IFA. Illinois matches $1 for $1 investments made by your other VC or “smart money” investors (not friends and family, but sophisticated money that has conducted its own due diligence). IFA matches up to $250,000 for its first match, and up to $400,000 for other (second stage match: IFA’s second match in same company.) IFA gets same terms and conditions as your other sophisticated investor, and becomes a co-investor in that round.
* Community Energy Program Grants Available
* Grants to Keep Illinois Beautiful and ***DCCA’s Bureau of Energy and Recycling***

**B. *Participation Loans*** to Illinois Businesses. Reduced interest rate (like an SBA loan), with participation bank. Your bank, if it participates in government loans, or IFA can introduce you to their banks. Normal credit checks and procedures apply.

**C. *IDFA Film participation loans*** - like SBA loans total budget $500,000 per year for all films. Will loan up to $100,000 per film, matching with a bank. [www.idfa.com/movie.htm](http://www.idfa.com/movie.htm) Must be collateralized by other assets you own, such as your home or stock. Film must be produced or post-produced in Illinois.

**3. The Illinois Coalition –** Resources for Entrepreneurs, go to “entrepreneurial resources” [www.ilcoalition.org](http://www.ilcoalition.org) It is the screener for IDFA and DCCA.

**4. “Illinois Technology Business Network” -** [www.Illinoistechnology.org](http://www.Illinoistechnology.org) Link to all the host of resources for commercialization of technology. Go to the central logo, “Illinois technology business network”.

**5. Government Funded, Free Service Providers Who Assist Scientists in Applying for Grants**

**A. Illinois Innovation Initiative** – [www.i3online.org](http://www.i3.com) **[Currently not in operation because federal and state funding absent. Check back at various dates]** Not a grant source, but instead is a free service provider to scientists. Helps scientists in the early steps to commercialize businesses – free assistance resources, but not funding.– Aid in building out technology; Mandated in 2000 by SBA to help development of intellectual property – idea must be patentable, no service, no consulting, no retail. See entire page of info below on i3.

The Illinois Innovation Initiative is a technology commercialization activity provided by the [Illinois Coalition](http://www.ilcoalition.org/), federally funded by the [Small Business Administration](http://www.sba.gov/), and operated by the [Battelle Memorial Institute](http://www.battelle.org/).

It provided access to Fermilab, Argonne, private sector (high-tech companies and investors) research universities, and federal, state and local governments.

**Address**: DuPage Technology Center; DuPage Airport Building, 2700 International Drive, Suite 201, West Chicago, IL 60185

**Phone**: (630) 845-6530

**Fax**: (630) 845-6580

**Re-org in June 2002, these employees have been scattered:**

**E-mail**: i3@battelle.org

- Catherine Whitney (630) 845-6526 whitneyc@battelle.org <http://www.i3online.org>

- Jim Charney, executive director (was with SBA & SBIR); charneyj@battelle.org; 630‑845-6530.

- Marcelo Quiroga: 630-845-6529

- Keith Brumbaugh: 630-845-6528

 **B. ITEC – Evanston**

* [www.northwestern.edu/itec](http://www.northwestern.edu/itec)
* Access to Funding Page: <http://www.northwestern.edu/itec/resources/access> to funding: Jeff Coney: 847-467-5231; Bret Johnson: 847-491-2194 Nancy Sullivan: 847-491-2985

***B. U. S. Government***

**1. Federal SBIR - Small Business Innovation Research Grants (See attachment page for current grant opportunities)**

* [www.trecc.org](http://www.trecc.org); [www.sba.gov/sbir/indexsbir-sttr.html](http://www.sba.gov/sbir/indexsbir-sttr.html)
* [grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/sbir.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/sbir.htm).
* The federal Bi-Dol Act charged: Universities with using federal funds to develop technology.
* However, intellectual property rights are retained by the government.
* $100,000 grant for Proof of Concept.
* Additional $750,000 for Development.
* High Risk research and innovation.
* Company must have less than 500 employees.
* Must be US owned, for-profit business.
* The principal inventor must work for the company.
* 10 US Government agencies participate, including:
	+ EPA
	+ NASAA
	+ Department of Defense
	+ National Institute of Health
* The US Government is RIGHT NOW spending $52 billion on Information Technology research and innovation, to address & open solutions to various issues, including:
	+ Security,
	+ Water safety,
	+ Others
* Former Illinois Innovation Initiative’s Jim Charney’s Advice:
	+ Aim to commercialize and sell your product to businesses. Create and develop the technology ONLY if you can sell it to others. Developing customers and delivering solutions to problems is more important than the technology itself. What is the market? Is there one? Who will buy the innovation?
	+ Don’t have government being your only customer.
	+ Focused on YOUR goals and business strategy.
	+ Talk to potential users inside and outside the government to evaluate market and interest.
	+ Get to know the programs and Program Managers and find out hot topics
* Purpose of SBIR: Funds small businesses that pursue high risk research:
* Stimulate Innovation and Research to Innovation
* Small Business Less than 500 employees, for profit business U.S. owned business
* Principal investigator works for business
* Historical
	+ See: <http://www.northwestern.edu/itec/resources/access> to funding
	+ Congress mandates 2.5% of total R&D expenditures go toward SBIR and STTRs in 1998-99: $1.1 billion dollars in 3,022 Phase I awards and 1,320 Phase II awards
	+ Illinois ranked 17th in 2000 for awards ($17M vs. $215M in CA)

 ● 3 Phase Program

* I: up to $100K; prove technical merit or feasibility
* II: up to $700K; expand Phase I, develop prototype, evaluate commercialization potential
* III: No funds currently available, must find private funding

 ● Pros

* Funds early stage research and development unlike most equity financing
* Inventor Retains Intellectual property
* Up to $850K in funding over 1-1/2 years
* Some agencies match private investments after Phase II
* Odds of receiving grant ≈ 6 to 1; in contrast to VC firms 100 to 1 odds)

 ● Cons

* Long time to funding, must plan way ahead: 6 month proposal review schedule (though in the current difficult Venture Capital market, 6 months could be deemed short!)
* Government Hoops to Jump Through

● Examples of Open & Closed Solicitations [www.zyn.com/sbir/scomp.htm](http://www.zyn.com/sbir/scomp.htm). Search on topic names in the scientific field to find open solicitations between for government agencies, such as NSF and DOL.

**2. Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR)**

 ● [www.sba.gov/sbir/indexsbir-sttr.html](http://www.sba.gov/sbir/indexsbir-sttr.html)

● Purpose & Criteria:

* Promote collaboration through joint venture opportunities between small business and the nation’s premier nonprofit research institutions (such as universities).
* Less than 500 employees, for profit business, U.S. owned business.
* Principal investigator works for business or non-profit partner.
* Statistics

● 5 Federal Government agencies participate (DoD, DoE, HHS, NASA, NSF)

● Illinois ranked 23rd in 2000 for awards (less than $1 million in Illinois, while. $9 million in California)

 ● Three Phase Program

* Phase I: $100,000. 1 year, exploration of the scientific, technical, and commercial feasibility of an idea or technology
* Phase II: up to $500,000. 2 years, must expand Phase I results. Covers R&D work by developer, covers developer consideration of commercial potential.
* Phase III: No STTR funding available. Private funding required.

**3. Broad Agency Announcements (BAA) by US Government**

 ● BAA Information Deliver System (BIDS)

 ● <https://www.bids.tswg.gov/tswg/bids.nsf/Main?OpenFrameset>

 ● Anti-terrorism BAA

 ● 2.5% of awards set aside for small business

 ● Phase I submittal due Dec. 23 (one-page Summary & chart)

 ● Phase II submittal due January 11: White paper (<12 pages)

● Commercialization or Technology Transfer strategy discussion is required

 ● Phase III: Full Proposal (<50 pages)

 ● <1 year project, in general

● Examples: Speech Recognition, Image processing, IT integration, bio and chemical detection

**4. Department of Energy Inventions & Innovations Program**

 ● <http://www.oit.doe.gov/inventions/>

 ● also see: <http://www.eren.doe.gov/solicitations.html>

● For conducting early development and establishing technical performance of innovative energy saving ideas and inventions.

 ● 2 stages:

 ● Category 1: up to $40,000 for conceptual ideas

● Category 2: up to $200,000 for more well developed inventions moving towards prototype development or commercialization.

**5. Publication Services for Federal Solicitations**

 **A. Commerce Business Daily (CBD)** <http://cbdnet.access.gpo.gov/>

 **B. Federal Register – Department of Education**

Bret Johnson – ITEC-Evanston [www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/index.html)

 **C. Research Funding Opportunities and Administration (TRAM)**

<http://tram.east.asu.edu/index.html>

**6. CRADAs (Cooperative Research and Development Agreements)**

Search for CRADAs by federal agency

**7. ATP (Advanced Technology Program)** <http://www.atp.nist.gov/>

**8. Enhanced NICC Commercialization Awards Program Solicitation**

 ● <http://www.nasa-illinois-org/Solicitation.htm>

● Stimulate the formation and growth of science and technology industries in Illinois by providing companies better access to NASA technology capabilities and resources via financial assistance

● Grants provided to facilitate collaboration with NASA researchers

● Goal: enhance the capabilities of companies to compete for Federal grants and enhance product lines, or develop new products

**9. Women’s Business Development Center** – helps write business plans

[www.wbcd.org](http://www.wbcd.org)

**10. United States Small Business Assn. -** [www.sba.gov](http://www.ussba.gov). Loans take a long time. Partner with your bank or participating bank.

Illinois Coalition – Tech Alert

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| Federal Funding Opportunities |
| 1. [Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Small Business Innovation Research Program](#a1#a1)2. [Focal Plane Array Technology](#a2#a2)3. [Electro-optical range-resolved vibrational imaging sensors](#a3#a3)4. [Engineering and technical support services in infrared and electro-optical technical areas](#a4#a4)5. [Research in system and subsystem level technology](#a5#a5)6. [Research in high sensitivity, passive millimeter wave and infrared imaging arrays of microantennas in Focal Plane Array (FPA) structures](#a6#a6)7. [Advanced concepts pertinent to fossil resource conversion and utilization](#a7#a7)8. [Research in basic energy sciences, high energy physics, nuclear physics and other areas](#a8#a8)9. [High-performance network research program](#a9#a9)10. [Research into the changes in the spatial distribution of air pollution emissions](#a10#a10)11. [Centers for Innovation in Membrane Protein Production](#a11#a11)12. [Proteomics technologies to study type 1 diabetes](#a12#a12)13. [Novel Technologies for noninvasive detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer](#a13#a13) 14. [Research in the basic biology of stem cells in tissue maintenance and disease in aging](#a14#a14)15. [Research in computational neuroscience](#a15#a15) 16. [Plant Genome Research Program](#a16#a16) 17. [Major Research Instrumentation Program](#a17#a17)18. [Quantitative Systems Biotechnology program](#a18#a18)19. [Software re-configurable avionics](#a19#a19)20. [Research in Advanced Systems](#a20#a20) |  |  |

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| Federal Funding Opportunities Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Small Business Innovation Research Program |
| The Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency (HSARPA), the external funding arm of the DHS Science and Technology Directorate, has issued its first Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program solicitation for Phase I proposals. The 36-page solicitation lists eight topics for possible R&D: 1) system/technologies to detect low vapor pressure chemicals; 2) chem-bio sensors employing novel receptor scaffolds; 3) advanced low cost aerosol collectors for surveillance sensors and personal monitoring; 4) computer modeling tool for vulnerability assessment of U.S. infrastructure; 5) marine asset tag tracking system; 6) AIS tracking and collision avoidance equipment for small boats; 7) ship compartment inspection device; and 8) advanced secure supervisory control and data acquisitions and related distributed control systems. Phase I proposals should not exceed $100,000 for a period of six months or less. The HSARPA SBIR website <[http://www.hsarpasbir.com](http://www.hsarpasbir.com/)> will open on Nov. 19. Proposals are due Dec. 15, 2003. More information is available at: <http://www.eps.gov/spg/DHS-DR/OCPO/DHS-OCPO/HSSCHQ-04-R-00103/listing.html> |  |  |

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| Focal Plane Array Technology |
| The Air Force Research Laboratory is interested in receiving proposals from all offerors to advance scientific knowledge in focal plane array (FPA) technology. The total program budget for this effort is approximately $9.9 million over three years. The objective is to 1) determine FPA performance based on current Space Tracking and Surveillance System (STSS) goals, 2) develop cryogenic readouts that are radiation hardened by design or processing, and 3) insert the resulting technology into the STSS Cycle 2 system, which consists of actual satellite or ground demonstrations. Proposals are due Dec. 1, 2003. More information is available at: [http://www.eps.gov/spg/USAF/AFMC/AFRLPLSVD/VS%2D03%2D04/listing.html](http://www.eps.gov/spg/USAF/AFMC/AFRLPLSVD/VS-03-04/listing.html) |  |  |

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| Electro-optical range-resolved vibrational imaging sensors |
| The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is soliciting proposals addressing innovative technology for electro-optical range-resolved vibrational imaging sensors for a wide range of military missions, including buried land mine detection using acoustic probes. Multiple awards totaling approximately $60 million over four years are expected to be made during the first half of calendar year 2004. All responsible sources capable of satisfying the government's needs may submit proposals, which are due Feb. 20, 2004. More information is available at: [http://www.eps.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/BAA04%2D02/listing.html](http://www.eps.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/BAA04-02/listing.html) |  |  |

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| Engineering and technical support services in infrared and electro-optical technical areas |
| In a pre-solicitation notice, the Naval Research Laboratory announces it will be soliciting proposals for engineering and technical support services in infrared and electro-optical technical areas. Support services will include a number of interrelated tasks such as threat analysis, systems analysis, systems design and development, systems test and evaluation, data collection and analysis, computer simulation development and facility operation. The period of performance is for 12 months with four 12-month option periods. This procurement is unrestricted. The closing date for proposals will be stated in the full solicitation when it is issued. More information is available at: [http://www.eps.gov/spg/DON/ONR/N00173/N00173%2D04%2DR%2DDL01/listing.html](http://www.eps.gov/spg/DON/ONR/N00173/N00173-04-R-DL01/listing.html) |  |  |

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| Research in system and subsystem level technology |
| DARPA is soliciting proposals for research in system and subsystem level technology that provides improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of the military relative to current modes of operation. Approximately $3 million is expected to be available in FY 2004 to fund multiple awards. All offerors capable of satisfying the government's needs may submit proposals. Optional white papers serving as preproposals are due Dec. 23, 2003; full proposals are due Feb. 20, 2004. More information is available at: <http://www.eps.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/BAA04-04/listing.html> |  |  |

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| Research in high sensitivity, passive millimeter wave and infrared imaging arrays of microantennas in Focal Plane Array (FPA) structures |
| DARPA also is soliciting proposals for research in high sensitivity, passive millimeter wave and infrared imaging arrays of microantennas in Focal Plane Array (FPA) structures. Proposed research should investigate innovative approaches that enable revolutionary reductions in the size, weight and power consumption of FPA millimeter wave imagers. Multiple awards totaling approximately $20 million over three years are expected to be made during the first half of calendar year 2004. All responsible sources capable of satisfying the government's needs may submit proposals, which are due Dec. 26, 2003. More information is available at: <http://www.eps.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/BAA04-01/listing.html> |  |  |

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| Advanced concepts pertinent to fossil resource conversion and utilization |
| Department of Energy (DOE) invites applications from U.S. Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Other Minority Institutions for innovative research and development of advanced concepts pertinent to fossil resource conversion and utilization. Research is sought in eight areas: advanced environmental control technologies for coal; advanced coal utilization; clean fuels technology; heavy oil upgrading and processing; oil sands; advanced recovery, completion/stimulation and geoscience technologies for oil; natural gas supply, storage and processing; fuel cells; faculty/student exploratory research; and training grants. Approximately $1 million is expected to be available in FY 2004 to award 5-7 projects. More information is available at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2003/03-27019.htm> |  |  |

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| Research in basic energy sciences, high energy physics, nuclear physics and other areas |
| The DOE Office of Science Financial Assistance Program, formerly called the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance Program, has announced it anticipates having $400 million available in FY 2004 for new awards to support energy-related research in seven areas: basic energy sciences, high energy physics, nuclear physics, advanced scientific computing research, fusion energy sciences, biological and environmental research, and energy research analyses. Several subtopics are identified for each research area. Also included in the announcement is the agency's Experimental Program To Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), for which only 21 states and Puerto Rico are eligible. Applications may be submitted at any time in response to this announcement. More information is available at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2003/03-27021.htm> |  |  |

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| High-performance network research program |
| The Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) of DOE's Office of Science invites applications for projects in the high-performance network research program. Research should focus on integrated experimental networks to support high-impact applications in the Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing (SciDAC) program and ultra high-speed network technologies under the Mathematical, Computational, and Information Sciences (MICS) Division. A total of $5 million is expected to be available for 6-10 awards under the SciDAC and MICS Programs. Individual awards may range from $150,000 to $1.2 million for two- to three-year periods. Colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations, for-profit commercial organizations, state and local governments, and unaffiliated individuals are eligible to apply. Preapplications are strongly encouraged and are due Dec. 15, 2003; formal applications are due Feb. 24, 2004. More information is available at: <http://www.science.doe.gov/grants/Fr04-03.html> |  |  |

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| Research into the changes in the spatial distribution of air pollution emissions |
| Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking applications for research into the changes in the spatial distribution of air pollution emissions due to regional development patterns, including demographic determinants and technology changes. Approximately $3 million is expected to be available to fund four awards, each of up to $250,000 per year for up to three years. Academic and nonprofit institutions located in the U.S., and state, tribal or local governments are eligible to submit applications, which are due Feb. 5, 2004. More information is available at: <http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2004/2004_air_poll_em.html> |  |  |

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| Centers for Innovation in Membrane Protein Production |
| National Institutes of Health (NIH) invites proposals to establish Centers for Innovation in Membrane Protein Production. The goal of the centers will be to create enabling technologies and to focus on innovative, high-impact and multidisciplinary approaches to sample preparation of structurally and functionally intact membrane proteins for structure determination. Approximately $5 million is expected to be available in FY 2004 to fund at least two new center grants. Applicants may request a project period of up to five years and a budget for total direct costs of up to $1.5 million for the first year. Eligible are for-profit or nonprofit organizations; public or private institutions, such as universities, colleges, hospitals and laboratories; units of state and local governments; and eligible agencies of the federal government. Optional letters of intent are due Feb. 5, 2004; applications are due March 11, 2004. More information is available at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-GM-04-004.html> |  |  |

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| Proteomics technologies to study type 1 diabetes |
| Multiple NIH institutes invite applications that use proteomics technologies to study type 1 diabetes and its complications. Approximately $3 million is expected to be available in FY 2004 to fund 6-12 awards. Eligible are for-profit or nonprofit organizations; public or private institutions, such as universities, colleges, hospitals and laboratories; units of state and local governments; eligible agencies of the federal government; and domestic or foreign institutions. Optional letters of intent are due Feb. 18, 2004; applications are due March 18, 2004. More information is available at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-03-024.html> |  |  |

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| Novel Technologies for noninvasive detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer |
| The Unconventional Innovations Program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) is seeking revolutionary technologies for cancer research. The goal is to support minimally intrusive approaches that integrate sensing of the fundamental signatures of precancers, or early, metastatic or recurring cancers in the living body; transmission of signature information to an external monitor; controlled, specific treatment; and monitoring of the effects of treatment. NCI anticipates awarding 8-12 contracts for projects of up to three years in duration. The average total annual cost is expected to be $500,000 per contract. All responsible offerors are encouraged to submit proposals, which are due Jan. 21, 2004. More information is available at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-03-039.html> |  |  |

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| Research in the basic biology of stem cells in tissue maintenance and disease in aging |
| The National Institute of Aging invites applications for research in the basic biology of stem cells in tissue maintenance and disease in aging. Applications may focus on various aging tissues or physiological systems, including cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, immune, urogenital, endocrine and nervous systems. Approximately $1.4 million is expected to be available in FY 2004 to fund 4-7 awards. Applicants may request a project period of up to five years and a budget for direct costs of up to $250,000 per year or, under a different funding mechanism, up to two years of support with a combined budget for direct costs of up to $275,000 for the two-year period. Eligible are for-profit or nonprofit organizations; public or private institutions, such as universities, colleges, hospitals and laboratories; units of state and local governments; eligible agencies of the federal government; domestic or foreign institutions; and faith- or community-based organizations. Optional letters of intent are due Dec. 22, 2003; applications are due Jan. 22, 2004. More information is available at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-04-008.html> |  |  |

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| Research in computational neuroscience |
| National Science Foundation (NSF) and NIH jointly invite proposals for funding to support innovative interdisciplinary research in computational neuroscience. Collaborations among computer scientists, engineers, mathematicians, statisticians, theoreticians and experimental neuroscientists should strive to advance our understanding of the nervous system and mechanisms underlying brain disorders. Approximately $5 million is expected to be available to fund 15-20 awards ranging from $100,000 to $500,000 in total costs per year, with durations of 3-5 years. The categories of proposers identified in the Grant Proposal Guide are eligible to submit proposals. Required letters of intent are due Dec. 10, 2003; proposals are due Jan. 30, 2004. More information is available at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf04514> |  |  |

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| Plant Genome Research Program |
| NSF invites proposals for funding under the Plant Genome Research Program, which seeks to stimulate knowledge and innovative approaches to elucidate fundamental biological processes in plants. Two kinds of activities will be supported in FY 2004 and FY 2005: (1) Individual and Small Group Awards in Plant Genome Research (ISGA-PGR) to support individual laboratories or small groups of investigators in plant genomics research, and (2) Virtual Center Awards in Plant Genome Research (VCA-PGR) to support large-scale collaborative research on plant genomics. Approximately $38 million is expected to be available over the two-year period to fund 40 awards. Only U.S. academic institutions, U.S. nonprofit research organizations and consortia of organizations with appropriate research and educational facilities may submit proposals, which are due Jan. 23, 2004 for ISGA-PGR projects. Proposals for VCA-PGR projects are due Oct. 8, 2004. More information is available at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf04510> |  |  |

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| Major Research Instrumentation Program |
| NSF invites proposals for funding under the Major Research Instrumentation Program, which is designed to increase access to scientific and engineering equipment for research and research training. Approximately $75 million is expected to be available in FY 2004 to fund 300 awards ranging from $100,000 to $2 million each. Cost-sharing is not required nor allowed for non-Ph.D. granting institutions; however, a 30 percent cost-share is required for all others. Institutions of higher education, independent nonprofit research institutions, research museums and consortia of eligible institutions may submit proposals, which are due Jan. 22, 2004. More information is available at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf04511> |  |  |

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| Quantitative Systems Biotechnology Program |
| NSF invites proposals for funding under the Quantitative Systems Biotechnology program. Proposals should combine analysis of large-scale cellular biological systems, or their representations, with creative software tools for the development of computer models or support complementary quantitative experimental approaches. Approximately $4 million is expected to be available in FY 2004 to fund 10 awards, each of up to $500,000 for up to three years. Only U.S. academic and nonprofit research institutions with science or engineering research and education programs may submit proposals, which are due Feb. 17, 2004. More information is available at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf04516> |  |  |

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| Software re-configurable avionics |
| The NASA Glenn Research Center's Advanced CNS Architectures and System Technologies (ACAST) project is interested in assessing software re-configurable avionics for civil aviation applications, including communications, navigation and surveillance. Companies are invited to submit relevant information, background materials and experience regarding the state of re-configurable or software re-configurable avionics research, design, development, manufacturing, testing, integration and certification. NASA does not intend to award a contract, but may solicit proposals in the future based on the need for this type of technology and its feasibility. Responses are due Dec. 13, 2003. More information is available at: <http://www.eps.gov/spg/NASA/GRC/OPDC20220/GRC-03-5650-Andro/listing.html> |  |  |

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| Research in Advanced Systems |
| NASA's Office of Space Flight has announced it will be soliciting proposals for research in Advanced Systems, beginning Nov. 26. This solicitation will be open to all categories of U.S. and non-U.S. organizations, including for-profit and nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, industry, and other government agencies. Proposals will be due Jan. 26, 2004. More information is available at: <http://www.eps.gov/spg/NASA/HQ/OPHQDC/NRA-03-OSF-ASO-01/listing.html> |  |  |

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| **TechAlert 7 - *November 20, 2003***.  TechAlert funding opportunities are derived from various sources including the [State Science and Technology Institute](http://www.ssti.org/).  For more information about these opportunities or the Illinois Coalition, call us at (312) 229-1970 or visit the Illinois Coalition on the web at [www.ilcoalition.org](http://www.ilcoalition.org).  |  |  |

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