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High-tech small businesses could receive up to \$75,000 from SBIR Advance matching grant

MADISON – UW-Extension's Center for Technology Commercialization (CTC) is offering a matching grant of up to \$75,000 to provide additional assistance to companies in the process of completing a project in the federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.

This is the ninth round of SBIR Advance funding dedicated by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) since SBIR Advance began in 2014.

"These funds continue to help SBIR companies do critical business-related activities that accelerate their commercialization and ultimately benefit the Wisconsin economy," said Dr. Todd Strother, CTC Senior Technology Consultant and SBIR Advance Program Manager.

Deadlines are quickly approaching:

- **Noon Aug. 3, 2017:** Brief Intent to Apply form due, found at www.wisconsinsbir.org/content/sbir-advance-intent-apply
- **Noon Aug. 17, 2017:** <u>Full application</u> due, found at the main SBIR Advance page, http://www.wisconsinsbir.org/content/sbir-advance-matching-grant

To be <u>eligible</u>, companies must have an SBIR/STTR project in either Phase I or Phase II of funding. All companies must be located in Wisconsin to be considered for the grant. Funds can be used for business and market development, customer validation, intellectual property work or other areas needed to speed product commercialization.

Applicants should also note these important dates:

- Sept. 1, 2017: Companies chosen for funding will be notified by this time.
- **Sept. 21, 2017:** Phase I Match awardees must be prepared to start the <u>Lean Startup</u> <u>Program</u>. The course runs through Dec. 14 and is administered by the CTC. It teaches

companies how to incorporate their technologies into a validated business model and defines the best possible target markets.

For more details on the SBIR Advance program, visit www.wisconsinsbir.org/content/sbir-advance-matching-grant or contact Strother at todd.strother@uwex.edu.

SBIR Advance is part of a Start-Seed-Scale (S3) initiative WEDC is pursuing with the help of the UW System and other business leaders throughout the state to remove barriers to high-tech commercialization. Under the S3 umbrella, WEDC and its economic development partners are implementing financial and operational assistance programs designed specifically to address Wisconsin's business startup and seed-funding challenges. One such initiative — also a collaborative effort between WEDC and the UW System — is the <u>Ideadvance Seed Fund</u>, also managed by UW-Extension's CTC. Selected SBIR Advance participants undergo Ideadvance Lean Startup training that is modified to assist with their SBIR Phase II applications.

About The Center for Technology Commercialization

The Center for Technology Commercialization is a unit in the University of Wisconsin-Extension's Division for Business and Entrepreneurship. CTC provides one-on-one expert consulting to early-stage emerging technology businesses throughout Wisconsin. CTC has collaborated in acquiring more than \$100 million in federal and other funding for clients. Learn more at www.wisconsinsbir.org; follow @WisconsinCTC on Twitter.

About The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) leads economic development efforts for the state by advancing and maximizing opportunities in Wisconsin for businesses, communities and people to thrive in a globally competitive environment. Working with more than 600 regional and local partners, WEDC develops and delivers solutions representative of a highly responsive and coordinated economic development network. Learn more at http://inwisconsin.com; follow @InWisconsin on Twitter.

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