

priority can be found in the application package.

Successful applicants will be expected to collect some empirical evidence as to the effectiveness of the service or product they are proposing, or, at a minimum, to incorporate a plan for measuring its efficacy and usefulness.

**Program Authority:** The Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-554 (15 U.S.C. 631 and 638) and the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, Title I of Pub. L. 107-279 (20 U.S.C. 9501 *et seq.*).

**Applicable Regulations:** The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 77, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98 and 99. In addition 34 CFR part 75 is applicable, except for the provisions in 34 CFR 75.100, 75.101(b), 75.102, 75.103, 75.105, 75.109(a), 75.200, 75.201, 75.209, 75.210, 75.211, 75.217, 75.219, 75.220, and 75.230.

## II. Award Information

**Type of Award:** Discretionary grants.

**Estimated Available Funds:**

Approximately \$3,000,000 for Phase I awards for this competition from the Institute. The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research will announce another Phase I competition later in the fiscal year.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$75,000 to \$100,000.

**Estimated Average Size of Awards:** Approximately \$100,000.

**Maximum Award:** We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$100,000 for a single budget period of 6 months.

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 30 to 35.

**Note:** The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

**Project Period:** Up to 6 months for Phase I awards.

## III. Eligibility Information

1. **Eligible Applicants:** Each organization submitting an application must qualify as a small business concern as defined by the SBA at the time of the award. This definition is included in the application package.

Firms with strong research capabilities in educational technologies, science, or engineering in any of the priority areas listed in the application package are encouraged to participate. Consultative or other arrangements between these firms and universities or other non-profit organizations are permitted, but the small business must serve as the grantee.

If it appears that an applicant organization does not meet the

eligibility requirements, we will request an evaluation by the SBA. Under circumstances in which eligibility is unclear, we will not make an SBIR award until the SBA makes a determination.

2. **Cost Sharing or Matching:** This program does not involve cost sharing or matching.

## IV. Application and Submission Information

1. **Address to Request Application Package:** The application package is available at: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/edresearch/applicant.html>.

You may address questions regarding this application package to: Joe Teresa, U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW., room 608f, Washington, DC 20208. Telephone: (202) 219-2046 or by e-mail: [joe.teresa@ed.gov](mailto:joe.teresa@ed.gov).

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the program contact person listed in this section. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternative format the standard forms included in the application package.

2. **Content and Form of Application Submission:** Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with information about the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this program. The application package is available at: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/edresearch/applicant.html>.

3. **Submission Dates and Times:** Applications Available: December 22, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: 8 p.m. Eastern time, February 19, 2004. The date and time for the transmittal of electronic applications are in the application package for this program.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

4. **Intergovernmental Review:** This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

5. **Funding Restrictions:** We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

6. **Other Submission Requirements:** The Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) of 1998, (Pub. L. 105-277)

and the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999, (Pub. L. 106-107) encourage us to undertake initiatives to improve our grant processes. Enhancing the ability of individuals and entities to conduct business with us electronically is a major part of our response to these Acts. Therefore, we are taking steps to adopt the Internet as our chief means of conducting transactions in order to improve services to our customers and to simplify and expedite our business processes.

We are requiring that applications for grants under the Institute's FY 2004 SBIR Phase I competition be submitted electronically to the following Web site: <http://ies.constellagroup.com>.

Information on the software to be used will also be available at this site.

## V. Application Review Information

**Selection Criteria:** The evaluation criteria for this competition are: Significance—25 points; Quality of the Project Design—50 points; Quality of Project Personnel—15 points; and Adequacy of Resources—10 points.

More information about the evaluation criteria and about other application requirements can be found in the application package.

## VI. Award Administration Information

1. **Award Notices:** If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. **Administrative and National Policy Requirements:** We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. **Reporting:** At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as required by the Institute. The report should identify the purpose of the research, and include a brief description of the research carried out, the research findings or results, and the potential applications of the research. You must submit this project summary without restriction on publication. The