Timely Access to Future Funding Announcements

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Abstract

The last issue of this column appeared six months ago, so in the interim many requests for proposals have been issued, with many of their due dates already past. We are happy to announce the availability of up-to-the-minute funding information on line, so that the *Record*'s publication schedule need not prevent readers' timely access to funding information. In addition, we briefly recap recent requests for proposals from NASA, NLM, the Human Brain Project, the US Army, the US Navy, ARPA, NSF, and Intel; more detailed information on any of these (except Intel) can be found in the on-line archives. We also report on news at NSF and NIST.

1 Funding Announcements Available On Line

All the funding announcements that are used in this column and are publicly distributable will be put in the new SIGMOD on line archives as soon as they are received by the editor. In addition, past issues of this column, old funding announcements, news stories, and general information on obtaining funding will be available there. For information on accessing the archive, see the announcement of on line services appearing elsewhere in this issue.

2 NASA Needs Data Management Tools

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Office of Space Science and Applications invites research proposals for the Information Systems Research and Technology Program. 'The purpose of this program is to provide the NASA research community with fully documented, operational tools and capabilities for managing, accessing, visualizing, and analyzing very large, complex, multiparameter data sets.' Data management, including scientific analysis tools, data compression, storage, handling, and distribution is listed as one of the areas of interest. For more information, contact Glenn Mucklow at: gmucklow@nhgvax.hq.nasa.gov, fax: 202-358-4166, regarding NRA 93-OSSA-09. The NRA is also available via anonymous ftp on nssdca.gsfc.nasa.gov in the OSSA-09 subdirectory of the HQ-NRAS directory. Unfortunately, proposals were due at the end of June.

3 National Library of Medicine and HPCC Databases

The US National Library of Medicine (NLM) and Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications (LHNCBC) is soliciting proposals under BAA/RFP NLM 93-105 that help demonstrate the utility of High Performance Computing and Communications (HPCC) for health care. 'Database technology to provide health care providers with access to relevant medical information and literature' and '[d]atabase and associated computing and communications technologies for storing, accessing, and transmitting patients' records while protecting the accuracy and privacy of those records' are two of the research categories for which proposals are sought. Unfortunately, proposals were due in July; however, NLM anticipates that this program will repeat in future years. Copies of the BAA can be obtained by written request to the National Library of Medicine, Office of Acquisitions Management, 8600 Rockville Pike, Building 38A, Room B1N17, Bethesda, MD 20894. Attention: Patricia S. Page, Contracting Officer.

4 NSF and Health Care

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Whitaker Foundation announced a jointly funded research venture entitled Cost Effective Health Care Technologies to 'promote innovative multidisciplinary research that can contribute to the containment or reduction of health care costs without compromising the quality, effectiveness or accessibility of the health care system.' One of the research areas of interest is the 'development of improved information and communication systems to provide a uniform, rapid, and date-secure access to patient medical histories, eliminate duplication of test, and supply data for statistical, epidemiological, and outcome studies.' Awards will range between $100,000 to 250,000$ per year for up to three years. More information can be obtained calling the NSF Publications Section at (202) 357-7861, or e-mail Stisfly@nsf.gov (Internet) or stisfly@nsf (BITNET), regarding NSF 93-17.

5 US Naval Research Laboratory and Data Handling

The US Naval Research Laboratory is requesting proposals for long range projects which could 'offer potential for advancement and improvement of naval operations' under BAA NRL 02-93. The announcement includes forty-six areas of interest. Database work is a natural part of 'Scalable, Massively Parallel Solutions to Scientific Problems' and 'Innovative Space Systems Algorithms, Data Handling and Processing.' For additional information about the topics and guidelines for the proposals, write to Naval Research Laboratory, Attn: Code 3230, 4555 Overlook Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20375-5320. The BAA can also be downloaded from the electronic bulletin board (202-404-8007) at 2400 baud rate. Proposals should be submitted before April 9, 1994 to Mrs. Pat Schaefer, contract Specialist, Code 3210. Her phone number is (202) 767-6263.

6 The Human Brain Project

PA-93-068, the Human Brain Project, is a broadly based US federal research initiative to encourage and support 'basic and clinical neuroscience research and research on informatics resources which could be used to facilitate neuroscience research. Particular emphasis is placed on research on computer storage and manipulation of neuroscience information, network systems, and associated tools which will give neuroscientists access to the stored information.' Grant applications are being sought for Phase I (research feasibility studies) of the project.

'Phase I of the Human Brain Project will support the research related to the development, storage, and management, analysis, integration and dissemination of neuroscience information.' Phase I projects can use either the R01 mechanism, for 'investigators to work on highly focused projects related to the integration of neuroscience and informatics research', or the P20 Mechanism, for 'multiple investigators using different approaches to focus a common problem.' Maximum annual budgets are $230, 000fortheR01mechanismand1.1$ million for the P20 mechanism for a period of up to five years. Letters of intent are due in July 1993, with full proposals due in October 1993.

7 US Army Technology Base Support

The US Army is seeking bids/proposals for Technology Base Support Contract DAAL01-93-R-9172, that provides 'quantitative/qualitative information and recommendations to assist management in the planning and direction of diverse U.S Army Research Laboratory programs.' The areas of required support include: modeling/simulation/wargaming, technology assessment, methodology development and support, technology transfer, database development and support, and conference support. Multiple awards will be considered in all areas. Proposals should be sent to: Army Research Laboratory, Adelphi Site Contracts Branch, ATTN: AMSRL-OP-PR-AC, 2800 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, Maryland 20783-1145.

8 ARPA and Manufacturing

The Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) invites proposals for 'development and demonstration of advanced information technology to support integrated product/process development (IPPD) and agile manufacturing.' The program has two technical areas, engineering tools and information infrastructure for agile manufacturing. There are six areas of interest in the engineering tools area; database may logically be a part of systems engineering framework capabilities and design libraries. More information about BAA93-20 can be obtained by e-mail: baa9320@darpa.mil, fax: 703-522-2668, or US Mail: BAA 9320, ARPA-SSTO, 3701 N. Fairfax drive, Arlington, VA 22203-1714.

9 The Technology Reinvestment Project (TRP)

ARPA, the Departments of Defense, Commerce, and Energy, NSF, NASA, and NIST joined together to offer a program aimed at conversion of defense technology to peacetime uses and development of 'dual-use' (civilian and military) technology. The program was quite large, and included focuses on heterogeneous databases and digital libraries, as well as a SBIR solicitation. Proposals were due in July, unfortunately, except for SBIR proposals, whose deadline has been moved to September 16.

The TRP program stirred up a lot of controversy when it was announced, with critics saying that the program was just a way to feed more money to defense insiders and to dying companies. I recommend that database researchers take a look at the information about the TRP that is available on line, and decide for themselves. The solicitations in the database area are interesting in their own right, as they seem to fall more in the area of hot research projects than in conversion of existing technology.

10 Intel and Education

The Intel Foundation funds projects to advance science and engineering education, and to promote the 'entrance of women and targeted minorities into science and engineering careers.' Intel provides graduate fellowships at 'pre-selected colleges and universities.' Intel requests short white papers for initial review. For more information, contact the Intel Foundation at the address given below. Intel also offers equipment grants and literature donations; contact Academic Relations at the address below, or call (503) 696-5307. Intel Foundation grants are made only to non-profit organizations, not to individuals. No deadlines for submissions were announced.

Address for correspondence: Intel Corporation /5200 N. E. Elam Young Parkway/ Hillsboro, OR 97124, or call (503) 696-5307).

11 NSF Moves

This summer and fall NSF is moving out of its downtown Washington DC quarters, across the river to Arlington, Virginia. After the move, NSF's operations and conference activities will be under a single roof.

It's always nice to move from cramped, geographically distributed quarters to a roomier, centralized location. Some critics have said, however, that the move may mean that NSF will no longer be 'where the action is,' only a few blocks from the White House and many other agencies, and that the four-mile move opens a symbolic gulf between NSF and the seats of power.

12 NIST's New Role

¿From an April article from the Public Information Division, American Institute of Physics, entitled 'NIST Hits the Jackpot: FY94 Budget Request':

"Two of the major goals of the Clinton Administration are improving the economy and creating new jobs. One of the White House's main strategies for achieving these goals is investment in new technologies. In February, President Clinton released a technology policy document, entitled "Technology for America's Economic Growth" (see FYI 23), which states that "Technology is the engine of economic growth. In the United States, technological advance has been responsible for as much as two-thirds of productivity growth since the Depression, . . . [creating] entire new industries and millions of high-paying jobs."

"The administration envisions spurring this technology growth through new, improved cooperation between government and industry, and a major player will be the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). As Presidential Science Advisor Jack Gibbons explained in a statement released on April 8, "There is a fundamental shift both towards developing a much closer working partnership between the public and private sectors, and towards the leveraging of government investments in cooperation with private investments. . . In a time of scarce resources, it is essential to merge public and private interests wherever possible."

"NIST, the only federal agency with the mission of supporting American industry, is the obvious choice to promote government-industry cooperation, and the White House is seeking increased funding to meet the challenge. NIST is slated for $535.2 million in the FY94 budget request, an increase of $151.2 million, or a whopping 39.4%, over its FY93 appropriation of $384.0 million. [...]

"NIST supports two types of programs, extramural and intramural. The extramural programs include the Advanced Technology Program (ATP), the biggest winner in Clinton's strategy to promote government-industry partnerships. ATP funds cost-shared, competitive awards to US industry for precompetitive, generic technologies. An increase of $132.0 million– nearly 200%– has been requested for the program, bringing its total to $199.5 million. It is estimated that the increase will fund over 100 new grants.

"The other major extramural program is the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), which will increase and extend the influence of NIST's Manufacturing Technology Centers. The program's goal is to disseminate manufacturing know-how and technologies to small and medium-sized businesses across the country. MEP's budget request is $30.2 million, an increase of $12.0 million.

"NIST will receive $241.0 million, an increase of $48.1 million, for its intramural research, performed at laboratories in Maryland and Colorado. NIST's intramural programs include research in high-performance computing, advanced manufacturing, advanced materials, electronics, biotechnology and chemical processing, and international trade and standards. NIST Physics research received a request of $26.9 million, $0.5 million over FY93 funding.

"Clinton's vision for the future includes a continued high rate of growth for NIST programs over the next four years. The total NIST budget is projected to reach $1,379.5 million in FY97. This would result in a 259.0% increase over the current (FY93) appropriation by 1997 if the annual increases are approved by Congress– far from a sure thing. Although many on Capitol Hill are strong supporters of NIST's efforts, such growth will be hard to come by while Congress is faced with the overwhelming budget deficit."

13 NSF Seeks Program Managers

NSF is still looking for program managers in a number of database-related areas. More information can be obtained from any NSF program manager.