

**DOE Notes
Phase I and II SBIR Awards
Announced**

DOE recently announced the selection of 161 proposals for Phase I funding and 59 projects for Phase II funding under its Small Business Innovation Research program. (See table for 1988 and 1989 totals.)

The SBIR program aims at strengthening the role of small, innovative firms in areas of federally funded research and development. Under Phase I contracts, averaging \$50,000 for six months, each firm attempts to determine the feasibility of its proposed concept. The firms are then eligible to compete for Phase II R&D funding of up to \$500,000 over two years.

This year's Phase I awards cover such research topics as high temperature superconducting materials (processing and devices), chemical sciences research, materials sciences, nuclear physics instrumentation and techniques, plasma diagnostics, fusion energy, and more.

A list of firms receiving Phase I and Phase II funding is available from the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of the Press Secretary, Washington DC 20585.

For information about the Energy Department's SBIR program, contact: SBIR Program Manager, ER-16, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20545; telephone (301) 353-5867. To receive the next SBIR solicitation planned for late fall this year, call (301) 353-5707.

DOE SBIR Program: Proposals & Awards

	1988	1989
Proposals submitted	1,214	1,543
Phase I awards	131	161
Phase II awards	62	59

(selected from previous year's Phase I awardees)

**Contractors Selected for
Multimegawatt Space Reactor
Power Systems**

The U.S. Department of Energy announced the selection of Westinghouse Electric Corporation (Madison, Pennsylvania), Rockwell International (Canoga Park, California), and Grumman Corporation (Bethpage, New York) to continue development of their multimegawatt space reactor power system concepts. This effort involves preparing preliminary power system and component designs, and resolving feasibility issues for multimegawatt space reactor power systems for possible use in future space missions.

Preliminary design and feasibility issues constitute Phase II of a three-phase program. Major issues to be resolved during Phase II are the development, fabricability,

and testing of advanced materials and reactor fuels. Phase II is scheduled for completion in the mid-1990s.

Completion of Phase II could lead to the selection in the mid-1990s of one concept for further development and ground system demonstration testing in the early 2000s. A new competitive procurement will be conducted to select the Phase III contractor.

**NSF Notes
Visiting Professorships for Women
Awards \$2.36 Million**

The National Science Foundation's Visiting Professorships for Women program recently awarded grants totalling \$2.36 million to 27 women scientists. In addition, the host institutions contributed nearly \$500,000 to these awards.

The program enables experienced women scientists and engineers from industry, government, and academic institutions to serve as visiting professors. The visiting professors will undertake advanced research and teaching at host institutions where they can also provide guidance and encouragement to other

women seeking to pursue careers in science and engineering.

This year's recipients were selected on the basis of a review process that focused on the merit of the research, and on a proposed plan for lecturing and serving as counselor and mentor to women entering research careers.

**100 Minority Graduate Fellowships
Awarded**

In an effort to encourage minorities to consider graduate school, the National Science Foundation announced the award of 100 fellowships to minority students of outstanding ability for graduate study in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

The new minority fellows represent 24 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Of the 100 awards, 58 went to men and 42 to women; 28 were in the behavioral and social sciences, 23 in engineering, 26 in life sciences, and 23 in mathematics and physical sciences.

NSF minority graduate fellows may attend any appropriate nonprofit U.S. or foreign institution of higher education. Each fellowship supports three years of gradu-

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ate study but can be used over a five-year period so students can incorporate teaching or research assistantships during times they are not receiving fellowship support.

This year, mentoring assistantships are available to minority fellows who need up to three initial months of summer support to help them develop mentoring relationships at their institutions. This support is in addition to the regular fellowships and will provide research participation and other opportunities.

A \$1,000 Incentives for Excellence Scholarship is also made available to each fellow's undergraduate department, to be re-awarded to one or two other minority undergraduates in the same department in recognition of their scholastic excellence.

760 Graduate Fellowships Announced

NSF fellowships for graduate study in the natural and social sciences, mathematics, and engineering have been offered to

760 outstanding college and university students.

The new fellows represent all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. Of the 760 award offers, 271 were made to women. By scientific discipline, the distribution of awards includes 170 in engineering; 30 in mathematics; 22 in applications of mathematics; 50 in computer science, 75 in physics and astronomy; 54 in chemistry, 23 in earth sciences; 192 in biological sciences; and 144 in the social sciences and psychology.

The fellowships provide a stipend of \$12,300 per year for full-time graduate study for three years and can be used over a five-year period to allow students to incorporate teaching or research assistantships during times they are not receiving fellowship stipends. NSF also provides an annual cost-of-education allowance of \$6,000 in lieu of all tuition and fees to the U.S. institution. NSF graduate fellows may

attend any appropriate nonprofit U.S. or foreign institution of higher education.

25 Commemorative Lectureships Awarded

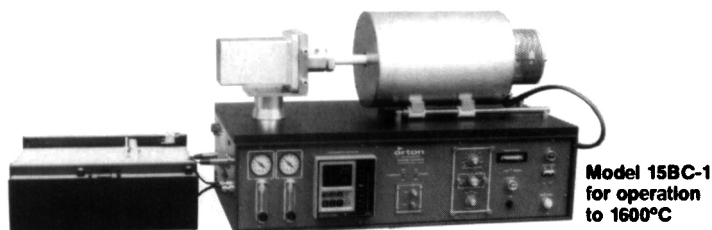
This year's awards in the NSF Graduate and the Minority Graduate Fellowship Programs bring the total, since the beginning of the program in 1952, to more than 25,000. To mark this achievement, the NSF also awarded 25 Commemorative Lectureships of \$1,000 each to 18 professional societies for former NSF Graduate Fellows.

To Apply for Fellowships

Information and application forms for either the NSF Graduate or Minority Graduate Fellowships are available, beginning September 1, from: National Research Council, Fellowship Office, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20418; telephone (202) 334-2872. **The deadline for 1990 applications is November 9, 1989.** □

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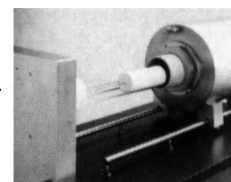
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