

replacement for petroleum, biodegradable lubricants, coatings cosmetics, detergents, personal care products, compost, carrier for crop protection materials, and cat litter.

Evaluation Criteria

The AARC Center's primary interest, in this request for pre-proposals/proposals, is in providing assistance in pre-commercial activities to move new industrial products from agricultural and forestry materials into the marketplace. The AARC Center Board seeks projects that will have market impact. This includes expanding use of agricultural or forestry materials in industrial products especially those that expand markets for farmers, create jobs, spur rural development, provide environmental and/or conservation benefits, and improve trade. Emphasis will be given to those proposals whose products are closest to commercialization and have positive impact on rural employment and economic activity.

Proposals and pre-proposals will be evaluated on four primary criteria: management team capability, business and marketing soundness, technical factors, and expected time and magnitude of impacts if successful. Examples of types of information that will enter the decision process on each of the primary categories of criteria include:

Management:

- Capability of the management team
- Amount of matching funds (cash) committed
- Awareness of the financial resources needed to successfully market the product
- Clear identification of project milestones
- Private sector leadership to commercialize the product or process

Business:

- Potential profitability
- Clear Identification of customers
- Structure of the market in terms of size, number, leading competitors, and reaction of competitors to a new product
- Amount and nature of the value added to the agricultural or forestry material
- Ability to replicate in other parts of the country
- Key issues and government policies or regulations that might impact success
- Applicant's ability and willingness to repay the AARC Center for the risk investment made by the American taxpayers

Technical:

- Relation to previous work
- Technical requirements of the product—industry standards or guidelines
- Technical and market testing needed
- Government approvals or permits required
- Major technical hindrances
- Innovative techniques and patents
- Ability to achieve technical claims
- Present stage of development

Impacts:

- Volume of agricultural or forestry material used
- Number and quality of jobs (especially in distressed rural areas) expected to be created—type, rural/urban, timeframe
- Potential positive and negative environmental impacts from production to consumer disposal of product
- Proposed product's implications for helping improve farm income, especially the family farm
- Resource conservation effects such as replacement of stock resources, crop diversification, soil erosion, water use, etc
- Estimated impact on export/import trade balance, commodity support programs and rural economic activity

Other Considerations

With respect to projects carried out with private researchers or commercial companies, the enabling legislation provides that information submitted by applicants incident thereto will be kept confidential. Project information including applications is specifically excluded from release under the Freedom of Information Act, except with the approval of the person providing the information or in a judicial or administrative proceeding in which such information is subject to protective order. However, the information will be reviewed by three reviewers who will be held to confidentiality. Board members are required to exclude themselves from consideration of a proposal where a conflict of interest exists.

Intellectual property rights, such as patents and licenses, shall remain with the owner unless other arrangements are negotiated as part of the agreement. Inventions made under an award under this Program shall be owned by the awardee in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 200–204 and 37 CFR 401.

No agreement may be entered into under the program for the acquisition or construction of a building or facility.

All applicants must file a declaration of compliance with 31 U.S.C. 1352 regarding limitation on the use of

appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions either prior to or simultaneous with the submission.

Due to limited funds, the AARC Center may not be able to fund all projects meriting support, and awards will be based on merit using the review evaluations and the Board's judgement.

Applicants who submitted a proposal or pre-proposal previously must reapply to be considered for Fiscal Year 1996 funding.

Future Proposals

In the future and until further notice, the AARC Center Board will accept proposals or pre-proposals at any time on AARC Center forms. The Board will meet at least twice a year to select proposals for funding.

Submissions

To be eligible for this round of AARC Center Board decisions, both pre-proposals and full proposals must be received at the AARC Center office by October 1, 1995. One of the following addresses should be used, as applicable:

Regular U.S. Mail

USDA AARC Center, AG Box 0401, 14th & Independence Ave. SW., 0156 South Building, Washington, DC 20250–0401.

Overnight Delivery

USDA AARC Center, 0156 South Building, 14th & Independence Ave., Washington, DC 20250–0401 Tel: 202–690–1633.

For More Information

Proposals must be submitted on forms provided by the AARC Center—either pre-proposals or full proposals. Contact the AARC Center by letter using the addresses above or fax number 202–690–1655 to receive a packet containing the instructions and forms. Specific questions should be directed to Patricia Dunn: Phone 202–690–1634.

Done at Washington, DC, on June 23, 1995.

W. Bruce Crain,

Director, AARC Center.

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Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent to Grant an Exclusive Patent License

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture,