

Contact: Carolyn Pratt

TREND, Technology Research and Development Center of Alaska

Phone: (907) 274-7232 Fax: (907) 274-9524

430 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 110, Anchorage, Alaska 99501



Press Release

Alaska Company Receives SBIR Grant for Development of Software that Supports Tribal Grantees

Anchorage, AK, November 30, 2007. Joan Herrmann, President of Alaska Project Solutions, Inc. (APSI) has been awarded a Phase I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant, valued at \$100,000, will support research efforts to develop an information technology based software system and a unique project management tool for tribal grantees.

If all goes well, the project collaborators will have a best practices model for IT educators, researchers, and developers to integrate cross-cultural approaches into software technology design and use- and APSI will have a growing bottom line.

Alaska Project Solutions, like other Alaska SBIR companies, worked hard to win this award. SBIR is a highly competitive national program that provides qualified small businesses an opportunity to meet specific research needs for various agencies of the federal government. The grants are not easily achieved. Reviews are rigorous and based on scientific, technical, and commercial merit. "Developing a research project based on the SBIR criteria is demanding. Our company has to produce something that has never been in the commercial marketplace, so it's risky and a leap into the unknown," said Ms. Herrmann of APSI.

"Alaska receives about three SBIRs per year and each one is an indicator of the talent and sophistication of the small businesses in this state," said Carolyn Pratt with the Technology Research & Development Center (TREND). TREND provides technical assistance to Alaska companies pursuing SBIR funding. "Joan captures an entrepreneurial spirit that drives her company into a competitive and cutting edge R&D arena." She joins several other local small companies with SBIR funding that are starting to develop an impressive list of tech-based projects in Alaska.

Ms. Herrmann used TREND's Phase 0 program to effectively address technical writing and intellectual property issues using during the proposal development stage. Phase 0 is sponsored by EPSCoR and gives an SBIR proposal an initial boost and opportunity to address any challenges identified before the proposal is submitted for federal review.

For Immediate Release

Once the results from Phase I are analyzed, APSI will be positioned for Phase II funds that could be as much as \$750,000. "We are anxious to grow beyond the capabilities of our company and ultimately develop products that move us into the global marketplace," said Ms. Herrmann. "Receiving the Phase I grant brings us one step closer".

Alaska Project Solutions, Inc. was formed in 2003 to deliver grants management services to Alaskan nonprofits. The office is located in Anchorage, Alaska. Joan Herrmann can be contacted at 907-334-9212.

Alaska has seven other companies currently involved with SBIR projects. For more information about TREND and the SBIR program, call 274-7232 or email to ancap1@uaa.alaska