

Export control

Recent news brings home need for compliance with federal guides about sensitive information

The indictment and guilty plea of a researcher connected to technology developed by a University of Tennessee professor has focused attention on the federal guidelines about sensitive technologies and foreign nationals.

A researcher connected with Atmospheric Glow Technologies, a UT spinoff firm, faces sentencing in July for conspiracy in allowing information about the firm's technology to be made available to citizens of proscribed foreign governments. The FBI continues to probe the retired UT professor who developed the breakthroughs.

Robin Witherspoon, who handles export control compliance said that there are three major areas which require strict

adherence by research faculty and institutions: Export Administration Regulations (EAR), the International Traffic in Arms Act (ITAR), and Treasury Department regulations on countries with various sanctions.

"Many faculty think these regulations are from the Department of Homeland Security, but these laws have been on the books for decades," Witherspoon said.

Civil and criminal penalties can include jail time and large fines and other actions against researchers and institutions found to be in violation.

Witherspoon (rwither@utk.edu, 974-0232) offers workshops to UT departments and encourages individual faculty to consult with her on export control issues.

TTDC lays out economic development strategy

The Tennessee Technology Development Corp. has announced an economic development strategy that is intended to strengthen the state's science and technology sectors.

The plan includes the creation of four new operating committees that will focus encouraging research and development and technology transfer, provide support for entrepreneurs and new businesses, increase the amount of capital available to technology-based companies, and to encourage organizations to network statewide. TTDC board members and recognized experts in research and entrepreneurship will sit on the four panels.

TTDC was awarded \$5 million last year by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development to create and implement a statewide competitiveness agenda. TTDC is a private nonprofit corporation created by the state legislature in 1998 to increase the availability of human and fiscal capital to foster entrepreneurship and research and development. More information: <http://www.tntechology.org>.

30 April 2008

Short Department of Education Training for TRIO Programs

The Office of Postsecondary Education is providing funding to train staff and leadership personnel employed, in participating in, or preparing for employment in projects funded under the federal TRIO programs, including such programs as Head Start.

Important date:

19 May 08 at 8 a.m. — Proposal must be submitted to UTOR Sponsored Programs unit. More information: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/triotrain/index.html>

Short NEH/CNR Fellowships for Research on Italian Cultural Heritage

The NEH and the Italian National Research Council are collaborating to support scholarly research on Italy's cultural heritage in relation to that of the United States. The NEH will award three fellowships. UT Knoxville applicants should contact [Alan Rutenberg](mailto:arutenberg@utk.edu) (arutenberg@utk.edu, 974-8686) for more information and consultation in preparing a proposal.

Important date:

15 May 08 — Application submitted through Grants.gov. More information: <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/fellowships-italy.html>

Building a Healthy Nation-Strategic Alliance for Health

The CDC's National center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion is soliciting proposals for projects that advance, implement and sustain community programs that promote physical activity and nutrition, reduce tobacco use and exposure, and build capacity for communities to effect policy related to these health-risk factors, among other goals. Up to nine awards are expected, with three going to projects that serve small city and rural communities, four to projects that serve large city and urban communities, and two going to tribal applicants. Cost-sharing from nonfederal sources is required. Only one application per community, with letters of intent used to screen for potential multiple applications.

Important date:

23 May 08 — Letter of intent due.

24 June 08 — Application due.

More information: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/DP08-813.htm>

Alfred P. Sloan Science & Technology Fellowships

Junior faculty in the sciences (chemistry, physics, mathematics, computer science, economics, neuroscience, or computational and evolutionary molecular biology or related fields) can be nominated for Sloan Foundation Research Fellowships worth \$45,000 over two years. Nominations must come from department heads or senior researchers and no more than three nominations should come from one department. The fellowship can be used for equipment, technical assistance, professional travel, or other activities directly related to the fellow's research.

Important date:

15 Sept 08 — Nomination must be submitted to Sloan Foundation.

More information: http://www.sloan.org/programs/scitech_fellowships.shtml

DEPSCoR whitepapers due 23 May

Tennessee EPSCoR is soliciting whitepapers that may qualify researchers in the state to submit proposals to the Department of Defense DEPSCoR program for 2009.

The deadline for submission is noon, 23 May 2008, and the whitepapers must be sent to Penny Morris (pmorris@utsi.edu).

DEPSCoR is a DOD program that parallels the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, which is designed to increase the competitiveness of states that do not receive NSF funding equal to 0.75 percent of the NSF's research expenditures.

The Tennessee EPSCoR Committee is soliciting the documents in preparation for the issue of a Broad Area Announcement which will officially define details of the DEPSCoR program for 2009. The announcement is released in late summer and full proposals are usually due at the end of October.

To qualify for DEPSCoR support, proposals must (1) demonstrate strong technical merit, (2) address a critical need of a targeted DOD agency, (3) build the intrastate infrastructure and increase opportunities for future federal funding, (4) be a new research initiative, (5) have a strong endorsement from a program manager in one of DOD's three participating agencies, and (6) include a 50-percent nonfederal match.

The white papers will be scored on scientific merit, statewide research themes, appropriate contact with DOD program managers, infrastructure, and budget.

Proposers will be notified in early June about the suitability of their proposals and full proposals will have to be submitted by 8 August 2008. (Proposers submitting through the UT Office of Research will need to have their proposals to the Sponsored Programs unit no later than 8 a.m. on 4 August.)

For 2008, DOD made two DEPSCoR-related awards in Tennessee, including one to Veerle Keppens in materials science and engineering at UT Knoxville. Keppens' project is titled "Resonant Ultrasound Studies of Magnetorestrictive Materials."

David Hercules (david.m.hercules@vanderbilt.edu, 615-343-5230) directs DEPSCoR. Full details of Tennessee's DEPSCoR solicitation and guidelines for preparing the whitepaper are available at https://my.tennessee.edu/portal/page?_pageid=37.137_5357891&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL.

...TIP

Use current 'yellow sheet'

UT Knoxville faculty running proposals through the Office of Research must be sure to use the current version of the routing and approval sheet, also known as the "yellow sheet." The current version (revised 11/13/2007) is available at https://my.tennessee.edu/portal/page?_pageid=43.570549&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL.

Staff in the Sponsored Programs unit recommend against using saved versions of the yellow sheet that may be outdated. Using the wrong sheet will cause a delay in the review of that proposal. Call 974-5066 with questions.

Energy Frontier, other solicitations may need internal competitions

Four solicitations, including the Department of Energy's Energy Frontier Research Centers announcement, may require internal competitions to select the University of Tennessee proposals that will be advanced to the funding agencies.

The institutional limits on proposals described below apply to all five entities within the University of Tennessee, as accredited. The UT Office of Research coordinates any internal competitions required by limits on submissions by institutions. Please contact Bill Dockery immediately if you plan to respond to any of these solicitations.

Energy Frontier Research Centers

In response to limited supplies of fossil energy resources and a clear consensus on the negative global effects of their use, the Department of Energy's Office of Basic Energy Services has announced the Energy Frontier Research Centers program to seek transformative energy technologies to develop and use new energy sources that are abundant, clean, and economical. The EFRC centers will be funded over five years at a range of \$2 million to \$5 million yearly, starting in FY 2009. (Money for this program has not been appropriate to date.)

➔ The University of Tennessee, as accredited, is eligible to submit only three proposals. UT faculty who plan to prepare a proposal must notify the UT Office of Research to indicate their intent to submit.

Important dates:

14 May 08 — Statement of interest to UT Office of Research. Contact Bill Dockery (dockeryb@tennessee.edu, 865-974-2187). An internal competition will be scheduled if necessary.

1 July 08 — Letter of intent to DOE Office of Basic Energy Sciences.

25 Sept 08 at 8 a.m. — Final proposal due to UT Office of Research for UT Knoxville proposals. Proposers from other UT entities should check with their own research administrators for other deadlines.

More information: <https://e-center.doe.gov/iips/faqpor.nsf/UNID/933104E42D0185E58525742100694C78?OpenDocument>

International Materials Institutes (IMI)

The objective of the NSF's International Materials Institutes is to advance materials research by coordinating international projects involving condensed matter and materials physics; solid state and materials chemistry; and the design, synthesis, and characterization of materials to meet global and regional needs. A critically important aspect of an IMI is its potential impact on advancing materials research on an international scale and developing an internationally competitive generation of materials researchers. This distinguishes an IMI from other materials research centers that NSF supports. The University of Tennessee is limited to one submission to the IMI. Faculty interested in proposing must notify the UT Office of Research to indicate their intent to submit.



Important dates:

14 May 08 — Statement of interest to UT Office of Research. Contact Bill Dockery (dockeryb@tennessee.edu, 865-974-2187). An internal competition will be scheduled if necessary.

9 July 08 at 8 a.m. — Final proposal due to UT Office of Research. More information: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08558/nsf08558.htm>

NOTE: Previously announced NSF solicitations for **Biological Research Collections** and **Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education** are limited to one proposal each for the University of Tennessee. Please notify the UT Office of Research if you intend to propose to either program.

Beckman Young Investigators Program

The Beckman Foundation makes grants to nonprofit institutions to promote research in chemistry and the life sciences and to foster the invention of methods, instruments and materials that will open up new avenues in science. The University of Tennessee may submit no more than two nominations.



Important dates:

14 May 08 Statement of interest to UT Office of Research. Contact Bill Dockery (dockeryb@tennessee.edu, 865-974-2187). An internal competition will be scheduled if necessary.

1 October 2008 — Submission due to foundation.

More information: http://www.beckman-foundation.com/byi_guides.html

Opportunities for Promoting Understanding Through Synthesis (OPUS)

Three NSF programs within the Division of Environmental Biology (Ecological Biology, Ecosystem Science, and Population and Evolutionary Processes) are providing support for proposals aimed at synthesizing a body of related research projects conducted by a single individual or group of investigators over an extended period. The OPUS program is intended for mid-to-late-career researchers whose integrated insights will be useful both to the scientific community and to the investigator's own future work.

Important date:

10 July 08 — Completed proposals must be in the UT Office of Research by 8 a.m.

More information: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08559/nsf08559.htm?govDel=USNSF_25

Canadian Studies Grant Opportunities

The Canadian government, through its embassy in Washington, D.C. offers a variety of programs for both faculty and graduate students interested in studying a variety of issues related to Canada, including smart and secure borders, North American economic competitiveness, global health policy, and changing demographics in North America.

Important date:

30 Sept 08 — Deadline for submissions.

More information: <http://geo.international.gc.ca/can-am/washington/studies/default-en.asp> (click on "Canadian Studies" link) or contact Alexander Leipziger (alexander.leipziger@international.gc.ca), research and academic relations, Canadian Embassy, 501 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Cluster Exploratory (CluE) Program

In collaboration with IBM and Google, the NSF is supporting academic researchers in the use of internet-scale applications powered by massively scaled, highly distributed computing resources for the exploration of innovative research ideas in data-intensive computing. The goals will be advances in computing research and explorations of how this computing paradigm might benefit science and engineering research and society as a whole.

Important date:

11 July 08 — Completed proposals must be in the UT Office of Research by 8 a.m. More information: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08560/nsf08560.htm>

Tennessee Disproportionate Minority Contact

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth will award funding from the Office of Justice Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention program. The funding provided (up to \$80,000 maximum) will support organizations providing programming for minority youth in their area. The funding can be used to ensure equitable treatment of minority youth, implement better juvenile justice data collection and analysis, and other similar projects.

Important date:

2 May 08 — Notification of intent to attend grant application training.

6 May 08 — Grant application training in Nashville.

More information: <http://www.state.tn.us/tccy/>

The Wolf Prizes

Nominations are being taken for the Wolf Prizes for accomplishment in agriculture, chemistry, mathematics, medicine, physics, and the arts. The prize is worth \$100,000 and is named in honor of Ricardo Wolf, inventor and diplomat. The prize is awarded at the Knesset Building in Jerusalem. Nominations must come from the head of a university, the director of a research institute, the dean of a faculty or the head of a department in one of the prize fields.

Important date: 31 August 2008.

More information: <http://www.wolffund.org.il/main.asp?idMain=13>



Requires internal letter of intent; may require internal competition. Contact Bill Dockery (dockeryb@utk.edu).