



U.S. CIVILIAN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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U.S. CIVILIAN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
Industry Partner Development Program 2006
Partner Development Event: Optics & Photonics
August 12-20, 2006 San Diego, California

Introduction

The U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation (CRDF) announces the Optics & Photonics Partner Development Event competition. The Event will be held in conjunction with the International Society for Optical Engineering's (SPIE) Optics & Photonics Conference to be held in August 13-17, 2006 in San Diego, California.

This Event offers Eurasian scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs the opportunity to present commercially viable science & technology innovations to U.S. companies and potential business partners at a forum during the SPIE Optics & Photonics Conference. For more information about the conference, please see the [SPIE website](#).

CRDF is soliciting proposals from Eurasian scientists whose research has applications in: detectors and imaging devices, optical instrumentation, and organic photonics and electronics, and optical systems.

Following a competitive review of all proposals submitted, CRDF will select up to five Eurasian awardees for participation in the Event. Additional Eurasian participants may be selected, depending on available funding from other sources.

CRDF will provide funds for the following Eurasian participant expenses: U.S. ground transportation, hotel, airfare, U.S. visa expenses, and medical insurance, per diem, training and conference fees. The maximum allowed amount for these expenses is \$3,600.

The deadline for application submission is April 25, 2006. All applications should be submitted to CRDF via the [Proposal Submission Website](#).

Program Scope and Objectives

The objective of this program is to offer Eurasian scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs the opportunity to promote science and technology innovations to U.S. industry and potential business partners at leading U.S. conferences and tradeshows. The awardees will have the opportunity to meet with U.S. for-profit companies to develop collaborative projects and new business opportunities in science and technology.

The CRDF award will include:

- **Conference/Tradeshow Participation and Presentation.** CRDF will convene an Event panel for 15-minute presentations by each selected Eurasian participant. All awarded selected participants are

required to submit to and work with CRDF to prepare their technology innovation presentations prior to the Event.

- **Orientation and Training.** A mandatory orientation and presentation training session for Eurasian participants will be provided by CRDF.
- **U.S. Company Visits.** CRDF may organize additional U.S. visits following the Event.

Eligibility Criteria

Who Is Eligible: Eurasian applicants must meet each of the following eligibility criteria to be deemed eligible for consideration in this competition:

- Applicants whose research has applications in detectors and imaging devices, optical instrumentation, and organic photonics and electronics, and optical systems**
- Employed at a university, institute, or private company that is a legally registered entity in Eurasia**
- Citizenship and permanent resident of one of the following Eurasian Countries**
Eligible Eurasian countries are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, or Uzbekistan.
- Engineering prototype or commercial activity that can be demonstrated in the U.S.**
Applicants must have a prototype of the technology, product or service to be presented at the event.
- Interest in developing business opportunities in the U.S.**
The Event will provide Eurasian participants the opportunity to meet with U.S. companies with an interest in strategic partnerships.
- English speaking ability**
Applicants must be able to conduct business meetings and make presentations in English. Interpreters will not be provided.

Successful applicants will be notified that their proposal is eligible for review.

Funding

CRDF will provide funding for up to seven Eurasian traveler awards subject to the availability of funds. Funding for the awards is provided by the U.S. Department of State and includes the following eligible expenses:

1. **Per Diem:** Awardees will receive per diem for lodging, incidentals and non-event meals associated with their stay during the Event. Per diem is based on allowable U.S. government travel expense rates.
2. **Lodging:** CRDF will administer this portion of the award directly for the conference hotel.
3. **Airfare.** All segments of transoceanic flights will be on a U.S. air carrier to comply with the [Fly America Act](#).
4. **Medical insurance:** All awardees must receive emergency short-term medical insurance for the duration of their visit. CRDF will administer this portion of the award directly.
5. **Reimbursable Expenses** are those expenses that the Eurasian traveler must pay in advance. Awardees may be reimbursed by CRDF for each of the following expense items on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with CRDF program staff during the award initiation phase:
 - a. U.S. visa application fees
 - b. Eurasia-based ground transportation
 - c. U.S.-based ground transportation
6. **Conference Registration Fees:** CRDF will administer this portion of the award directly.

All recipients of this award are required to complete an onsite evaluation form during the event and a financial report form to the CRDF offices within one month of completion of the event. CRDF will

request that all participants also complete a post-event Impact Assessment Form approximately one year after the event. The CRDF will provide awardees with the required forms for these reports during award authorization.

Proposal Review and Evaluation Criteria

CRDF will conduct a competitive review of all eligible and complete proposals according to the following review criteria:

- **Business Plan.** Applicants must demonstrate that they have a strategy to bring their technology, product, or service to market.
- **Commercial viability.** The applicant's technology, product or service must be advanced and have secured some preliminary results that indicate its commercial viability, such as protected IP, additional investment, or strategic partnerships.
- **Market potential.** The applicant must demonstrate that there is a market need for their product or service.
- **Resources.** Applicants must demonstrate that they have adequate resources (team, financial) to partner with U.S. companies to commercialize their product or service.

In Russia, preference will be given to applicants participating in the START program of the Russian Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE). In other countries, where available, preference will be given to participants in CRDF's STEP workshops. Preference will also be given to applicants previously engaged in weapons related research, as well as junior researchers and female applicants.

During the CRDF review, applicants may be contacted by CRDF staff with questions or requests for additional information. Applicants will also be contacted by CRDF staff to assess their English language speaking abilities, which are a requirement for this program.

Application Submission Requirements

All applicants must submit the completed and *signed* application in English and the documents listed in the Application Checklist to the [Proposal Submission Website](#) **no later than April 25, 2006.**

Applicants will be informed of the selection decision by June 15, 2006. Selected Eurasian participants will be provided an award agreement, budget form and information on how to make travel arrangements, as well as details for disbursement of Award funds during this timeframe.

Application Checklist

Each proposal must include all of the following sections to be considered for eligibility and review:

- Application Form
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Laboratory Results, if available

Export Control

The CRDF complies with all U.S. laws and regulations pertaining to export control and the participation of foreign nationals or institutions in its activities. It is the policy of the CRDF not to conduct any transactions with U.S. restricted entities without appropriate authorization from the U.S. Government. The CRDF reserves the right to restrict the participation of any individual or institution in its programs.

Protection of Confidential Information

Applicants are responsible for identifying any business confidential information contained in their application; such information will be available only to authorized staff of the CRDF and its funding and oversight agencies, partners, and external reviewers retained by CRDF.

Reviewers are required to adhere to strict standards of confidentiality in the handling of all confidential information contained in the proposals; all applications containing business confidential materials should be clearly labeled “**Business Confidential.**” Reviewers will be required to sign a standard CRDF non-disclosure form prior to receipt of all business confidential materials. A copy of the CRDF template for this agreement is available on request. Applicants may request that particular organizations or individuals, whose access to their proposals would compromise business confidential information, not be selected as reviewers.

Background Information

CRDF. The U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation (CRDF) is a nonprofit organization authorized by the U.S. Congress and established in 1995 by the National Science Foundation. This unique public-private partnership promotes international scientific and technical collaboration, primarily between the United States and Eurasian, through awards, technical resources, and business training. The CRDF supports exceptional research projects among U.S. and Eurasian scientists, engineers and companies to help move applied research to the marketplace and bring economic benefits both to the United States and the countries with which the CRDF works. The CRDF is based in Arlington, Virginia with offices in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia, and Kyiv, Ukraine, with a website of <http://www.crdf.org>.

Optics & Photonics An SPIE Event. This conference and exposition is the world’s largest technical event for optics and photonics. There are over five thousand attendees, 1,000 presentations, and 270 companies exhibiting products in lasers, precision photonics instrumentation, motion control, wafer handling and assembly automation. Industry forums have become a regular feature at all of the larger SPIE meetings as researchers and scientists in the application-centric technology environment we now find ourselves in search for better ways to bring the fruits of their labor to market. [SPIE website](#)

Contact Information

For questions about this PDP Event or the proposal submission process, please contact:

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