

**§ 3403.11**

be an important consideration. The existence of a follow-on funding commitment for continued development in Phase III will also be an important consideration. The value of any commitment will depend upon the degree of financial commitment made by investors, with the maximum value resulting from a signed agreement with reasonable terms for an amount at least equal to funding requested from USDA in Phase II.

**§ 3403.11 Availability of information.**

Information regarding the peer review process will be made available to the extent permitted under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a), the SBIR Policy Directive, and implementing Departmental and other Federal regulations. Implementing Departmental regulations are found at 7 CFR part 1.

**Subpart E—Supplementary Information**

**§ 3403.12 Terms and conditions of grant awards.**

Within the limit of funds available for such purposes, the Authorized Departmental Officer shall make research project grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose proposals are judged most meritorious in the announced program areas under the evaluation criteria and procedures set forth in the annual program solicitation. The beginning of the project period shall be no later than September 30 of the Federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support. All funds granted under this part shall be expended solely for the purpose for which funds are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, the regulations of this part, the terms and conditions of award, the Federal Acquisition Regulations (48 CFR part 31), and the Department's Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations (7 CFR part 3015).

**§ 3403.13 Notice of grant awards.**

- (a) The grant award document may include the following:
  - (1) Legal name and address of performing organization or institution;

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- (2) Title of project;
  - (3) Name and institution of Project Director's chosen to direct and control approved activities;
  - (4) Identifying grant number assigned by the Department;
  - (5) Project period, specifying the amount of time the Department intends to support the project;
  - (6) Total amount of Departmental financial assistance approved for the project period;
  - (7) Legal authority(ies) under which the grant is awarded;
  - (8) Appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number;
  - (9) Applicable award terms and conditions;
  - (10) Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the grant award; and
  - (11) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by NIFA to carry out its respective granting activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular grant.
- (b) [Reserved]

**§ 3403.14 Use of funds; changes.**

- (a) *Delegation of fiscal responsibility.* Unless the terms and conditions of the grant state otherwise, the grantee may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of grant funds.
- (b) *Changes in Project Plans.* (1) The permissible changes by the grantee, Project Director, or other key project personnel in the approved project grant shall be limited to changes in methodology, techniques, or other similar aspects of the project to expedite achievement of the project's approved goals. If the grantee or the Project Director (PD) is uncertain as to whether a change complies with this provision, the question must be referred to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) for a final determination. The signatory of the award document is the ADO, not the program contact.
  - (2) Changes in approved goals or objectives shall be requested by the grantee and, in consultation with the NIFA SBIR National Program Leader, approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes. In no event