Small Business Innovation Research
Small Business Technology Transfer
Small Business Participation

How do I participate in SBIR?
Each year, the DoD issues three SBIR solicitations which identify hundreds of topics from the DoD components that represent serious scientific and technical problems requiring innovative solutions. The topics are available at www.dodsbir.net/solicitation.

Small businesses respond to solicitations by submitting Phase I proposals electronically at www.dodsbir.net/submission during the four week open period.

DoD SBIR Solicitation Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FYxx.1</th>
<th>Pre-Release</th>
<th>Open</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FYxx.2</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>December</td>
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<td>FYxx.3</td>
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During the Pre-Release period, companies have an opportunity to discuss technical questions directly with the topic authors (contact information available on the solicitation website). Technical questions may also be submitted electronically through SITIS, the SBIR Interactive Topic Information System at www.dodsbir.net/sitis.

Who is eligible?
To participate, a company must:
• Be a small business with 500 or fewer employees;
• Be independently owned and operated and organized for profit;
• Have its principal place of business in the U.S.;
• Be at least 51% owned by U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens.

In addition:
• The primary employment of the principal investigator must be with the small business.
• A minimum of ⅔ of the research work must be performed by the proposing firm in Phase I and ⅔ in Phase II.

How are proposals evaluated?
Government scientists and engineers who are experts in a particular topic area review the proposals and evaluate them based on:
• Soundness, technical merit and innovation of proposed approach;
• Qualifications of the principal/key investigators and supporting staff;
• Potential for government or private sector commercial application.

What is STTR?
Similar to SBIR, the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program is a 3-phased program that funds cooperative R&D between small businesses and U.S. research institutions, such as universities, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), and nonprofit research institutions. Through the STTR program, small businesses and research institutions work together as a team to move ideas from the nation’s research institutions to the marketplace, foster high-tech economic development, and address the technological needs of our armed forces.

Phase I STTR contracts are typically for up to $100,000 over 12 months. Phase II contracts are typically for up to $750,000 over 24 months.

The proposing firm must perform a minimum of 40% of the effort and the research institution must perform a minimum of 30%. The principal investigator may be employed at either the small business or the research institution.

The DoD offers two STTR solicitations a year with the Army, Navy, Air Force, DARPA, MDA and OSD participating.

DoD STTR Solicitation Schedule

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<th>FYxx.A</th>
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What is the Small Business Innovation Research Program?

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program was established by Congress in 1982 to fund Research and Development (R&D) through small businesses of less than 500 employees. Eligible projects must serve a Department of Defense (DoD) R&D need and have potential to develop into a product or service for commercial and/or defense markets. The DoD SBIR Program is part of a larger Federal SBIR Program administered by 11 Federal Departments and Agencies.

Congress established the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program in 1992. It is similar in structure to SBIR and funds cooperative R&D projects with small businesses in partnership with not-for-profit research institutions (such as universities) to move research to the marketplace.

The Process

1. DoD issues solicitations three times per year for SBIR and twice a year for STTR, describing R&D needs and inviting proposals from small companies.

2. Companies apply for a six-month Phase I award of up to $150K ($100K STTR) to determine the scientific, technical and commercial merit and feasibility of a particular concept.

3. Phase I companies may be invited to submit a proposal for a two-year Phase II award of up to $1M ($750K STTR) to further develop the concept, usually to the prototype demonstration stage. Proposals are judged competitively on the basis of scientific and technical merit, qualifications of the company and commercial potential.

4. Following completion of Phase II, companies are expected to obtain Phase III (non-SBIR/STTR) funding from the private sector and/or government sources, to further develop the concept into products for sale in commercial and/or defense markets.

Participation At a Glance

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>SBIR Est. Budget</th>
<th>STTR Est. Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>$265M</td>
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<td>Navy</td>
<td>$332M</td>
<td>$40M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
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<td>DARPA</td>
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<tr>
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*Other includes DTRA, SOCOM, CBD, NGA, DLA and DMEA

Component SBIR Websites

- DoD SBIR
- Army
- Navy
  - http://www.navysbir.com/
- Air Force
  - http://www.afsbertr.com/
- DARPA
- Missile Defense Agency (MDA)
  - http://www.wmda.com/
- DTRA
  - http://www.dtra.mil/
- SOCOM
  - http://www.usocomsbir.com
- ASD (R&E)
  - http://www.acq.osd.mil/rd/acp/organization/sbir.html
- NGA
  - https://www.nga.mil/About/WorkingWithUs/
- CBD
  - www.armysbir.army.mil/cbd
- DLA
  - http://www.dla.mil/db/
- DMEA

If you would like to provide comments or suggestions, or if you would like more information:

SBIR & STTR