

C. SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM (SBIR)

SMALL BUSINESS
INNOVATION RESEARCH
Department of Defense



The SBIR program operates by setting aside 2.5% of extramural Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) funds to support dual use R&D activities by small businesses (less than 500 employees). In order to emphasize the importance of the

OTT technology transfer mission and to encourage the defense labs to play an active role, the OSD SBIR program funds technology transfer topics in the OSD section of the DoD SBIR solicitation. The OSD SBIR program has commercialization of dual use technology as a primary goal; therefore, projects are primarily later stage, applied research, which appear to offer the greatest possibility for near-term technology transfer “spin on” or “spin off” commercialization.

Candidate technology areas were developed and topics were solicited from Army, Navy and Air Force labs. The OTT staff then selected the most promising of the topics, based upon commercialization potential. The OSD Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SADBU) issued two DoD-wide SBIR solicitations, one in January and the other in August 1998. There were 24 OSD topics in the first and 20 OSD topics in the second solicitation. This year, 91 Phase I contracts were selected and funded at \$9 million. A total of 30 Phase II contracts were awarded and funded at \$22 million. Approximately \$17 million will fund OTT SBIR contracts in FY 99.

FY 98 SBIR topic descriptions can be found in Appendix D.