How will you benefit from SBIR?

The SBIR Program provides a unique opportunity for prime contractors and DoD acquisition programs to tap into a powerful source for technological innovation while strengthening the role of small high-tech companies and suppliers.

SBIR Awardees
- No dilution in ownership
- No repayment required
- Retain rights to IP developed
- No royalties owed to the government
- Entry in government R&D programs

Prime Contractors
- Identifies niche technology suppliers
- Augments Independent and Contract Research & Development
- Helps to meet small business goals
- Source of technology to generate cost savings to achieve life cycle cost goals

DoD Acquisition Programs
- Capitalizes on the innovation and agility of small businesses to address capability gaps
- Mitigates risk in developmental or existing systems through insertion of enabling technology
- Utilizes financial resources outside of core program budget
- Simplifies contracting actions relative to a Phase II award because statutory competition provisions are met during Phase I and II

What Is SBIR?

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program is a federal program created to strengthen the role of small businesses in federally funded research and development (R&D) while providing the government with innovative technical and scientific solutions to challenging problems.

SBIR is a competitive three-phased program.

Phase I determines the scientific, technical, and commercial merit and feasibility of the ideas submitted.

Phase II is the major R&D effort, funding the prototyping and demonstration of the most promising Phase I projects.

Phase III small businesses are expected to obtain funding from the private sector or government sources outside the SBIR/STTR Program to commercialize the Phase II project for sale in military or commercial markets.

How can I learn more?

For more information about the DoD SBIR and STTR Programs,
- visit our websites at:
  www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/sbir/
  www.dodsbir.net
- contact our Help Desk at:
  1-866-SBIRHLP (866-724-7457)
- join our listserv at:
  www.dodsbir.net to be notified about solicitation and program changes

Checklist for Primes and Acquisition Program Managers
- Get to know your local SBIR representatives
- Participate in the SBIR topic generation process
- Plan for SBIR technologies in your Technology Development Strategy (TDS)
- Develop SBIR Technology Transition Agreements
- Address SBIR in your Acquisition Strategy
- Involve SBIR post Milestone B to achieve continuous improvement goals

How can I learn more?

For more information about the DoD SBIR and STTR Programs,
- visit our websites at:
  www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/sbir/
  www.dodsbir.net
- contact our Help Desk at:
  1-866-SBIRHLP (866-724-7457)
- join our listserv at:
  www.dodsbir.net to be notified about solicitation and program changes

Department of Defense
Small Business Innovation Research
Phase III is the commercialization phase and the ultimate goal of each SBIR/STTR effort. Phase III commercialization work derives from, extends, or logically concludes efforts performed under prior SBIR/STTR funding agreements.

Statute requires that Phase III work is funded by sources outside the SBIR/STTR Program. Small businesses are expected to leverage SBIR/STTR funding to obtain funding from the private sector and/or non-SBIR/non-STTR Government sources to develop Phase II prototypes into viable products or a non-R&D service to sell in either military or private sector markets. Within the DoD, often the initial customer is a prime contractor for a major weapon system or other program of record.

Small businesses, and the acquisition programs interested in SBIR/STTR technology, should start planning for commercialization as soon as a Phase I contract is awarded. Given the timelines associated with the DoD budget development process, it is crucial to begin identifying Phase III funding with ample lead time. Early commercialization planning will also support the small business’s ability to align its SBIR/STTR technology with acquisition programs schedules and requirements.

There is no limit on the time that may elapse between a Phase I or Phase II award and any subsequent Phase III award. It thus has SBIR/STTR status, and any SBIR/STTR technology developed during this contract is subject to the same rights, statutes and regulations of the SBIR/STTR program.

The purpose of the CPP is to accelerate the transition of SBIR-funded technologies to Phase III, especially into systems being developed, acquired and maintained for the warfighter. This can be done through activities that enhance the connectivity among SBIR/STTR firms, primes contractors, DoD science & technology and acquisition communities. It can also be accomplished by improving a SBIR/STTR firm’s capability to provide the identified technology to the Department, directly or as a subcontractor.

A project’s inclusion in the CPP is by invitation and at the discretion of the DoD component. CPP participants may receive a variety of assistance services and/or opportunities to facilitate the transition of their projects.

Awardees may copyright material developed with DoD SBIR/STTR funding as long as they have written permission from the contracting officer. Also, small businesses normally may retain the principle worldwide patent rights to any invention developed with government support.