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WVU Media Innovation Center
 Evansdale Crossing Building 4th Floor
 62 Morrill Way, Morgantown, WV 26506

Frequently Asked Questions

What is SBIR? Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) is a set-aside program for small business to engage in Federal R&D – with potential for commercialization.

What is STTR? Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) is a sister set-aside program to facilitate cooperative R&D between small business concerns and U.S. research institutions – with potential for commercialization.

Why is SBIR/STTR good for small business? This program provides non-dilutive funding for innovative, high risk, early stage projects.

What is non-dilutive? Unlike venture or angel capital, with SBIR/STTR you retain full control of your company.

How much is available? In Fiscal Year 2015, there was \$2.5 B across all agencies.

What agencies are involved?

Agencies with SBIR and STTR Programs	Budget
Department of Defense (DOD)	\$ 1.070 B
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including the National Institutes of Health (NIH)	\$797.0 M
Department of Energy (DOE), including Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E)	\$206.1M
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	\$ 180.1 M
National Science Foundation (NSF)	\$176.0 M

Agencies with SBIR Programs	Budget
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	\$20.3M
Department of Homeland Security (DHS): Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO)	\$17.7 M
Department of Commerce: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)	\$8.4M
Department of Transportation (DOT)	\$7.9 M
Department of Education (ED)	\$7.5 M
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	\$4.2 M

Who is eligible for SBIR? Only United States small businesses are eligible to participate in the SBIR program. An SBIR awardee must be organized for profit, more than 50 percent owned and controlled by citizens or resident aliens, and have no more than 500 employees. See the [Eligibility Guide](#) for more detailed information.

Who is eligible for STTR? Only United States small businesses are eligible to participate in the STTR program. The small business must be organized for profit, at least 51 percent owned and controlled by citizens or resident aliens, and have no more than 500 employees. See the [Eligibility Guide](#) for more detailed information.

The nonprofit research institution must be located in the US, and be a nonprofit college or university, domestic nonprofit research organization or federally funded R&D center (FFRDC).

What is the Award process?

Phase I | Feasibility Study or Prototype

- ▶ ~\$150 thousand and 6 months

Phase II | Full Research and Development Effort

- ▶ ~\$1 million and 24 months

Phase III | Commercialization Effort

- ▶ Private and Non-SBIR Allocated financing

How do I find out about opportunities? SBIR.gov maintains a list of current opportunities but it's best to keep an eye on the individual agency's site.

How do I register? There are 4 registrations you must complete prior to application.

1. DUNS
2. SAM
3. DSBS
4. [SBIR Company Registry](#) This is a new requirement. You must have your other registrations completed first.

Are unsolicited proposals accepted? No.

Where can I go to learn more about SBIR/STTR? You can find basic information at www.sbir.gov, which serves as a portal to the SBIR/STTR agencies.