
Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)

What is an SBIR?

The SBIR program is a federally supported grant program that funds early research and development of new and innovative technologies to small business and entrepreneurs who form small businesses in the United States (Zyn Systems, 2002). Small business concerns participate in a highly competitive review process in order to receive federal funding to support technology development (Department of Education, 2004). The SBIR program is funded in three phases.

- Phase I: Supports feasibility research with awards up to \$100,000 for a six month time period.
- Phase II: Supports research and development of new technologies proved feasible in Phase I with awards up to \$750,000 for a period of up to two years. In order to compete for Phase II funding, a company must have received a Phase I funding.
- Phase III: Entails commercialization of the new technologies funded through the first two phases. No monetary support is provided by the federal government to the small business concern during this time period. Activities should be financed using company funds or outside investor funds (Small Business Administration (SBA), 2001).

Who is eligible for an SBIR?

Eligibility for SBIR funds is based on the following criteria (SBA, 2001):

- Owned and independently operated in the United States
- For-profit
- Principal researcher employed by business (at least 51%)
- Company size limited to 500 employees

What is the legislative support for the SBIR program?

Legislative support for the SBIR program is provided by the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-554). This Act supports the SBIR program through September 30, 2008.

SBIR Solicitations:

SBIR solicitations provide information on the topic areas to be addressed for each agency, submission requirements, and instructions on how to prepare the SBIR application. It is imperative that small business concerns follow these instructions explicitly, as your ability to provide the requested information will factor into funding decisions. It is also imperative that small business concerns adhere to submission dates and formatting defined by each sponsoring agency. SBIR solicitations are announced by the sponsoring agencies, Zyn Systems, and the Small Business Administration. The information provided by the sponsoring agencies is generally the most up to date and accurate. However, Zyn Systems and the SBA provide excellent overviews of opening and closing dates for SBIR competitions.

Sponsoring Agencies:

The following federal agencies participate in the SBIR program [Note: For additional information on Project Specific SBIR announcements please see the links provided.]:

Federal Agency	SBIR Program Link
Department of Defense	http://www.acq.osd.mil/sadbu/sbir/
Health and Human Services	http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/sbir.htm
Department of Energy	http://www.science.doe.gov/sbir/
National Science Foundation	http://www.eng.nsf.gov/sbir/
Department of Agriculture	http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/fundview.cfm?fonum=1128)
Environmental Protection Agency	http://es.epa.gov/ncer/sbir/
Department of Transportation	http://www.volpe.dot.gov/sbir/
Department of Education	http://www.ed.gov/programs/sbir/index.html
NASA	http://sbir.gsfc.nasa.gov/SBIR/SBIR.html
Department of Commerce	http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/~amd/sbirs/sbir.html (NOAA) http://patapsco.nist.gov/ts_sbir/ (NIST)
Department of Homeland Security	http://www.hsarpasbir.com/

Resources

- Zyn Systems: <http://www.zyn.com/sbir/>
- SBA SBIR: <http://www.sba.gov/sbir/indexsbir-sttr.html>
- SBIR World: <http://www.sbirworld.com/>
- SBIR Resource Center: <http://www.win-sbir.com/>

References

Department of Education (2004). Small business innovation research program. Retrieved September 14, 2004, from <http://www.ed.gov/programs/sbir/index.html>.

Small Business Administration (2001). What we do. Retrieved September 14, 2004, from <http://www.sba.gov/sbir/indexwhatwedo.html>.

Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2000. P.L. 106-554. 15 U.S.C. § 638 (j)(3).

Zyn Systems (2002). About SBIR funding. Retrieved September 14, 2004, from <http://www.zyn.com/sbir/funding.htm>.