National Aeronautics and Space Administration













SBIR/STTR Overview

15 September 2026

Jason L Kessler

NASA SBIR/STTR Program

sbir.nasa.gov

In their own words

You bet on twelve people behind a deli.





The second photo is the return.

First commercial spacecraft at the Moon · two agencies served · Artemis supported · Moon-base roadmap ahead

THE CAPSTONE STORY · SCORECARD

What one SBIR-seeded mission returned.

1st

commercial spacecraft to operate at the Moon

1506

days of total mission operations

29

days tumbling — and recovered

200%

operational objectives completed

~25 kg

spacecraft mass — CubeSat cost class

12 → 120

people — the company the mission built

Importance of SBIR/STTR Program

Not an overstatement:

NASA's hopes for establishing a Moon Base rely on a new set of tools that have not yet been devised. The picks and shovels look different for the Moon. Big companies won't invent these tools, government labs won't deliver at acceptable costs. I believe our hopes for expanding beyond Earth, for doing so much more and reaching out to the stars, rests on the shoulders of small companies and universities – whose success very often comes from the environment and opportunity that you [SBIR program] foster.

✧For Public Release✧

Overview

SBIR/STTR Team



SBIR/STTR Purpose and Policy

POLICY

- The SBIR and STTR programs are codified under 15 U.S. Code § 638 - Research and development
- The SBIR/STTR Policy Directive, issued by the SBA, outlines how agencies must generally conduct their programs.

- **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)**
  - A set-aside program for small business to engage in Federal R&D – with potential for commercialization
  - Currently, 3.2% of federal agencies extramural R&D budgets for all agencies with a budget greater than $100M per year
- **Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)**
  - A sister set-aside program to facilitate cooperative R&D between small business concerns and U.S. research institutions – with potential for commercialization
  - Currently, 0.45% of the extramural research budget for all agencies with a budget greater than $1B per year

SBIR + STTR Programs

- Department of Defense (DoD)
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Department of Energy (DoE)
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)

SBIR Program Only

- Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Department of Education (DoEd)
- Department of Transportation (DoT)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Department of Commerce (DoC)

Who can join?

- The SBIR/STTR program's **focus is on R&D**, funding ideas that have the potential to solve some of NASA and the nation's most pressing challenges
- You **must be a Small Business Concern (SBC)** with 500 employees or less and legally established in the U.S. (visit sbir.gov for the full criteria)
- **For STTR**, the partnering research institution must be in the U.S. and be a nonprofit college or university, domestic nonprofit research organization, or a federally funded R&D Center (FFRDC)
- **If NASA is not the right fit**, there are 10 other government agencies that have SBIR/STTR programs that you may want to explore: sbir.gov/agencies-landing

Approximately 80% of the small businesses we fund have less than 50 employees

What do we provide small businesses?



Early-stage funding for research & development (R&D)



Up to $1 million during your first three years, plus up to $3 million or more through Post Phase II opportunities



We **take zero equity**, and you keep your intellectual property



The **experience** of working with NASA experts on your technology



The **opportunity** to join us on one of our many ambitious missions



A **network** of diverse entrepreneurs and innovators



A door into potential work with **NASA programs and other government agencies**



A way to hone your **business skills** to complement your technical skills



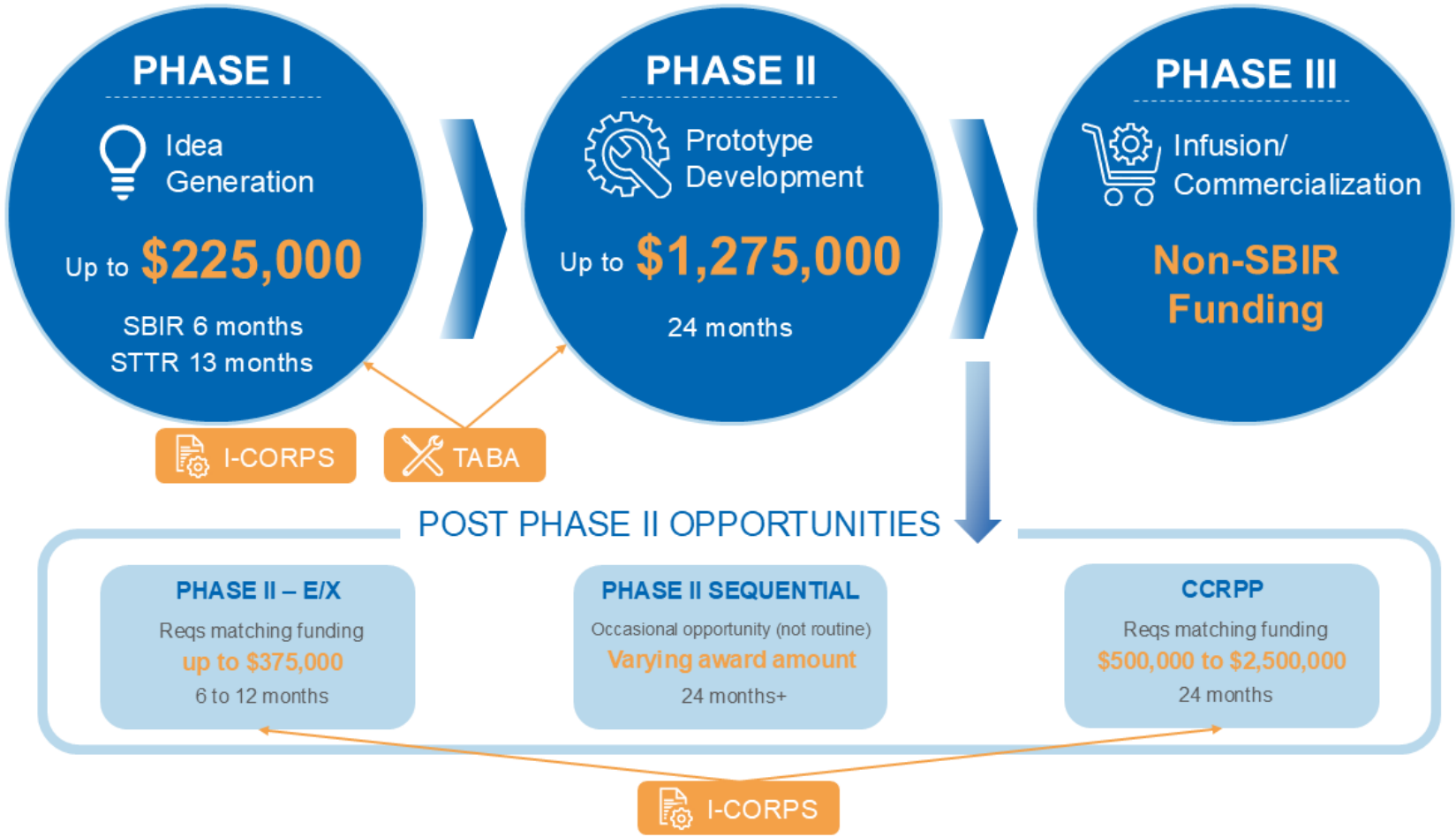
A way to **de-risk your technology** as you work to mature it



A **reputation** that comes with working with an agency known for expanding the physical and mental boundaries of humanity

Award Value by Phase

Up to $1.5 million for Phase I and II and $3 million or more for Post Phase II opportunities!



Post-Phase II Mechanisms

Phase II Extended

- Extends an existing Phase II award with investor-matched funding, up to $375K NASA match (for a total of up to $750K).
- Focuses on continued R&D maturation and commercial potential, frequently supported by private investment—including venture capital

Civilian Commercialization Readiness Pilot Program (CCRPP)

- Aims to drive commercialization or NASA infusion, not just technical maturation.
- Requires matching investor commitments (VCs, angels, other agencies, or other NASA programs). NASA matches $500K–$2.5M per award.

Sequential

- Currently up to $4M for a follow-on Phase II that further matures technology with strong NASA need

What is Phase III?

Phase III is the **commercialization** of innovative technologies, products, and services resulting from either a Phase I or Phase II contract.

- Further development of technologies for **transition**
  - NASA programs
  - Other Government agencies
  - Private sector
- Funded from sources other than the SBIR and STTR programs
- May be awarded without further competition
- May receive multiple Phase IIIs for the same technology
- No expiration date or award value limit

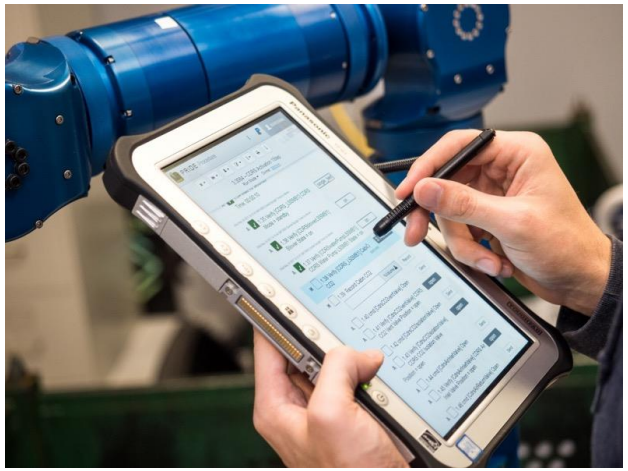


Photo credit: TRACLabs

TRACLabs PRIDE
Procedure-writing software Phase III with oil industry

Aurora Flight Sciences Corp. Universal Bus Charger
Phase III through NASA recharges batteries on space station

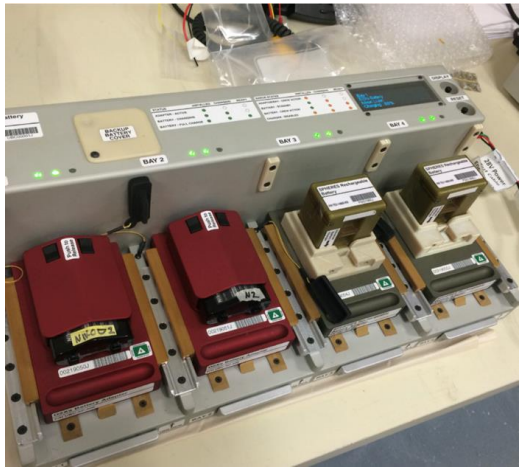
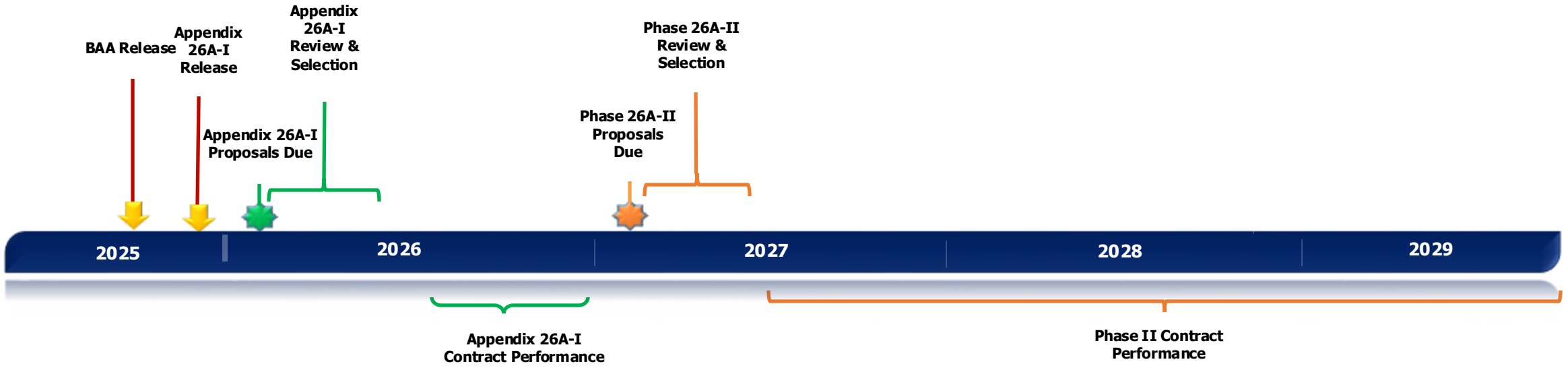


Photo credit: Aurora Flight Sciences Corporation

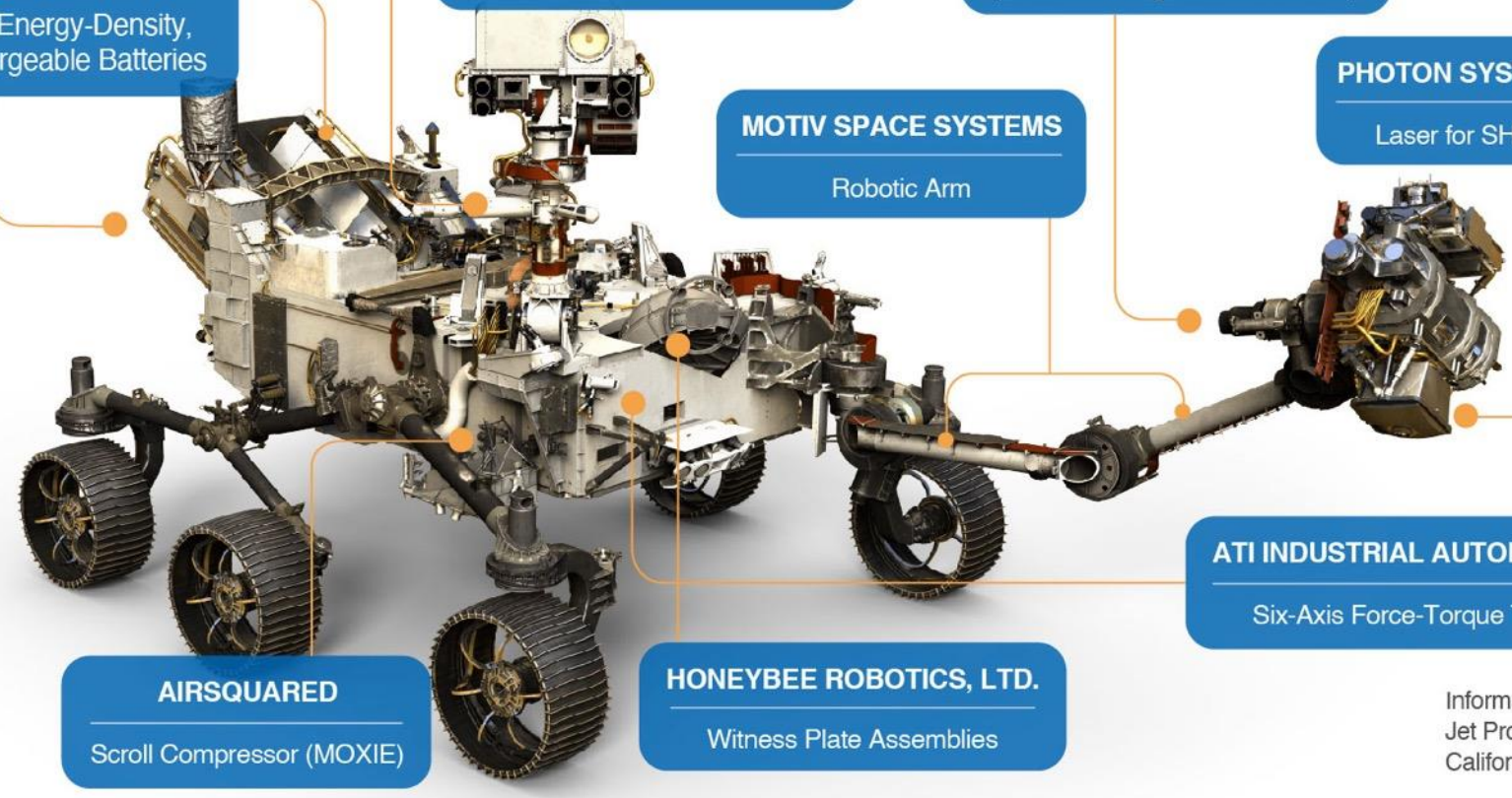
SBIR Technology Development Timeline

This is a nearly 3.5-year process from Solicitation Release to the end of an SBIR Phase II contract.



Infusion into NASA's missions

SBIR TECH ON-BOARD MARS 2020
PERSEVERANCE ROVER



YARDNEY (EAGLE PICHER)
High-Rate, High-Energy-Density, Lithium-ion Rechargeable Batteries

HONEYBEE ROBOTICS, LTD.
Dust Mitigation Tool

ENGI-MAT
Space suit materials (calibration target of SHERLOC)

PHOTON SYSTEMS, INC.
Laser for SHERLOC

MOTIV SPACE SYSTEMS
Robotic Arm

ATI INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION, INC.
Six-Axis Force-Torque Transducer

AIRSQUARED
Scroll Compressor (MOXIE)

HONEYBEE ROBOTICS, LTD.
Witness Plate Assemblies

sbir.nasa.gov

Information provided by:
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

From Low-Earth Orbit to Benefits on Earth

How small businesses use the International Space Station to improve life on our planet

From health care to climate change and emergency response, here are a few SBIR/STTR-derived technologies tested on the space station:



A lidar (light detecting and ranging) system for monitoring the effects of climate change by studying cloud and aerosol properties in Earth's atmosphere

Fibertek, Inc. (VA) | fibertek.com
Michigan Aerospace Corp. (MI) | michiganaerospace.com



A system to manufacture multilayered artificial retinas to treat retinal degenerative diseases; the conditions of space improve the quality of the manufacturing process

LambdaVision (CT) | lambdavision.com
Woman-led small business



A fine water mist fire extinguisher that is a non-toxic substitute for CO2 fire extinguishers, making it a safer alternative for spacecraft, aviation, and general commercial use

ADA Technologies, Inc. (CO) | adatech.com



An ultraviolet sensor for improved detection of ocean-based oil spills and fires in remote areas; the technology's integrity can be validated in the harsh conditions of space

Ozark Integrated Circuits, Inc. (AR) | ozarkic.com



A 3D bioprinter that uses the microgravity conditions of space to print human tissue, which could be used for skin grafts and transplants

Techshot, Inc. (IN) | techshot.space

The NASA SBIR/STTR program provides more than just early-stage funding – we open doors to a community that awaits you.

Learn more at **sbir.nasa.gov**

What's New

Transitioned to BAA

- **Move to a BAA:** Beginning in 2026, NASA is utilizing a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA), which empowers us to solicit technology development over multiple appendices throughout the year.
  - Appendices 2026A SBIR, 2026B SBIR, and 2026B STTR opened to submissions on April 21, 2026.
    - Submission deadline was May 21, 2026.
    - Tip: Review all three appendices because each appendix has separate topics and subtopics.
    - Check the **Program Year 2026 Information Hub** on our website (www.nasa.gov/sbir_sttr) for additional information.
    - These are not the last appendices to be released under the new BAA, so if you don't see an applicable subtopic, check back for later appendices!

Definition and Benefits of the BAA

- **What is a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)?**
  - A BAA is a **funding mechanism** used to procure basic and applied research.
  - Agencies use the BAA to fulfill requirements for scientific study and experimentation to advance the state-of-the-art or increase knowledge or understanding, rather than focusing on a specific system or hardware solution
- **Why is the NASA SBIR/STTR program moving to a BAA?**
  - Opens up a world of opportunity for our community of innovators and for the agency
  - Allows the NASA SBIR/STTR program to be more flexible and responsive
  - Through **phased appendix releases**, we can solicit proposals for both known and emergent technology needs in a way that can better adapt to changes in mission priorities and developments in the commercial marketplace
  - Additionally, the phased release schedule creates more opportunities for small businesses to propose and **participate throughout the year**

SBIR/STTR Reauthorization 13 April 2026

- Authorization through 30 September 2031
- Strategic Breakthrough Awards (New Phase II Vehicle)
  - Creates a new large-scale Phase II funding mechanism allowing awards up to $30M.
  - Requires 100% matching funds (private or governmental) and at least one prior Phase II.
  - Intended to help firms cross the “valley of death” into commercialization.
- Direct to Phase II extended to NASA
- Foreign-Risk & Due-Diligence Requirements (Expanded)
- Proposal Submission Limits (Starting FY 2027)
  - NASA already limited proposal submissions. Current practice is limit of two proposal per Appendix
- Phase III Updates
  - Mandatory Phase III Training for Contracting Officers & Acquisition Staff, and required advocacy for Phase III use
  - Agencies Must Develop Simplified, Standardized Phase III Procedures

Resources

Where do you start?

- Sign up to receive our **emails**: nasa.gov/sbir_sttr/program-contact/
- Monitor for SBIR/STTR and other NASA STMD **solicitations**:
  - nasa.gov/stmd-solicitations-and-opportunities/
  - Official SBIR/STTR solicitation postings are on sam.gov
- Find **local assistance** in your state through the SBA's website sbir.gov/local-assistance
- Explore another path for working with NASA through **Office of Small Business Programs** (OSBP); ideal for small businesses without an R&D focus nasa.gov/osbp

Center Points of Contacts

Center	Name	Email	Phone
AFRC	Gary Laier Gray Creech	gary.e.laier@nasa.gov gray.creech-1@nasa.gov	(661) 276 - 2648 (661) 276 - 2662
ARC	Rich Pisarski	ryszard.l.pisarski@nasa.gov	(650) 269 - 2362
GRC	Brandon White	brandon.l.white@nasa.gov	(216) 433 - 8314
GSFC	Quenton Bonds	quenton.bonds@nasa.gov	(301) 286 - 7083
JPL	Vandi Verma	vandana.verma@jpl.nasa.gov	
JSC	Shobhana Gupta	shobhana.gupta@nasa.gov	
KSC	Michael (Mike) Vinje	michael.e.vinje@nasa.gov	(321) 861 - 3874
LaRC	Eddie Adcock	edward.e.adcock@nasa.gov	
MSFC	Dave Truitt	david.c.truitt@nasa.gov	
SSC	Armando Delgado	armando.delgado@nasa.gov	(228) 274 - 5207

Questions?

Visit our website:

www.sbir.nasa.gov

