National Aeronautics and Space Administration













Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Program Overview

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NASA SBIR/STTR Program

nasa.gov/sbir_sttr

The SBIR and STTR Programs

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)

- A set-aside program for small business concerns to engage in Federal R&D with potential for commercialization
- Currently, 3.2% of Federal agencies' extramural R&D budgets >$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 >$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)

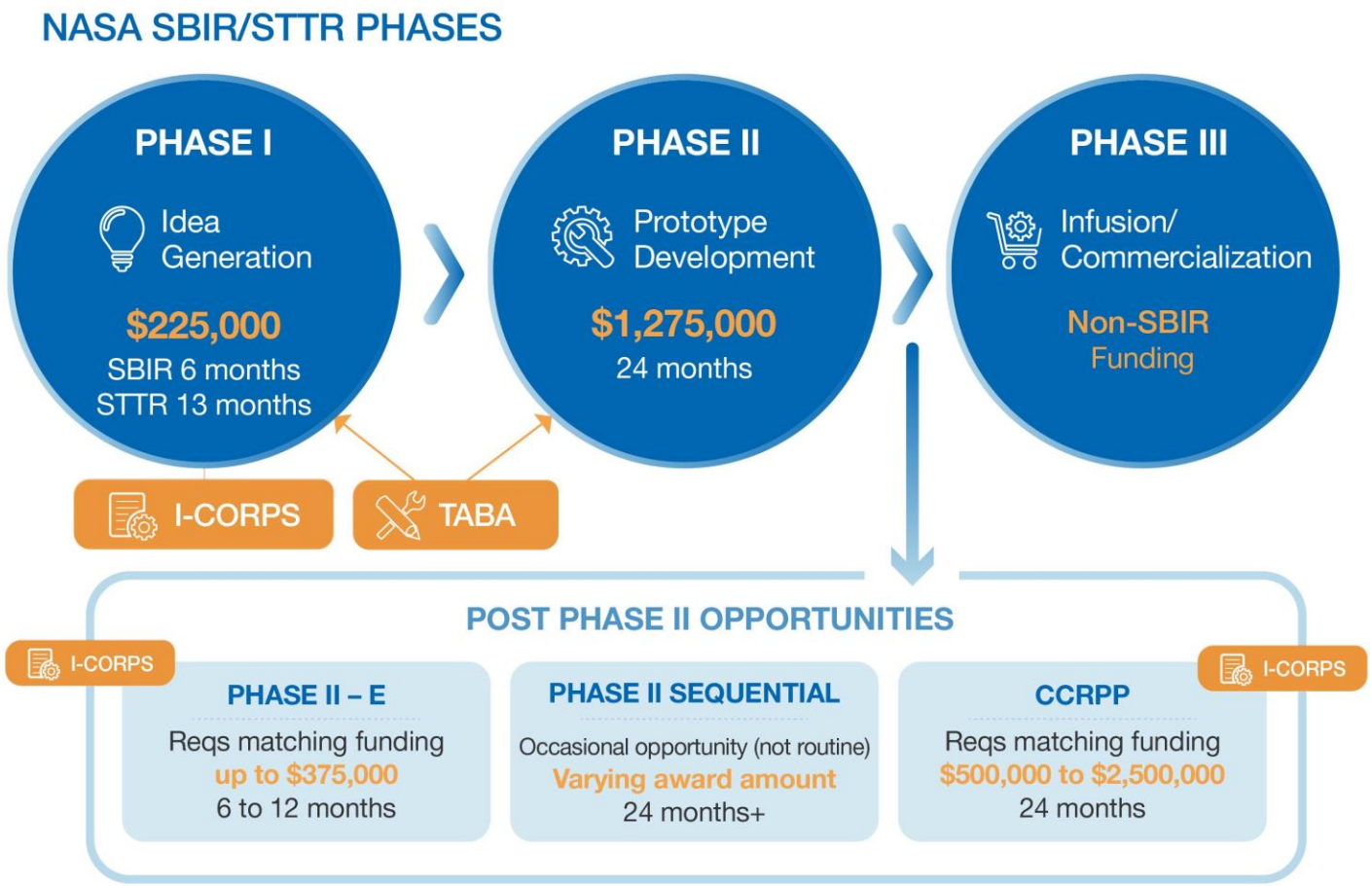
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Department of Commerce (DoC)

SBIR/STTR Opportunities

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



What is the difference between SBIR and STTR?

- The STTR program exists to unlock the power and innovative thinking of the country's **research institutions**
- The primary difference is that for STTR, the small business **must formally partner** with a research institution
- **STTR** topics are derived from the specific needs of NASA's **10 centers**, whereas **SBIR** topics support NASA's **mission directorates**
- The **period of performance** for a Phase I is longer for STTR, due to the nature of the academic calendar for universities
- STTR: Principal Investigator (PI) can be employed by either the small business or the research institution
- SBIR: Principal Investigator (PI) must be more than 50% employed by the small business

What's New: Transitioning to a 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.

- **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**

How does it work?

As an example, your timeline could look something like this:



Solicitation Release

Apr. 2026

Proposal Submissions

Apr. – June 2026

Proposal Reviews and Selection

June – Aug. 2026

Phase I Selection Announcement

Aug. 2026

Note: A Federal agency may enter into a Phase III agreement at any time with a Phase I or Phase II awardee.

Contract Negotiations/Awards

Aug. – Oct.. 2026

Phase II Proposal Submission

Due by Phase I Contract End Date

Note: Dates are subject to change. For the latest dates, please visit our website's "Schedule & Awards" page.

What is SBIR Ignite?

- NASA SBIR Ignite Pilot Solicitation offers an additional SBIR funding opportunity that:
  - Encourages participation from **product-driven companies** not looking at NASA as their primary customer
  - Places a heavy emphasis on **commercial viability** during review and scoring
  - **Streamlines the application process** by shortening the solicitation and the proposal requirements
  - **Features the same three phases and funding levels** as the main NASA SBIR/STTR solicitations
- The 2025 NASA SBIR Ignite Phase I solicitation closed July 2025; selections are expected in Fall 2025.



Awardee Highlights

- ✓ **12 companies selected for Phase I awards in 2022; all selected for Phase II awards in 2023**
- ✓ **10 companies selected for Phase I awards in 2023; all selected for Phase II awards in 2024**
- ✓ **9 companies selected for Phase I awards in 2024; 7 selected for Phase II awards in 2025**

SBIR Ignite Historical Topics

FY24

- Aviation-Ready Electrical Energy Storage for All-Electric or Hybrid Electric Aircraft
- Leak-Free Cryogenic Valves and Quick Disconnects
- Decision Support Tools Leveraging NASA Earth Science Data

FY23

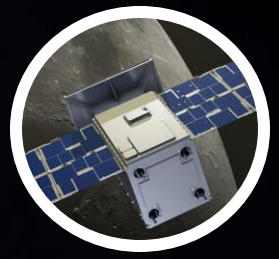
- Complete/Full Hybrid Electric Power Plants for 1500-5000 lb. Airplanes or Drones
- Closing Capability Gaps to Accelerate In-Space Production Applications in LEO
- Earth Science Decision Apps with a Focus on the Mitigation of Climate Change Impacts in the Areas of Wildfires and Water Management
- Commercial Development of Active Debris Remediation (ADR) and Orbital Debris Tracking Services
- Mining and Mineral Processing Technologies for Earth and Moon

FY22

- Electric and Hybrid Electric Systems for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and Aircraft in the 1500-5000 lbs. Size Class
- Enabling Technologies for the Development of a Robust Low-Earth Orbit Economy
- Low-Cost Photovoltaic Arrays for Space
- Technologies Using NASA Data to Foster Climate Resilience
- Commercial Development of Active Debris Remediation (ADR) Services
- Point-of-use Recycling for Optimized Space-Age Logistics

Through SBIR/STTR, American Small Businesses Advance Innovation for Artemis and the Lunar Era



Astrobotic Technology, Inc.
Lunar lander and rover technologies

Motiv Space Systems
Robotics for assembly & service

ProtoInnovations, LLC
Rover mobility advancements

Advanced Space, LLC
Lunar orbital studies satellite

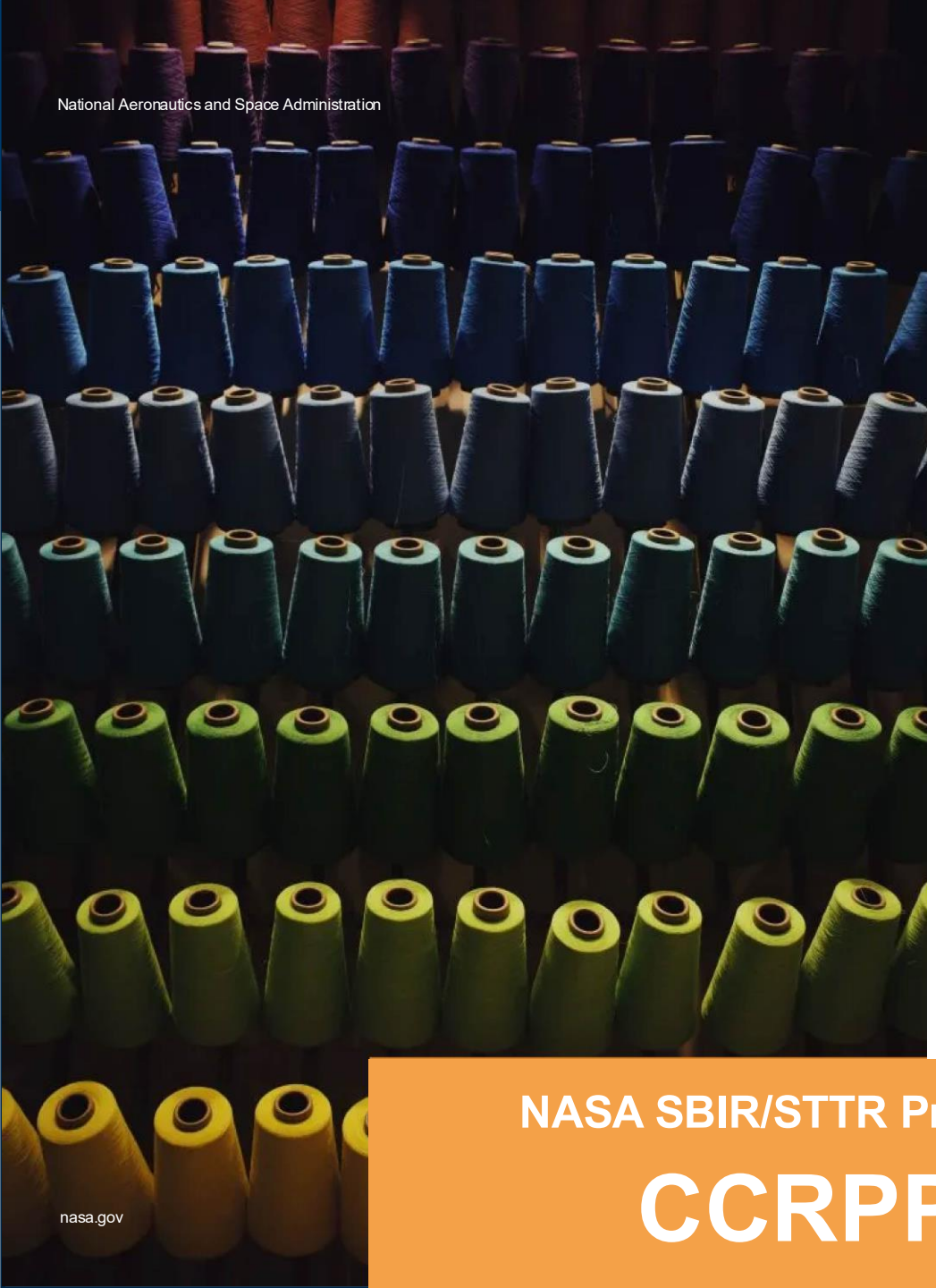
Honeybee Robotics, LLC
Simulated lunar gravity flight tests

Space Environment Technologies
Lunar surface radiation mapping

CFD Research Corporation
SLS launch acoustic loads modeling

MicroLink Devices, Inc.
Next-generation flexible solar arrays

Albireo Technologies, LLC
Orion heat shield certification for Artemis II



Mango Materials & Colorado School of Mines

Civilian Commercialization Readiness Pilot Program (CCRPP)

CCRPP appealed to Mango Materials for the program's emphasis on commercial development and for the STTR dollar-to-dollar match on external investments.

Fashion industry investors were interested in exploring how the company's methane biopolymer could be a more sustainable alternative to existing fibers.

Mango Materials received $6 million in total CCRPP funds from STTR and investors to optimize and commercialize the biopolymer product.

NASA SBIR/STTR Program

CCRPP



Black Swift Technologies

Following NASA SBIR Phase I and II awards, Black Swift used commercialization-focused opportunities (Phase II-E, CCRPP) to get their S2 unmanned aircraft system (UAS) market-ready.

U.S. and international science agencies have used the matured platform, making the company a trusted provider for:

- High-risk environmental monitoring of volcanos and hurricanes
- Adjacent markets such as wildfire monitoring and methane leak detection

Phase III Contracts

- **U.S. Geological Survey**: Airborne studies of volcanic plume chemistry, Makushin Volcano (AK)
- **NASA**: Multi-day airborne monitoring of Costa Rican volcanoes
- **U.S. Forest Service**: Endurance demonstration for volcano and wildfire sensing
- **Murray State University**: Gas measurements

Government Procurement

- NASA procured three S2s to carry and deploy a “swarm” of low-cost aircraft, released into clouds to provide point measurements.

NASA SBIR/STTR Program

Phase III

NASA SBIR/STTR seed funding can bear the fruit of future government research and awards.

Where do I start?

- Visit our landing page at the QR code below for more information



Questions?

Visit our website:

www.nasa.gov/sbir_sttr

