

# Small Business Technology Development



**REQUEST: Support and prioritize reauthorization of the federal SBIR and STTR programs before the current authorization expires at the end of Fiscal Year 2025. Please communicate your support with Leadership and/or colleagues on the Small Business Committee.**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs are highly successful public-private partnerships designed to advance technology development and commercialize innovative ideas into products that benefit society, generate U.S. economic growth, and strengthen US global competitiveness. Administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA), 11 federal agencies - including DOD, DOE, NASA, USDA and NSF – participate in the success of the SBIR/STTR programs.

While IEEE-USA strongly supports reauthorizing these proven programs, the administrative complexity of applying to SBIR/STTR programs tends to favor those with strong networks of prior participants. Unfortunately, otherwise exceptional companies may fail to apply due to unfamiliarity with the requirements or from fear of rejection due to administrative, rather than technical or business, reasons.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

As part of reauthorization legislation, Congress should consider creating an optional and preliminary “Expanded Access Training” program to help new applicants access these important programs. Consideration should be given to components such as:

1. online training courses
2. business-to-business mentoring
3. best practices, and
4. regular events to introduce and explain the program to qualified candidate companies.

Implementing an “Expanded Access Training” program across participating federal agencies would also help to broaden participation in the SBIR/STTR programs to startups and small businesses in underrepresented states.

Collectively, these changes would help ensure that knowledge of optimum practices is disseminated from existing experienced groups and encourage the best companies to continue to promote U.S. technological and business growth.

Reauthorizing and expanding access to these programs is essential for maintaining the competitive edge of American small businesses and fostering innovation and growth of the U.S. technology economy. Without full congressional reauthorization, the U.S. could forfeit American leadership in technological innovation and R&D as other countries continue to invest in these vital spaces.

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