

Questions & Answers from EPA SBIR Informational Webinar Held on June 14th (ET)

General

Can we download a copy of today's presentation?

Today's presentation and questions & answers (Q&As) from the presentation will be posted on the EPA SBIR website: www.epa.gov/sbir

Where can I get more information on the SBIR Program in general?

www.sbir.gov/faqs/general-questions

Does the EPA also fund STTRs?

No, the EPA does not have an STTR program. Only the 5 largest SBIR programs have STTRs.

Can you define the "proof of concept" and when a technology is too far along to qualify for Phase 1?

Phase I of the SBIR Program is designed for "proof of concept" of the proposed technology. The technology should be beyond a literature search, should have some data to demonstrate its performance but should not be commercially viable yet. For more general information on the SBIR program, see <https://www.sbir.gov/about/about-sbir#sbir-program>

Phase I winners are the only teams capable of applying for phase II, correct?

Yes, for EPA SBIR, only Phase I companies are eligible to submit for Phase II.

Is a copy of last year's solicitation available anywhere? Not to submit this year, but to use as a template to prepare in advance of the official announcement later this month.

Previous solicitations can be used as guidance and can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/sbir/past-sbir-solicitations>. The 2016-17 EPA SBIR Solicitation will be the final word for the requirements for this year.

You mentioned that the EPA will provide general feedback on their proposals, how do we go about asking technology specific questions?

All small businesses that apply will receive a copy of their peer review comments whether they are selected for funding or not. Technology questions can be directed to the EPA SBIR Program Manager, April Richards (Richards.april@epa.gov). Please note, that it is the responsibility of the small business to determine whether they think their technology is appropriate to a specific topic and whether they should submit a proposal or not.

Topics

What are the proposed solicitation topics for 2016-2017 again?

The Draft Topics for this year are listed below. They are most likely to be the final topics, but the solicitation will be the final word.

Air and Climate

- Inexpensive Indoor Formaldehyde Sensor
- Low-Cost Sensor for Fugitive Methane Emissions

Manufacturing

- Greener manufacturing of plastics
- Greener Plastic Materials and Products

Toxic Chemicals

- Cleaner Manufacturing Processes for Dyes, Paints & Pigments
- Technologies to Help Consumers Understand the Chemical Composition of Products

Water

- Non-Reverse Osmosis Desalination Units for Small Communities
- Non-toxic Coating for Water Pipes that Prevent Biofilms, Corrosion, Scaling and Leaching of Lead
- Simple Lead Test for Tap Water

Water and Homeland Security

- Water Pipes that Prevent Biofilms, Corrosion and Scaling

Greener Buildings

- Nontoxic Interior Construction Materials
- Greener Exterior Construction Materials

Because this slide says "Draft," does that mean they might change?
These are very likely to be the final topics, but please check the solicitation for the final word.

Can one proposal be entered into more than one topic area?
No, a specific proposal can only be submitted under one topic area.

How much focus is put on any one topic? How many projects do you fund in each topic?
We will fund projects across all topic areas depending on how many (quality) proposals we receive in each area.

Schedule

What is the deadline to submit?

The solicitation will close approximately 45 days after it opens. It is anticipated to open in late June/early July which would put the closing date in August.

Do you anticipate opening another solicitation in the winter?

No, EPA only releases one solicitation per year. The next EPA SBIR solicitation will be released in 2017.

Funding Rates/Program History

What is your funding rate for each topic listed in the draft solicitation?

The overall funding rate for the program has averaged 13%+ over the last three years. We fund across topic areas but it does depend on how many proposals we get in each area.

Where there topics last year that no proposals were submitted?

No, all topics received some proposal submissions last year (and in previous years).

Do you share the titles of the previously funded proposals?

Yes, all previously funded projects are listed on our website:

https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncer_abstracts/index.cfm/fuseaction/outlinks.sbir/

Can we review the submissions of past winners of solicitations (the actual proposals they submitted)?

EPA does not release the actual proposals of past winners. Non-proprietary information on previous awards can be found at: https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncer_abstracts/index.cfm/fuseaction/outlinks.sbir/

Can you provide any other EPA SBIR success stories?

Other Success Stories can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/sbir/sbir-success-stories-and-highlights>

Other Agencies/Opportunities

Could you please provide information on other SBIR Agencies that fund environmental technologies?

Some other agencies that support environmental technologies include:

- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
- Department of Energy (DOE)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

More information on our factsheet (https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-05/documents/sbir_fact_sheet_2016.pdf) and/or at www.SBIR.gov.

Can you please provide information on the Sensors Funding Opportunities Website?

<https://www.sbir.gov/Sensor-technology-for-the-21st-century>

Can you apply to more than one agency?

You can apply to more than one Agency.

If you apply with the same project/technology, you can NOT get funded by more than one Agency for the same work. If you did apply to multiple agencies and were funded by one, you would withdraw your other proposals.

You can also apply to different agencies with different projects.

Contacts

Who are the program managers and do we contact them?

Technical questions can be addressed to the Program Manager, April Richards (Richards.april@epa.gov)

Contractual questions can be addressed to the Contract Specialist, Jeffrey Clodfelter (Clodfelter.jeffery@epa.gov)

Are there specific program managers for the different topics you listed in the draft solicitation?

General questions on the topics can be directed to the EPA SBIR Program Manager, April Richards (Richards.april@epa.gov)