



The Air Force Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer Program

has deviated from the norm to deliver critical tools to the warfighter at a faster pace and to provide small businesses with access to a \$100B+ market.

In 2018, the Air Force SBIR/STTR Program began to allocate resources toward special topics. These special topics — which differ from traditional SBIR/STTR topics in multiple ways – are intended to accelerate the development of technology while reducing barriers for small businesses and leveraging new methods of doing business.

Special topics allow the Air Force SBIR/STTR Program to act more as a commercial seed fund. Among the differences from traditional proposals, the special topics involve:

- An application process that requires a five-page technical proposal and 15-page “pitch” (slide) deck, instead of the traditional 20-page technical proposal;
- Phase I contract awards of between \$50,000 and \$150,000 and a three month period of performance, compared to \$150,000 and nine months; and
- Numerous awards for each Phase I, which are typically limited to only two awards.

For some of the special topics, small businesses will go through a government sponsored commercially facilitated technology acceleration process, similar to the pathway for commercial startups, prior to the Phase II process. Additionally there will be a reoccurring open innovation topic that looks for dual use technologies that can quickly and cheaply solve Department of Defense problems.

Participating DoD Innovation, Technology Acceleration Organizations

- **AFWERX** – Established in 2017 by the Secretary of the Air Force, AFWERX is a catalyst for agile Air Force engagement across industry, academia, and non-traditional contributors to create transformative opportunities and foster an Air Force culture of innovation. Its technology startup accelerator is a boot camp for small businesses that offers high impact mentorship, and a fast-paced curriculum, guiding promising teams through the processes of problem/solution validation and business model validation. Contact AFWERX here: <http://afwerxdc.org/join/>
- **MD5** – Born out of a summer study at New York University in 2015, the National Security Technology Accelerator concept was transformed into the MD5 program office at the height of the Defense Innovation Initiative. Like its sister organizations, the Defense Innovation Unit, Experimental (DIUx), and the Strategic Capabilities Office (SCO), MD5 represents divergent thinking and executes non-traditional approaches to problem solving that increase the permeability between the public and private domains.
- **AFRL** – Leads the discovery, development and delivery of warfighting technologies for the U.S. air, space and cyberspace forces. Through unparalleled research, tomorrow’s technology and strategic partnerships, AFRL gives our warfighters unmatched advantage in the field. Balancing a legacy of success with a pursuit of innovation, AFRL is uniquely positioned to support the warfighter’s urgent needs and evolving demand to defend America. Among a number of innovation efforts, AFRL has been running technology accelerators and is conducting three separate accelerators around SBIR Special Topics of PNT, Human-Centered ISR and Data Analysis for Space.

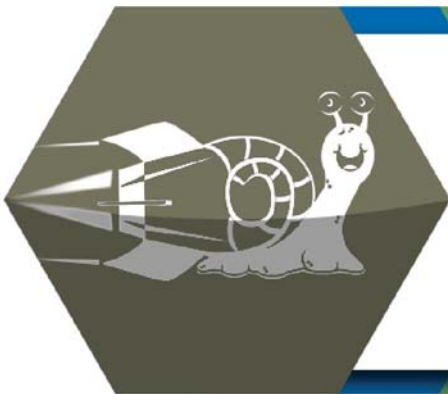
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AIR FORCE SBIR/STTR STANDARD TOPICS



AIR FORCE SPECIAL TOPICS



- Epic streamlining and simplification of proposal process
- Provides Air Force innovation "store fronts" through out the country
- Achieving success metric in 3 months