

NGA Small Business Innovation Research

POC: sbir@nga.mil

Soundbite Take-Aways:

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) is a government-wide activity established to harness and to take advantage of the innovative talents of our nation's small technology companies. Enacted in 1982, the Small Business Innovation Development Act has helped small businesses to compete for federal research and development awards that serve NGA needs and that have the potential for commercialization in private sector and intelligence community markets.

The US Small Business Administration Office of Technology administers the SBIR Program and sets the basic parameters of the program according to law. Through this competitive program, SBA ensures that the nation's small, high-tech, innovative businesses are a significant part of the federal government's research and development efforts. Eleven federal departments participate in the SBIR program. NGA falls under the DoD SBIR Program <http://www.dodsbir.net>.

Small firms offer great flexibility, close contact with customers and potential end users, and great willingness to engage in high-risk R&D projects. The program benefits NGA by helping the agency meet strategic goals, drive future technical trends, apply research results to operational needs, insert technology rapidly, and provide solutions to improve geospatial intelligence data and analysis, services, and integrated systems.

Background

Annually, NGA participates in a joint DoD solicitation that outlines R&D topics reflecting agency mission needs. All topics are unclassified. Proposals are evaluated and selected based on scientific merit. Funds are set aside for two types of awards. Initial Phase I awards test the scientific, technical, and commercial merit and feasibility of a particular concept. Phase II awards build upon the success and merits of initial awards to develop

commercially marketable prototypes. Following completion of phase II, the program transitions to Phase III where small companies are expected to obtain funding from the private sector and/or non-SBIR government sources to develop the concept into a product for sale in private sector and/or military markets.

Information on NGA SBIR is available on the Internet at: <http://www.nga.mil/sbir>. The website is a source for NGA research topics, offers program guidance for solicitation dates, contract costs and duration, proposal submission, selection and award, and provides a listing of previous SBIR award winners. NGA voluntarily participates in the SBIR program and is the only member of the Intelligence Community to do so. More information about the NGA SBIR program is available on Intellipedia-U http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Small_Business_Innovation_Research and Intellipedia NGANet http://www.intelink.ic.gov/wiki/Small_Business_Innovation_Research.

What office within NGA is responsible for Small Business Innovation Research?

InnoVision's Advanced Development Office Industry Outreach Division (IDO) funds and manages SBIR for NGA. IDO solicits research topics representing agency interests, provides guidance for participants, and monitors accepted proposals.

NGA InnoVision R&D Priorities

- Exploration of New Phenomenologies
- Geospatial-Intelligence Analytics
- Multi-source and Multi-INT Fusion
- Integrated Problem-Driven Collection
- Automated Image and Geospatial Data Understanding
- Geospatial Intelligence Enablers