



## NSF SBIR / STTR Programs

SBIR Phase I Solicitation FY-2014: [NSF 13-546](#)

STTR Phase I Solicitation FY-2014: [NSF 13-547](#)

### **NCI SBIR Workshop on Federal Resources to Accelerate Commercialization May 7, 2013**

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# NSF's SBIR Program

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- Seeks to fund transformational, game-changing technology
- Early stage platforms
- Strong focus on commercialization
- Encourages ties to private sector



## Award Information

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- Type of Award – fixed-price grants (SBIR: 6 months; STTR: 12 months)
- Award Amount:
  - Phase I not to exceed \$150,000 (STTR: \$225,000)
  - Phase II not to exceed \$750,000
- Estimated Number of Awards – 200 Awards
  - No obligation to make a specific number of awards
- Anticipated Phase I Funding Amount - \$30,000,000 (pending availability of funds)



# Funding Criteria

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- We fund high-risk, high-payback innovations
  - With the high potential for commercialization
  - That demonstrate strategic partnerships with research collaborators, customers, industry partners, and equity investors
- We do NOT fund
  - Basic research
  - Clinical Research
  - *Evolutionary* optimization of existing products and processes or modifications to broaden the scope of an existing product, process or application
  - Analytical or “market” studies of technologies



# Merit Review Criteria

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- Intellectual Merit - Quality of the Research
  - A sound approach for establishing technical and commercial feasibility
  - Qualified technical team
  - Sufficient access to resources
  - Significantly advances “state-of-the-art”
- Broader Impact – Potential impact on society
  - Commercial and societal benefits
  - Marketable product
  - Commercialization track record
  - Business expertise
  - Intellectual Property/Other Competitive advantages



# Merit Review Criteria

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- Commercialization Potential:
  - The company's strategic vision
  - The addressable market opportunity
    - Is this an enabling technology
  - The company/team
    - Business and commercialization experience
  - The product features and benefits compared to the competition
  - Financing and revenue model
- Positioned to attract additional investment



# Proposal Guidelines

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- Phase I
  - Feasibility and proof-of-concept research focus
- Phase II (must receive a Phase I award to be eligible to submit a Phase II proposal)
  - Prototype development and testing research focus



# Proposal Guidelines

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- Successful proposals
  - Provide evidence of a commercially viable product, process, device, or system
  - Meet an important social or economic need



# Topics

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- Four broad topic areas:
  - Biological and Chemical Technologies (BC)
  - Education Applications (EA)
  - Electronics, Information and Communication technologies (EI)
  - Nanotechnology, Advanced Materials, Manufacturing (NM)



# Biomedical and Healthcare Topics

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- Smart Healthcare **(New)**
- Pharmaceutical Manufacturing **(New)**
- Materials for Biomedical Applications
- Diagnostic Assays and Platforms
- Drug Delivery
- Tissue Engineering Regenerative Medicine
- Biomedical Engineering
- Biomechanics **(New)**
- Medical Imaging Technologies



# Doing Business with NSF

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- **NSF is not the Final Customer; NSF is not buying your product**
- NSF has broad market-driven technology topics: **You identify the problem/opportunity, propose the technological solution, and devise your business strategy**
- NSF wants to see you **commercialize** your research successfully
- NSF provides incentives to encourage you to find investment \$\$ (Phase IB and Phase IIB Supplemental funding)



# Top Reasons to Seek SBIR Funding

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- Provides funding for technologies on a path toward commercialization
- Provides “pre-seed” funding to demonstrate proof-of-concept
- Not a loan/no repayment
- Provides validation, recognition, visibility
- May be leveraged to attract investment/partnerships
- Allows small business to retain IP
- Values/encourages/facilitates partnerships, which enable success



# Questions?

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Programmatic  
Questions

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Questions

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