

# The United States' Implementation of “Innovation Partnerships” Through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program: **A Critical Assessment**

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Innovation in Africa

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# Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

## How It Works

Participating in America's Seed Fund happens in three phases.



# Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

Keep your equity and IP.

## Change the World.



**4,000**

Average number of companies  
funded per year



**\$4 Billion**

Funds invested each year



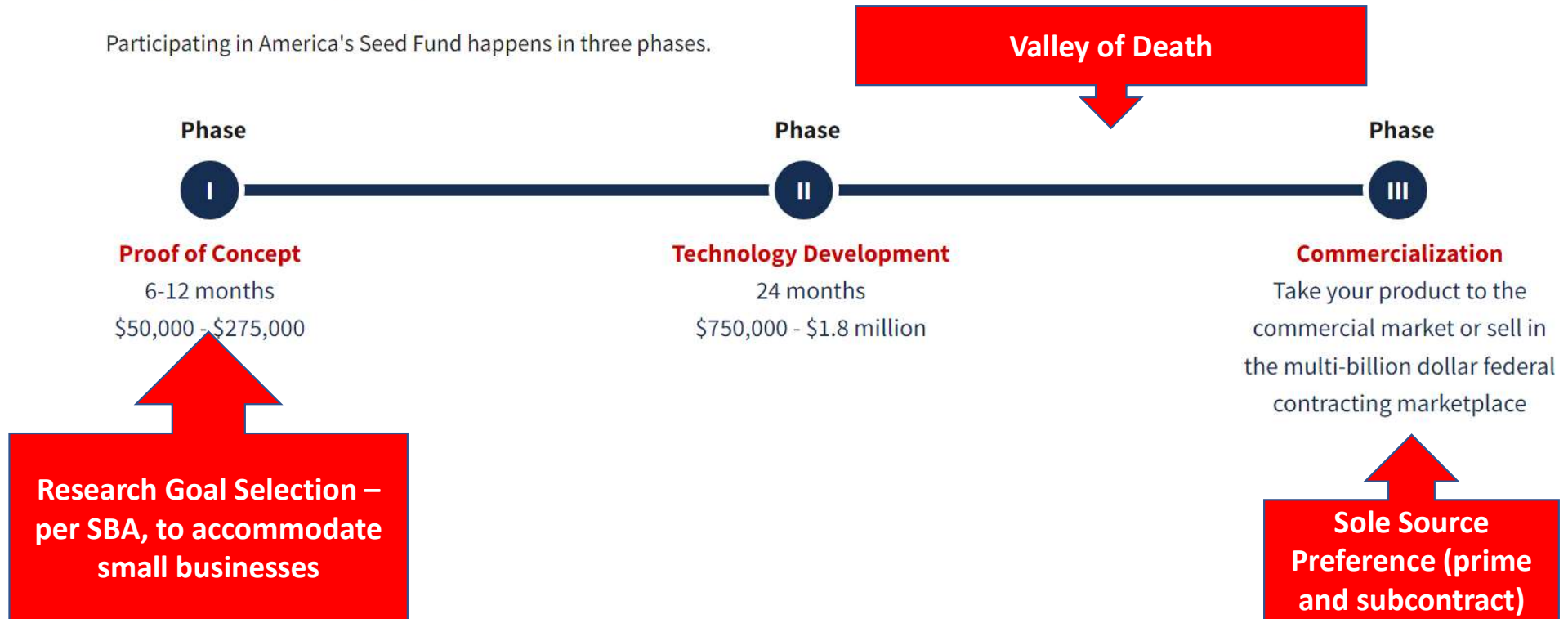
**0%**

Equity or IP ownership taken by  
the government

# Risk Points

## How It Works

Participating in America's Seed Fund happens in three phases.



## Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

Only 79 successful  
Phase 3  
commercializations in  
FY14 in Defense  
Department (2% of  
4000)



**4,000**

Average number of companies  
funded per year

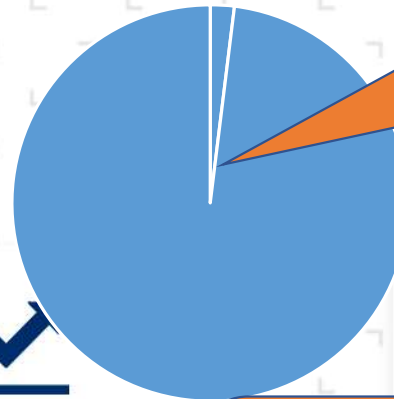
SBIR is "tax" of  
3.2% on major  
(over \$100m)  
agency research  
budgets



**\$4 Billion**

Funds invested each year

Federal Research &  
Development (\$204 Billion)



SBIR small  
sliver – and  
most R&D  
through grants,  
not contracts



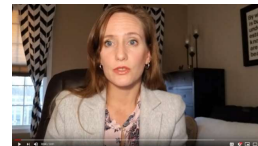
**0%**

IP ownership taken by  
the government

60% of \$700  
billion in federal  
contracting  
done by  
**competitive  
dialogue** – more  
important driver  
of innovation

Normally  
Government  
retains  
license to  
funded  
technology

- Anca Ramona Apostol, *Pre-Commercial Procurement in Support of Innovation: Regulatory Effectiveness?*, 2012 Pub. Proc. L. Rev. 213 (EU rule's roots in SBIR)
- Congressional Research Service, [Small Business Research Programs: SBIR and STTR](#) (2022)
- Crystal Santerre-Funderburg & Christopher Yukins, *The U.S. Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program: A Comparative Assessment*, in [Joint Public Procurement and Innovation: Lessons Across Borders](#) (G. Racca & C. Yukins, eds., Bruylant 2019)
- European Defense Fund, EU Regulation 2021/697 (Apr. 29, 2021) (given increasing geopolitical risks the purpose of the EDF is to strengthen the European defense technological and industrial base)
- Marta Andrecka [Andhov], *Innovation Partnership in the New Public Procurement Regime -- A Shift of Focus from Procedural to Contractual Issues?*, 2015 Pub. Proc. L. Rev. 48
- Section 809 Panel, *Report of the Advisory Panel on Streamlining and Codifying Acquisition Regulations*, Vol. 1, January 2018
- U.S. Small Business Administration, [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) and Small Business Technology Transfer \(STTR\) Program: Policy Directive](#) (May 2023)
- U.S. Small Business Administration SBIR Director: Erick Page-Littleford, [erick.page-littleford@sba.gov](mailto:erick.page-littleford@sba.gov)



Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and  
Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program

Policy Directive

Effective: May 3, 2023



## References



Information on:  
**Publicprocurementinternational.com**



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