



2015 Champion of Small Business Technology Commercialization Winners

The following winners of Small Business Technology Council's 2015 "Champion of Small Business Technology Commercialization" represent some of the best PEOs, PMs, and COs in government. They were nominated by SBIR Phase II firms for going above and beyond in helping small businesses through the process of pursuing commercialization/follow-on awards such as SBIR Phase III, Phase IIB/Bridge, or RIF (or other post-Phase II commercialization contracts).

All 18 of these winners were praised for their leadership, knowledge, and diligence in working to help small business get the resources they need to advance their technologies, while at the same time meeting the needs of the agency they work for. The SBIR program is a partnership between small business and government, and without their assistance, many of the high-tech innovations these companies will produce would never have had the chance to succeed.

Clifden Banner

US Air Force

Clif was nominated by Architecture Technology Corporation, who described his insight and guidance in helping ATCorp propose a combination of six successful SBIR technologies into a subsystem that was eventually certified by the Air Force Program Manager with a TRL 8 rating.

Christina Barnhill

Missile Defense Agency

Tina was nominated by Frontier Technology, Inc., who praised her passion for helping small business succeed within the MDA SBIR program, as well as her advocacy and utilization of the Phase III contract vehicle. So far there are ten Phase III contracts scheduled to be awarded in FY15, a 300% increase over FY14.

Jeff Baur

US Navy

Jeff was nominated by Beacon Interactive Systems, who highlighted his continued engagement and work throughout the development of their software as a vital to its successful development, and in giving Beacon a better understanding of Fleet needs and meeting Navy Tagout requirements. They also praised his efforts and time commitment to educate Navy Program personnel on how to incorporate their software.

Erin Bland

US Navy
NAVSEA

Erin was nominated by Beacon Interactive Systems, who praised her significant and long-standing commitment to utilizing SBIR for the benefit of the US Navy and the warfighter. They have worked multiple Phase III transitions with her over the years, and credit her technical expertise and deep knowledge of the SBIR program with helping Beacon deliver their technology in the most optimal fashion for both the Navy and the company.

Jim “Hondo” Geurts

US SOCOM

Jim was nominated by GATR Technologies, who highlighted his involvement role in recognizing the value of GATR's technology and in pursuing a dedicated contract vehicle to procure their system, as well as supporting a ceiling increase to provide the SOFTACS Program Office flexibility to extend the technology to other purposes.

Ned Lindsley

US Air Force

Ned was nominated by Zona Technology, who described him as extremely knowledgeable and diligent, and specifically credited him for including in a solicitation a requirement that a proposing Prime include Zona as a subcontractor, since they developed the original technology under a prior SBIR contract. Our membership was particularly impressed by this action, and believe that including such a requirement in future solicitations could protect small businesses from being taken advantage of by large primes.

Douglas Magedman

US Navy

Douglas was nominated by Pacific Science & Engineering Group, Inc, who praised his work in promoting their technology from Phase I all the way through Phase III, resulting in over \$1.1 million in funding for this small business to date. Without Douglas's efforts, they likely would not have been able to receive this funding and advance their technology, that has gone on to benefit major SPAWAR programs.

Kurt Marek

National Institutes of Health

Kurt was nominated by Sharklet Technologies, who described his involvement as "instrumental" in helping them understand the mechanics and purpose of the Phase II Bridge program, without which they would be forced to license their technology to a larger business, instead of launching it on their own.

Tom Martin

Mike Essig

US Navy

Tom Martin and Mike Essig were nominated as a team by Beacon Interactive Systems, who describe their efforts in working with Beacon to explore Navy SBIR developed technology to find energy efficient technology for use on Navy ships. Of specific praise, their work in helping Beacon develop eLogBook was deemed essential in helping them secure a Phase III award and will be deployed on Navy Ships in 2016 as part of the Green Fleet Initiative.

Donald B. McDaniel

US Marines

Donald was nominated by GATR Technologies, who emphasized his role in pressing for the adoption of the GATR system by MARCORSYSCOM, which led to the purchase of eight GTR inflatable terminals, eventually helping to justify an SBIR Phase III contract for the system.

Sam Messer

US Navy

Sam was nominated by IAVO Research and Scientific, who described his efforts with NAWC Weapons Engagement Office to find support and help prepare a Phase III contract for their technology, as well as continuing to speak on IAVO's behalf despite NAVAIR not being directly involved in their resulting Phase III.

Lori Miller

US Department of Agriculture

Lori was nominated by VP Systems Integration, who said that her guidance was invaluable in receiving 5 Commercialization Readiness Pilot Program funding rounds, resulting in a spinoff of a new company for the specific purpose of selling that technology directly to the consumers. Lori was described as a "true mentor" who understands how to develop technology within the constructs of the SBIR system.

William Moore

Missile Defense Agency

William was nominated by Corvid Technologies, who credited him with building "arguably the most successful SBIR/STTR program within the Missile Defense Agency". In addition to your leadership in starting a SBIR effort in your office, they praise your collaborative efforts within the SBIR/STTR community, and in reaching out to other MDA divisions to facilitate transition opportunities.

Lisa Prokurat Franks

US Army

Lisa was nominated by Evisive and IAP Research, both of whom emphasized her ability to focus on the "big picture" in developing Phase I, II, and III goals before the Phase I topic was even submitted, and assuring topics could be connected to larger funded research program goals. Lisa was also praised for her work in helping find other Army partners to use their technologies when other research programs were canceled.

Bryan J. Ramsay

US Navy

Bryan was nominated by Architecture Technology Corporation, who praised his leadership and focus in coordinating the efforts of small business with the system prime integrator and the project development contractor to ensure commercial viability, as well as producing value added capability to existing systems.

Barbara Robertson

DARPA

Barbara was nominated by Physical Sciences, Inc, who praised her excellent program management and technical leadership support for their company and US Army PMJAMS, that has resulted in multiple successful prototype tests of their electronic flare technology.

George Studor

NASA

Structural Engineering Division at NASA Johnson Space Center

George was nominated by Invocon, Inc, who have credited his guidance and work with the Phase III program in helping Invocon get 17 of its monitoring systems used by the Space Shuttle Orbiter program, as well as several more systems in use on the International Space Station.