



What has the SBTC done lately?

The Small Business Technology Council (SBTC) was instrumental in the reauthorization of the SBIR Act in late 2011. Since then, we have engaged, and will continue to engage, federal agencies to make sure they are implementing the changes enacted into law. However, much of the SBTC's focus has now been extended to broader, more diverse advocacy.

The following is a sample of actions recently taken by the Small Business Technology Council:

3/19/15 – SBTC Co-Chair Bob Schmidt testified before the Senate Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee about the patent reform efforts under consideration by Congress, and the damaging effect that they could potentially have on small business invention. [more](#)

4/2/15 – New DOE Phase III Committee Drafted and sent a letter to DOE Secretary Moniz asking for him to issue a clear SBIR Phase III policy, and requesting a meeting with him or his designee. In July we met at DOE HQ with Office of Secretary staff to discuss this issue, and continue to push for clear Phase III policy guidelines. [more](#)

5/15/15 – Sent letters to House and Senate Leadership opposing HR 9, the “Innovation Act,” because of the damaging effects its changes would have on the patent system and on small business intellectual property protection in general. HR 9 was later withdrawn from the floor before a vote, but could possibly be reintroduced in 2016. *Letters to [Senate](#) and [House](#)*

6/16/15 – Held SBTC's annual membership meeting in Washington, DC, during which our members were briefed by representatives from Congress, the SBA and various agencies. We also held our first “Champion of Small Business Commercialization” Awards, which recognizes the best PEOs, COs, and Program Managers in the SBIR program. [more](#)

8/15 – Have had ongoing discussions with the group that conducted the Air Force Commercialization study to help them improve their understanding of the program and improve their methods. They are currently working on a similar study for the Navy and we will continue to help them through the process. [more](#)

10/13/15 – SBTC offered its endorsement of S. 2116, the “Small Business Broadband and Emerging Information Technology Act of 2015,” which would increase opportunities for small businesses in underserved areas to have access to affordable broadband internet. [more](#)

11/10/15 – Met with SBA to discuss the upcoming changes to the SBIR Policy Directives. We understand they will be focused on data rights and intellectual property protections. They have not yet been released for public comment, but SBTC will prepare a comment at the appropriate time.

12/18/15 – After calling Congress's attention to ongoing accounting problems related to DCAA audits, the Senate Armed Services Committee included in the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act a provision (Sec. 873) that will exempt SBIR companies from Certified Cost and Pricing Data Requirements and DCAA subpoenas. SBTC is continuing to work with the Armed Services Committee to tighten up the language in future legislation to make sure it helps small businesses with their accounting burden as much as possible. [Sec. 873 in 2016 NDAA](#)

ONGOING – The climate on the Hill is right for an early reauthorization of the SBIR program, in 2016 instead of 2017. SBTC has and will continue to meet with staffers from the Senate Small Business Committee, and the House Science and Small Business Committees to represent SBIR companies' voices in the reauthorization process, and will fight to ensure that any changes or modifications to SBIR will be to the benefit of small businesses.