



What has the SBTC done lately?

The Small Business Technology Council works on a wide array of important policy issues related to high-tech, R&D focused small businesses. 2021 is set to be an important year for SBIR/STTR, as the Congress is expected to take up reauthorization. SBTC has already begun discussions with the House and Senate Small Business Committees to lay the groundwork for the legislation. Our top priority is making the programs permanent. SBIR has been in existence since 1982 and after dozens of scientific studies and many reauthorizations, has proven its worth.

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

3/17/20 – A webportal on sbtc.org was set up for COVID-19 relevant resources, information, and links for SBIR/STTR firms. If there are any links or relevant information you think would be beneficial for SBIR/STTR firms to know, please send to alec@sbtc.org and SBTC will add a link it to the web portal. [more](#)

4/23/20 – At SBTC's urging, DOD released a "class deviation" memo (**2020-00007**) to all DOD procurement and acquisitions informing and instructing them that the SBIR/STTR policy directives updated last year require them to include a 20-year period of data rights protection for all SBIR/STTR technology. Previously we had heard from members that PEOs and COs were not honoring this requirement. [more](#)

5/13/20 – SBTC hosted a teleconference on accounting for SBIR firms receiving Payment Protection Plan (PPP) loans, with a panel of three SBIR accounting experts. (recording available on sbtc.org COVID-19 web portal) [more](#)

07/31/20 – Congress passes the fy2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). SBTC worked to get two provisions in this bill: one that would require the DOD to report on what actions it is taking to implement certain provisions in the law, the other requiring Air Force to report on its "orphaned" Phase II projects. [more](#)

11/10/20 – SBTC drafted and submitted a comment to the US Patent and Trade Office (US PTO) in support of two proposed rules designed to make it easier for small businesses to navigate the notoriously complex Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) process. [more](#)

12/16/20 – SBTC hosts a virtual "Washington Presentation" for members. SBTC and NSBA staffers offered presentations via video conference on how to engage with members of Congress, including which office to contact, what each staffer in an office is responsible for, and what current policy issues are relevant to high-tech small businesses. [more](#)

01/31/21 – SBTC submits comment on new regulation concerning DOD SBIR Data Rights protection. The SBIR/STTR policy directives last year increased the SBIR/STTR data protection period to 20 years, and the proposed regulation would implement that directive. SBTC's comment offers edits and improvements to the proposed language to strengthen SBIR firms' data rights. [more](#)

Ongoing – Beginning in February of 2020 AFWERX instituted changes to the AF SBIR/STTR program that radically changed the focus of the program from early-stage R&D to later-stage commercialization. SBTC and its members believe these changes move the AF program away from the Congressional intent and will disincentivize innovation and degrade AF's small business industrial base. SBTC will engage the new administration, and will educate and encourage the new Air Force team to reverse the changes and return the program back to its original focus on R&D. These discussions are still ongoing. [more](#)