



## What has the SBTC done lately?

The Small Business Technology Council advocates on a wide array of important policy issues related to high-tech, R&D focused small businesses. SBTC's principle focus in 2022 was reauthorization of the SBIR/STTR programs, the most important and successful small business innovation programs in government. While the programs were ultimately reauthorized for 3 years, it was an incredibly difficult and contentious process, and SBIR came within 2 days of expiring before a last-minute compromise was struck. While SBTC is concerned that some of the changes will increase the paperwork burden for new firms and make it tougher for agencies to utilize the capabilities that more established SBIR firms bring, passage of this bill prevented a lapse in authority, which could have been devastating to America's small business innovation ecosystem.

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

02/02/22 – SBTC & SSTI draft and submit letter signed by 117 State and National organizations and universities urging Congress to move quickly to reauthorize SBIR/STTR, to prevent the programs from lapsing. [more](#)

02/04/22 – The House passes the US COMPETES Act, a comprehensive innovation bill aimed at maintaining the US's technological superiority over its adversaries. Included in the act is a 5-year clean extension of SBIR/STTR. The Senate passed a different version of the bill that did not include an SBIR extension. SBTC urged Conferees to include a short-term SBIR extension, but it was ultimately left out. [more](#)

03/15/22 – SBTC submits a comment to the Federal Register regarding a proposed change to the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement (DFARS). SBTC is concerned this change could significantly weaken data rights protections for small businesses, including SBIR recipients. SBTC recommended changes that could mitigate the damages. [more](#)

06/29/22 – As Congress continued to stalemate on an SBIR/STTR extension, the House and Senate Small Business Committees invite SBTC to participate in a virtual meeting with other stakeholders to discuss proposed changes to the program and offer input. SBTC voiced concerns that some of the proposed changes would degrade the agency's abilities to get the best possible research, and move the programs away from being merit- and science-based. While no concurrence was arrived at, staffers and stakeholders promised to continue to work to find a compromise.

09/29/22 – Congress Passes the SBIR/STTR Extension Act of 2022, reauthorizing SBIR/STTR for 3 years. This legislation pushes the termination date of the programs to September 30, 2025. It also makes a number of programmatic changes to the program, including stricter rules regarding research security and foreign ownership of SBIR firms, as well as increasing the transition and commercialization requirements for firms that have won at least 50 Phase I awards over 5 years or 50 Phase II awards over 10 years. SBTC will work with Congress to improve and refine these changes to ensure SBIR/STTR is strengthened and continues to provide the taxpayer with the best, most innovative research and technology in government. [more](#)

11/11/22 – SBTC drafts and publishes a guidebook for the SBIR/STTR Extension Act of 2022. This paper is designed to provide guidance to small businesses regarding the changes made to the SBIR/STTR program by the 2022 reauthorization act, and how they will need to come into compliance. [more](#)

11/14/22 – SBTC Hosts its first in-person membership meeting since 2019 in Washington DC, in conjunction with NSBA's board meeting. During the meeting we discussed our new guidebook, heard from hill staffers and Administration officials, and presented House Small Business Committee Chairwoman Rep. Nydia Velazquez with a Milton Stewart award for her work on behalf of America's high-tech small businesses. [more](#)

12/1/22 – SBTC raises concerns with Congress regarding changes to Sec. 174 in the tax code that is set to be implemented in FY22. This change would require businesses to amortize all R&D expenses over 5 years instead of deducting them. Unless a fix is passed soon, many R&D small businesses will face a dramatically higher tax burden