



REAUTHORIZE SBIR/STTR NOW

Congress Must Pass HR 5100 to Extend SBIR/STTR ASAP

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As of October 1, 2025, legal authority for the SBIR/STTR programs has expired. Were SBIR/STTR to end permanently, it would be a crushing blow to American innovation and undermine small business job creation. In its 40-year history, SBIR has generated some of the most innovative technologies in America, and has generated a massive economic return on the taxpayer investment. These include economic returns in excess of **\$22 for every dollar invested**,¹ in addition to improved military strength and capability, significant cost-savings, further economic impacts from new industries with new products and services, new life saving medical techniques and products, and a **50-60% rate of commercialization**.

Additionally, over 40% of Phase I awards go to companies brand new to SBIR, bringing in approximately **1,500 small businesses a year** into the government R&D ecosystem. SBIR/STTR is virtually the only onramp for small business into Federal government R&D, high-tech small businesses receive very little of the >96% of Federal extramural R&D spend outside SBIR/STTR. Without SBIR/STTR, high-tech small business would have to seek private VC funding, which is heavily concentrated in a handful of states, or potentially driven to foreign investments from countries like China.

The House of Representatives has passed a clean, bipartisan 1-year SBIR/STTR extension, HR 5100, intended to keep the programs going while negotiations continue. However, The Senate has been unable to pass this extension. While Senate Small Business Ranking Member Ed Markey (D-MA) has supported HR 5100, Small Business Chair Joni Ernst (R-IA) has objected, effectively blocking passage. While reasonable people can disagree over policy, there is no reason to allow these vitally important innovation programs to lapse as discussions over what the future of SBIR/STTR should be continue.

- **Congress Needs to Pass an SBIR/STTR extension as soon as possible**
- The Senate should take up and pass HR 5100 as soon as possible
- SBIR is an essential part of America's innovative economy, and vital to maintaining technological advantage over our adversaries
- A lengthy disruption of the programs could have dire consequences for high-tech small businesses, and American small business industrial base.

¹ Techlink, 2018: "National Economic Impacts from the Air Force and Navy SBIR/STTR Programs, 2000-2013"