



How to apply

Learn more about our application timeline, preparing your proposal, and what to expect once you submit.



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1

90 days before the deadline

2

60 days before the deadline

3

4

5

Deadline
June 14, 2017

1-3 months after the deadline

4-6 months after the deadline

^ Determine eligibility

Make sure your company is incorporated and meets these work requirements.

- Your company must be a legal entity at the time you apply for funding.
- At least 50% of your company's equity is owned by U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and all funded work must take place in the United States (including work done by consultants and contractors).
- The project's designated lead (principal investigator) must be legally employed by the company seeking funding. The project lead needs to commit to at least 20 hours of work per week and at least one month (173 hours) of work on the funded project. The lead doesn't need any advanced degrees.
- Finally, you can designate a university faculty member as the lead only if they can commit at least 20 hours a week on the project.

Call for proposals (solicitation) officially released.

^ See if your company is a good fit

To see if your company is a good fit, review our evaluation criteria and consider submitting an executive summary to get feedback from our program directors.

Criteria

Here are the criteria we use to determine which companies to fund:

- Seed stage:** Yours is an early-stage company that's conducting research or prototyping (or both).
- Pre-traction:** You've identified the market for your product and have made customer development efforts, but you haven't yet created the minimum viable product to meet your target market's need.
- High-risk:** The product is based on unproven technology that needs further testing (and funding for that testing).
- Scale:** If the product is found to be successful, it could have a major social impact and/or venture scale.

Portfolio

You can check out [our portfolio](#) to see what companies we've recently funded.

Technology topic areas

We're technology agnostic. We invest in high-risk innovations in virtually all tech sectors.

- Advanced Manufacturing and Nanotechnology (MN)
- Advanced Materials and Instrumentation (MI)
- Biological Technologies (BT)
- Biomedical Technologies (BM)
- Chemical and Environmental Technologies (CT)
- Educational Technologies and Applications (EA)
- Electronic Hardware, Robotics and Wireless Technologies (EW)
- Information Technologies (IT)
- Internet of Things (I)
- Semiconductors (S) and Photonic (PH) Devices and Materials
- Smart Health (SH)
- Other Topics (OT)

Download the searchable [technology topic descriptions](#) (PDF).

Get pre-submission feedback

You can send an executive summary to one of our program directors to discuss your work and get feedback. Download our [executive summary form](#) (PDF) and return your completed form to the program director whose topic area best reflects your product's focus.

STTR

If you're applying for funding for academic research (STTR program), you must partner with an academic, non-profit, or federally funded research institution. If you're funded through STTR, 30% of your funding must go to your research partner and 40% must go to your company.

SBIR

If you're not applying for funding for academic research (SBIR program), at least 2/3 of the funding you receive must go to your company.

^ Register your company

You'll need to register your company with four different systems to apply for funding.

→ [Dun and Bradstreet \(DUNS number\)](#)

Processing time: Up to five business days

A DUNS number is a unique, nine-digit number that identifies each physical location of your company.

You'll need one in order to receive government funding. Because you're applying for a DUNS number for government funding, processing time should take about five business days.

→ [FastLane \(NSF's electronic submission system\)](#)

Processing time: Up to 48 hours

Before applying, you need to register your principal investigator and company in FastLane. Within 48 hours, you'll get a confirmation email with login instructions. We recommend you explore FastLane before submitting your application.

→ [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#)

Processing time: Up to three weeks

Any company that does business with the government needs a SAM account. When you register, you'll have to share EFT information.

→ [SBIR Company Registry](#)

Finally, you need to register with the SBIR Company Registry (operated by the Small Business Administration). Post-registration, you'll receive a Business Concern Control ID (SBC ID), which you'll need to include in your FastLane application.

^ Review the solicitation

Read the solicitation, which features everything you need to know about applying for funding.

Successful applicants will receive a funding for up to \$225,000 over a period of 6 to 12 months (the period to be decided by the company). Companies that receive such an award (Phase I) are eligible to apply for a Phase II award (award amount up to \$750,000; duration 2 years). Read the solicitation for a complete explanation of terms and conditions.

If you're looking to fund academic research, review the STTR solicitation. Otherwise, view the SBIR solicitation.

→ [SBIR solicitation](#)

→ [STTR solicitation](#)

^ Start your application

Once you've reviewed the solicitation, start preparing your online application.

→ [Start your application in FastLane](#)

Please note that you can only submit your application between May 17 and June 17, 2017.

[Download our FastLane guide](#) for detailed steps on how to submit your application and [watch our videos on how to apply](#).

Applications due by 5:00 PM in your time zone.

Note: Your time zone is based on your company's address as you listed it in your application.

Applications undergo panel reviews.

We'll notify you whether your proposal is accepted or declined for funding.

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