



America's  
**SEED FUND**  
SBIR.STTR

# FUNDING FOR STARTUPS

## UP TO \$2 MILLION FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

America's Seed Fund powered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) funds startups in the development of deep technologies – those that are based on discoveries in fundamental science and engineering – transforming scientific discovery into products and services with commercial and societal impact.

With NSF funding you retain full control over your team, the direction of your work, and your intellectual property. Our hope is that the startups funded by NSF will become successful and have a positive impact.

**\$200+ MILLION &  
400 AWARDS EVERY YEAR**

"NSF helped us refine our vision, figure out if our technology could be used for different applications, and helped us figure out if we can manufacture our technology in a scalable fashion – taking it from an academic project to a real-scale commercial project."



### – SHREYA DAVE

Co-Founder and CEO of Via Separations  
an NSF-funded company

#### ABOUT Awardees

**324** Companies received Phase I awards in Fiscal Year 2022

**76%** were less than 5 years old

**94%** had fewer than 10 employees

#### EQUITY AND EXITS FROM NSF-FUNDED COMPANIES\*

**300** successful exits (acquisitions, mergers, IPOs)

**\$20B** follow-on institutional (equity) financing

\* THESE FIGURES WERE PULLED FROM PITCHBOOK FROM 10/01/2015 TO 09/30/2022 AND INCLUDE COMPANIES THAT RECEIVED NSF FUNDING PRIOR TO 2016.

Who is eligible for funding?

For-profit organizations that are:

- **U.S. based**  
(operating primarily in the U.S.)
- **More than 50% owned** by a U.S. citizen or legal resident
- **Fewer than 500** employees

More details: [sbir.gov/faq](https://sbir.gov/faq)

WE FUND IN PHASES

## PHASE I

UP TO \$275,000

## PHASE II

UP TO \$1,000,000

## PHASE II B

UP TO \$500,000

*We fund unproven, high-impact innovations in almost any area of technology.*

## How to get started:

### PROJECT PITCH

Submit a Project Pitch and find out in a few weeks if your project is a good fit.

### Project Pitches must outline:

1. Technology Innovation
2. Technical Objectives and Challenges
3. Market Opportunity
4. Company and Team

If your project is a good fit, you will receive an official invitation to submit a Phase I proposal.

Each startup can only submit one Project Pitch at a time.



Photo Credit:  
Branch Technology,  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

See what's possible.  
[seedfund.nsf.gov](https://seedfund.nsf.gov)



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