



SBIR

Success Stories

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)

UNIVERSAL VESTIBULE AND TENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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INNOVATION

Tent designs and technologies developed to improve access to camping for people with disabilities and individuals with limited mobility.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Developed zipperless tent door designs that require minimal strength and dexterity to operate and offer easy access to people with mobility devices.
- ▶ Developed three accessible tent/ vestibule designs:
 - Combination tent/ vestibule
 - Vestibule which either attaches to another tent or can be used as a standalone shelter
 - Universal vestibule which can be attached to up to three tents or vehicles
- ▶ Hardware design makes it easier to set up tents and attach poles to tents.
- ▶ Filed four related patent applications.

COMMERCIALIZATION

- ▶ A licensing agreement was reached with a major tent manufacturer, **Eureka!**, for the Combination Tent/Vestibule and one of the door designs.
- ▶ Eureka's Freedom tent debuted at the 2004 Outdoor Retailer Show was called "top product of the show" by the Salt Lake Tribune.
- ▶ Three or more additional designs (not targeted to people with disabilities) will come to market in 2006.



IMPACTS

- ▶ Tent companies can reach out and meet the needs of an unserved or underserved niche market of people with disabilities.
- ▶ Rural areas may benefit by an increase in outdoor recreation participation.
- ▶ People with disabilities and their families can more easily participate in camping activities.

SBIR COMPETITIVELY AWARDS SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE RESEARCH THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL OF SOLVING IMPORTANT AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS.