

PARTNERING FOR  
*Innovation & Commercialization:*  
◆  
Small Business Innovation  
Research (SBIR) Program

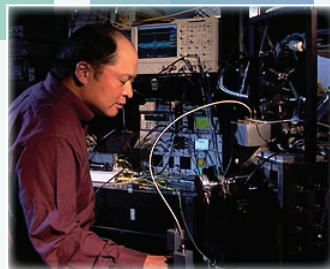


Technology  
Partnerships Office

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**Pictures on the cover (Credit: NIST) from top clockwise:** At NIST's small chamber test facility, researchers assess the performance of a prototype reference material for testing volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from building products; Researchers from France's National Scientific and Technological Institute and NIST work together to learn more about the effect of weathering on fiber-reinforced polymer composites that may be used in bridges and piers; NIST engineer Sae Woo Nam works with refrigeration equipment used to cool photon detectors to nearly absolute zero.

**NIST**  
National Institute of  
Standards and Technology  
U.S. Department of Commerce

# SBIR Program

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program is a competitive three-phase federal program that awards R&D funds to qualified small businesses. The program encourages technological innovation and conversion of federal R&D into commercial applications.

NIST is one of eleven federal agencies that participate in the SBIR program. Each agency administers its own program within the guidelines and policy established by the Small Business Administration (SBA). General information about the program, including eligibility requirements, is available at: [www.sba.gov/sbir](http://www.sba.gov/sbir)

## NIST's Program

	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
<b>Phase 1</b>	Feasibility	6 months	Up to \$90,000
<b>Phase 2</b>	R&D	2 years	Up to \$300,000
<b>Phase 3</b>	Commercialization	No limit	Non-SBIR funds

## Solicitation

NIST issues an annual solicitation for Phase 1 proposals in early November. The solicitation is available on the Federal Business Opportunities website ([www.fedbizopps.gov](http://www.fedbizopps.gov)) and through a link on the NIST SBIR website ([www.nist.gov/sbir](http://www.nist.gov/sbir)).

The solicitation lists two types of R&D projects (subtopics): those identified as research areas that are high priority for NIST Laboratories' missions and those initiated at NIST that have potential commercial value but require more work.

## Proposals

Phase 1 proposals must be responsive to the selected subtopic and adhere to the guidelines provided in the solicitation.

If funds are available, small businesses that have successfully completed Phase 1 contracts are invited to submit proposals and compete for Phase 2 awards.

## Evaluation

Proposals submitted in response to the solicitation are evaluated and scored for technical merit, innovation, responsiveness, quality of facilities and personnel, and commercialization potential. Selection for Phase 1 awards is based on available funds, scores and priority ranking provided by NIST laboratory management.

The evaluation methodology is similar for Phase 2 with greater emphasis on commercial potential.

## Awards

The number of awards is based on available funding.

The NIST SBIR program awards contracts (not grants). Required progress reports and payment schedule are specified in the contract.

Additional information on the NIST SBIR Program may be found on our website ([www.nist.gov/sbir](http://www.nist.gov/sbir)) or by contacting:

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