



EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is one of 10 federal agencies that participate in the SBIR Program established by the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982. The purpose of this Act was to strengthen the role of small businesses in federally funded R&D and help develop a stronger national base for technical innovation. **A small business is defined as a for-profit organization with no more than 500 employees.** In addition, the small business must be independently owned and operated, at least 51 percent owned by U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted resident aliens, not dominant in the field of operation in which it is proposing, and have its principal place of business in the United States. Joint ventures and limited partnerships are eligible for SBIR awards, provided the entity created qualifies as a small business.

EPA issues annual solicitations for Phase I and Phase II research proposals from science- and technology-based firms. Under Phase I, the scientific merit and technical feasibility of the proposed concept is investigated. EPA awards firm-fixed-price Phase I contracts of up to \$70,000 and the period of performance for these contracts is typically 6 months. Through this phased approach to SBIR funding, EPA can determine whether the research idea, often on high-risk advanced concepts, is technically feasible, whether the firm can conduct high-quality research, and whether sufficient progress has been made to justify a larger Phase II effort.

Phase II contracts are limited to small businesses that have successfully completed their Phase I contracts. The objective of Phase II is to commercialize the Phase I technology. Competitive awards are based on the results of Phase I and the commercialization potential of the Phase II technology. In Phase II, EPA awards contracts of up to \$225,000 and the period of performance is typically 1 year. EPA also offers up to \$100,000 and 1 additional year as Phase II Options for firms with third-party financing for accelerating commercialization and for technologies accepted into the EPA Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program.

EPA will issue four Phase I Solicitations in 2003-Monitoring of Air Pollution, Technology Solutions for Western USA Environmental Problems, Safe Buildings and Water Security, and the Regular Solicitation. All solicitations will open on March 27, 2003, and close on May 23, 2003. Last year's Phase I solicitation describes the SBIR Program, application requirements, and all research topics. If you need a faxed copy or if you have any questions, call the EPA HELPLINE at: **(800) 490-9194**. Last year's solicitation also is available on the EPA Web Site. The four new SBIR solicitations will be available on March 27 by calling the HELPLINE or by visiting the EPA Web Site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir>

