DOE SBIR/STTR Programs

The U.S. Department of Energy's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs are competitive non-dilutive funding programs that support American small businesses in developing innovative technologies with strong commercial potential.

Newly Under OTC Management

In April 2026, DOE consolidated the management of the SBIR/STTR programs to the Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC), reflecting DOE's focus on moving taxpayer-funded research toward real-world impact. With input from participants and partners, OTC has made changes to the program to improve the user experience and outcomes.

- **Streamlined Applications**
- **Accelerated Review Periods**
- **Enhanced Commercialization Support**
- **National Laboratory Connections**

Leveraging Innovative Funding Mechanisms

For the first time, the programs are leveraging new funding mechanisms and partnerships, including the Foundation for Energy Security and Innovation and DOE's Partnership Intermediary, ConnectWerx, to increase speed and expand access.

DOE SBIR/STTR Application Portal

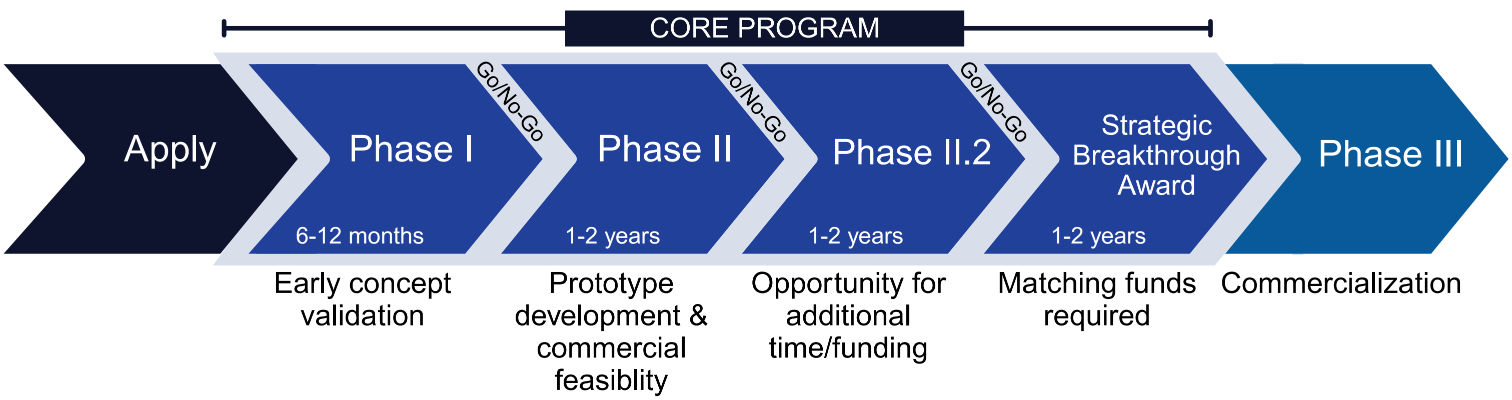
As of July 2026, the DOE SBIR/STTR programs use a new website for opportunity applications and program facilitation. Hosted by ConnectWerx, the DOE SBIR/STTR Application Hub offers application management, technical support, and FAQs.

Stay Connected

Sign up to recieve the latest program updates and deadline reminders.

Program Structure

DOE's new SBIR/STTR programs will follow the phases illustrated below. Participants will submit a single application to enter the program and may progress to subsequent phases through a series of Go/No-Go decision points. Therefore, once the initial application is submitted, no additional applications will be required. Instead, participants will advance through subsequent phases at their own pace by successfully meeting established milestones and performance criteria.



Phase I	Phase II and Phase II.2	Strategic Breakthrough Awards	Phase III
• Feasibility/Proof of Concept • Awards up to $250K	• Prototyping and Demonstration • Awards up to $2M • Teams may receive multiple sequential Phase II awards to continue developing promising projects. • Matching funds may be encouraged for a Phase II.2 award.	• Optional award for projects that are strategically aligned with DOE's mission objectives and have high commercialization potential • Requires matching funds	• Non-SBIR/STTR funding • Work that derives from, extends, or completes the effort of prior Phase I and II awards