

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



## Small Business Innovation Research & Small Business Technology Transfer

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NASA STTR Overview | March 26, 2019

# SBIR / STTR Programs Vision and Mission

## VISION

Empower small businesses to deliver technological innovation that contributes to NASA's missions, provides societal benefit, and grows the US economy.

NASA's SBIR and STTR programs have awarded **more than \$3.3 billion** to research-intensive American small businesses

## MISSION

Create opportunities through SBIR/STTR awards to leverage small business knowledge and technology development for maximum impact and contribution

Engineers and scientists from **more than 12,000** small businesses in all 50 States, DC and Puerto Rico have participated

# The STTR Program

## Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)



- STTR facilitates cooperative R&D between small business concerns and U.S. research institutions – with potential for commercialization
- For FY18, 0.45% of the extramural research budget for all agencies with a budget greater than \$1B per year (5 federal agencies presently participate)
- The STTR program has a statutory requirement to stimulate a partnership of ideas and technologies between innovative small business concerns (SBCs) and Research Institutions through Federally-funded research or research and development (R/R&D).
- STTR also adheres to SBA directives to increase participation by Women-Owned, Veteran-Owned and Small Disadvantaged Businesses and outreach to HBCUs and Minority Serving Institutions. Outreach is also made to under represented areas/regions of the country.

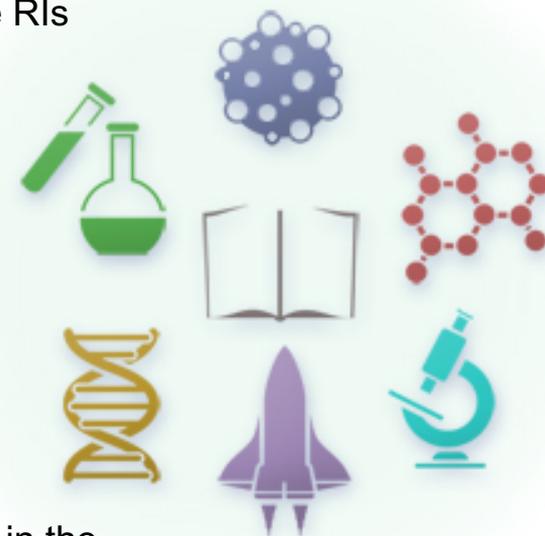
# Why Should You Participate in STTR?

## For the Small Business Concerns

- Opportunity to Leverage expertise and innovative ideas from Professors/Research Staff/Students
- Opportunity to leverage specialized facilities and experimental equipment at the Research Institutions (RIs) when often SBCs may not be able to afford such facilities on their own
- Opportunity to Create Pipeline of Usable Talent for Company from the RIs
- Develop working relationship & credibility with government R&D
- Fosters partnerships with large corporations and academia
- Provides recognition and visibility for your business
- Participation attracts venture capital and other funding sources

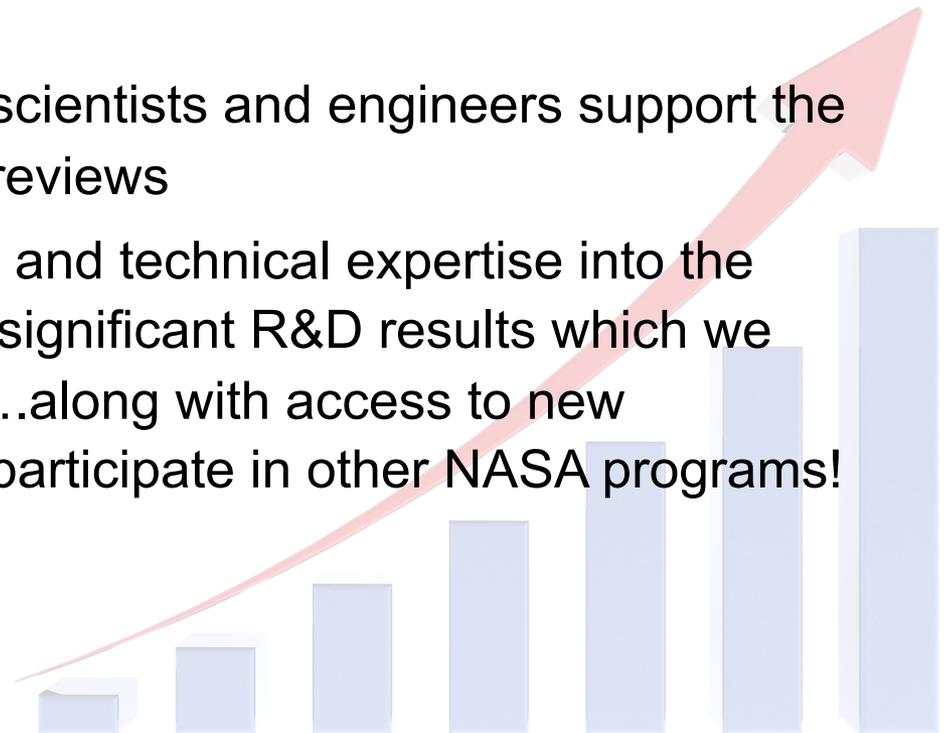
## For the Research Institutions

- Opportunity to Create/Inspire Entrepreneurship as a vital part of the Educational Experience
- Another opportunity to access federal funding for research
- An opportunity sometimes to get RI Intellectual Property (IP) involved in the project and licensed
- Another means for visibility in the research community, generate peer-reviewed pubs., etc.



# NASA Program Background

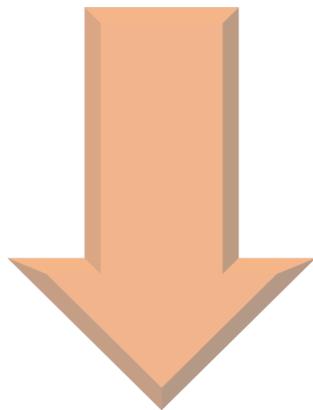
- NASA's SBIR and STTR programs have awarded more than **\$3.3B** to research-intensive American small businesses to date; STTR makes up close to **\$300M** of that figure
- Engineers and scientists from more than 12,000 Firms in all 50 States, DC, and Puerto Rico have participated across the two programs
- Each year about 1,700 NASA scientists and engineers support the program performing technical reviews
- NASA invests significant funds and technical expertise into the program and is rewarded with significant R&D results which we infuse into our programs.....along with access to new businesses and RIs who may participate in other NASA programs!



# Agency SBIR / STTR Differences

## CONTRACTING AGENCIES

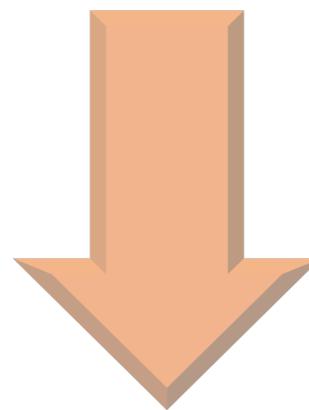
- Agency establishes plans, protocols, requirements
- Highly focused topics
- Procurement mechanism for DOD
- More fiscal requirements



**NASA, DoD, HHS/NIH, ED,  
EPA, DOT, DOC**

## GRANTING AGENCIES

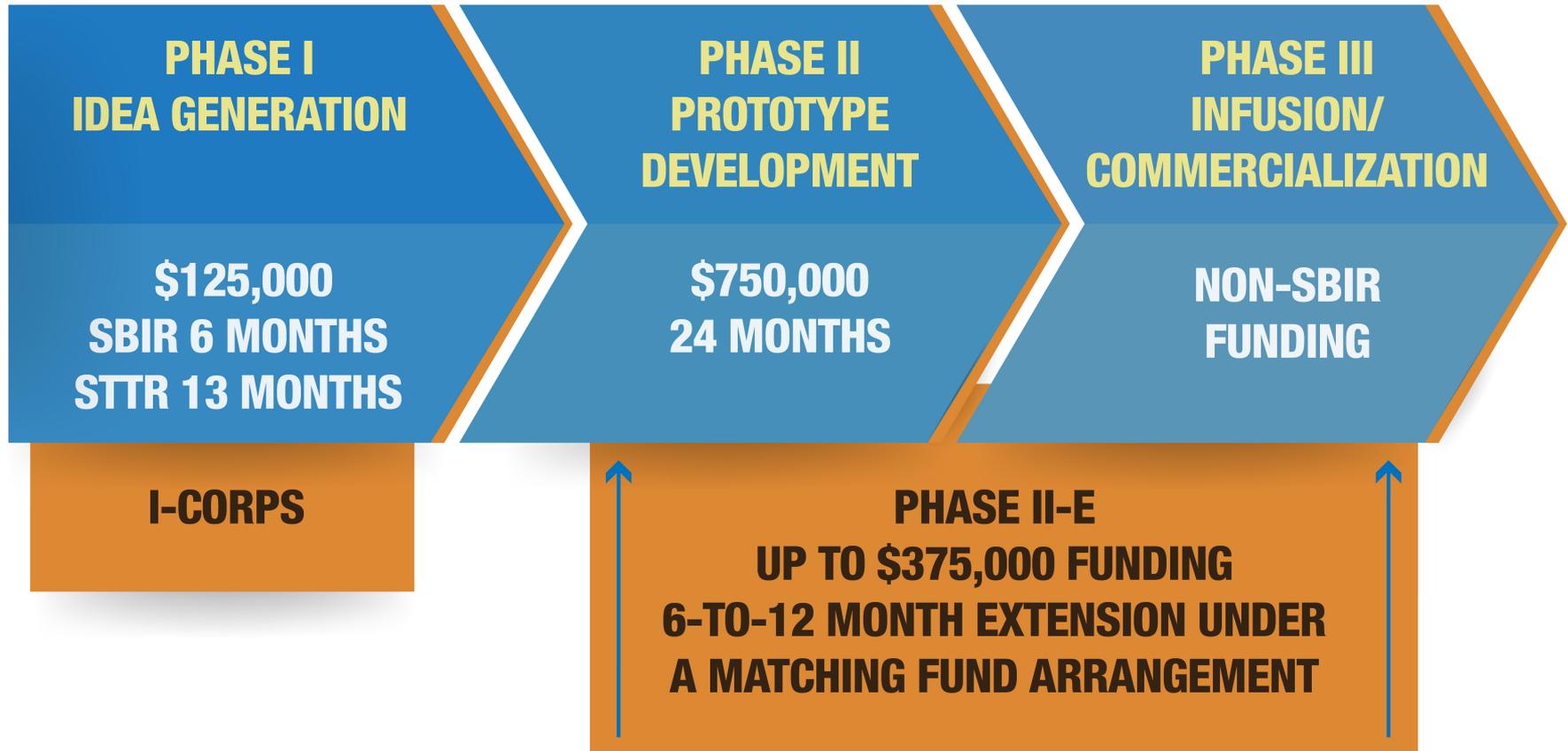
- Investigator initiates
- Less-specified topics
- Assistance mechanism
- More flexibility



**HHS/NIH, NSF, ED,  
USDA, DOE**

# SBIR/STTR Program Structure

## NASA SBIR/STTR PROCESS



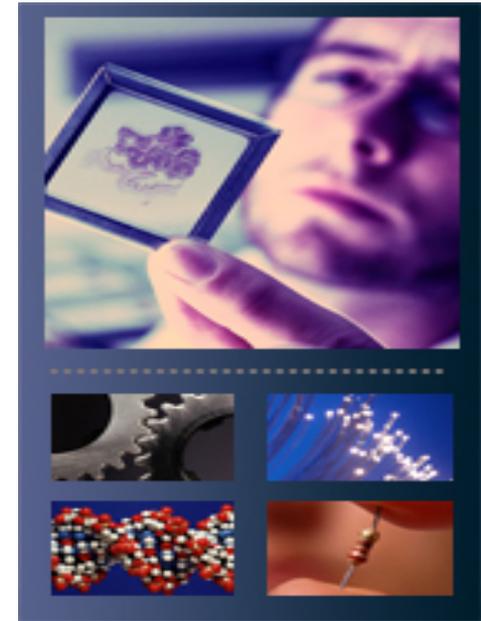
Go to [sbir.nasa.gov/guide](https://sbir.nasa.gov/guide) for details

## Patent Rights

- Small business concerns normally retain the principal worldwide patent rights to any invention developed with Government support

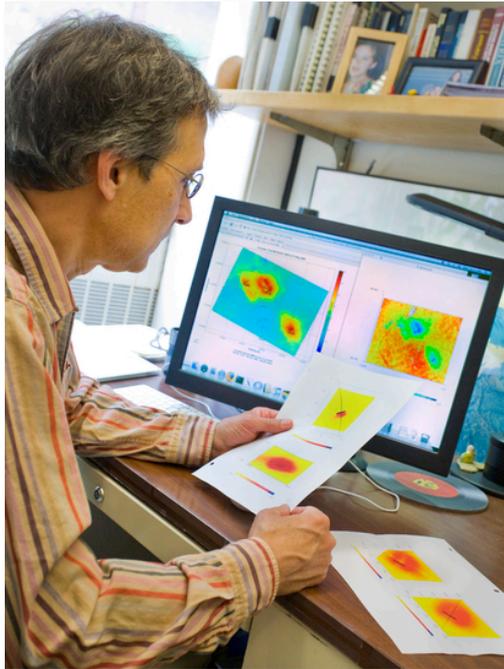
## Government Use

- The Federal Government receives a royalty-free license for Federal Government use



**U.S. Patent and Trade Office**

<http://www.uspto.gov/>



## Protection Period

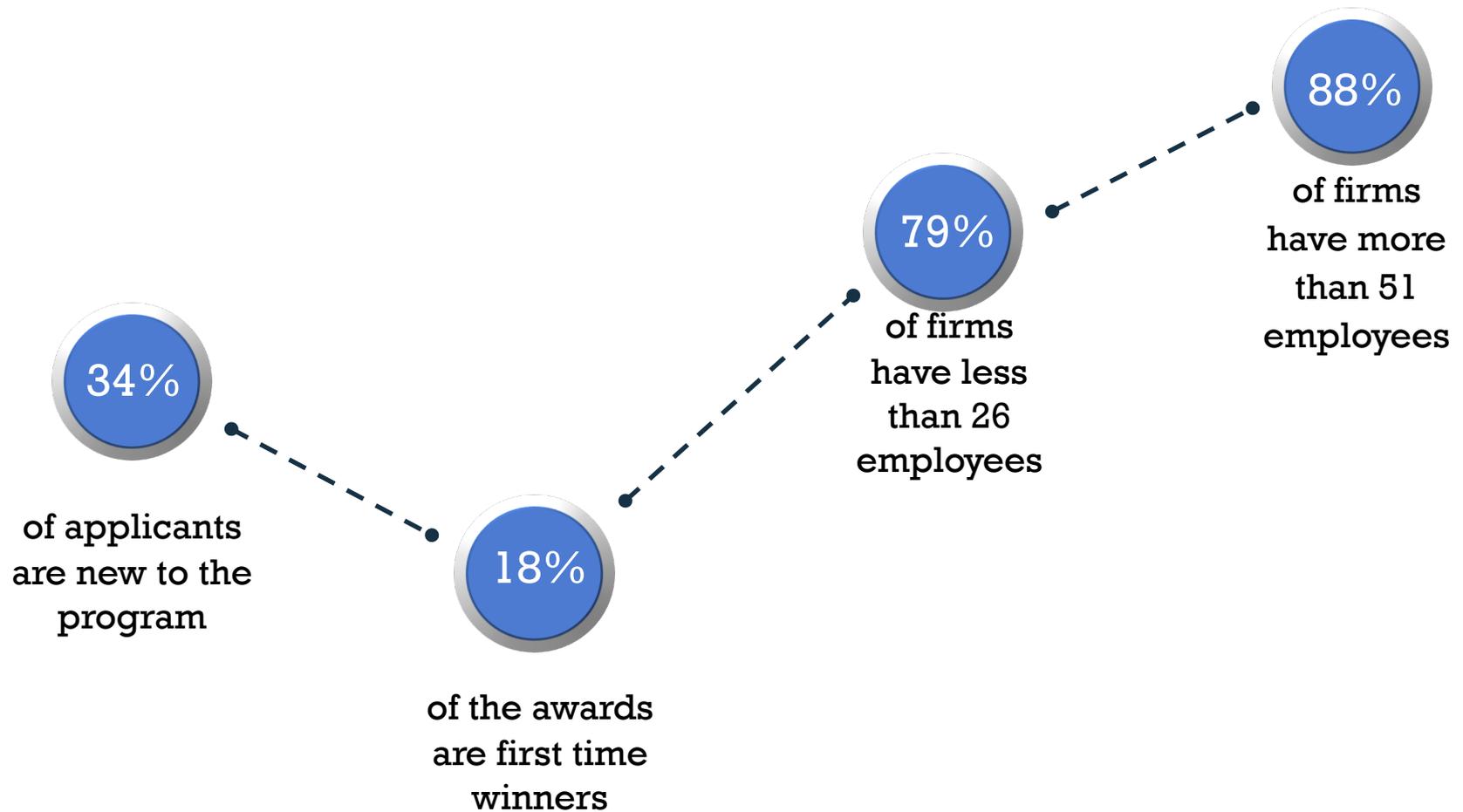
- Data generated from your R/R&D is protected from public disclosure for a minimum of 4 years (civilian agencies) or 5 years (DOD) after the conclusion of your award (Phase I, Phase II, or federally funded Phase III)

## Government Use

- The Government retains a royalty-free license for Government use of any technical data delivered under an SBIR award, whether patented or not

# Working with Small Businesses

## FY17 Phase I SBIR/STTR Awards Data Points

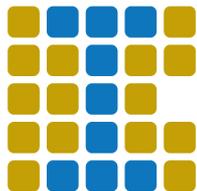


# Program 2018 Initiatives

## I-Corps

In partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF), NASA is offering the I-Corps program to educate selected teams on how to translate technologies from the laboratory into the marketplace.

<http://sbir.nasa.gov/content/I-Corps>



**CORPS**  
NSF Innovation Corps

# Mentor-Protégé Program

The NASA Mentor-Protégé Program encourages NASA prime contractors to assist eligible protégés to:

- Enhance their capabilities to perform on NASA contracts and subcontracts,
- Foster the establishment of long-term business relationships between these entities and NASA prime contractors, and
- Increase the overall number of these entities that receive NASA contract and subcontract awards.

For more information on the Mentor-Protégé Program visit:

<http://www.osbp.nasa.gov/mpp/index.html>



# Learning about NASA's Needs

## Focus Areas

NASA's research subtopics are organized by "Focus Areas" that group interests and related technologies.

- **Identify** the Area(s) closest to your innovation/idea
- **Go** to our website to research
- **Prepare to write** a proposal tailored to NASA's needs

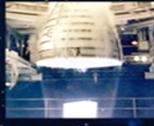
<https://sbir.nasa.gov/solicitations>

### 2018 Focus Areas

1. In-Space Propulsion Technologies	12. Entry, Descent and Landing Systems
2. Power and Energy Storage	13. Information Technologies for Science Data
3. Autonomous Systems for Space Exploration	14. In-Space and Advanced Manufacturing
4. Robotic Systems for Space Exploration	15. Lightweight Materials, Structures, Assembly, and Construction
5. Communications and Navigation	16. Ground and Launch Processing
6. Life Support and Habitation Systems	17. Thermal Management Systems
7. Human Research and Health Maintenance	18. Air Vehicle Technology
8. In-Situ Resource Utilization	19. Integrated Flight Systems
9. Sensors, Detectors and Instruments	20. Airspace Operations and Safety
10. Advanced Telescope Technologies	21. Small Spacecraft Technologies
11. Spacecraft and Platform Systems	22. ISS Utilization and Microgravity Research

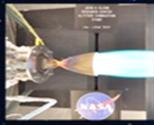
# NASA's Technology Roadmaps

TA 1



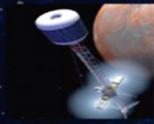
**LAUNCH PROPULSION SYSTEMS**

TA 2



**IN-SPACE PROPULSION TECHNOLOGIES**

TA 3



**SPACE POWER AND ENERGY STORAGE**

TA 4



**ROBOTICS AND AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS**

TA 5



**COMMUNICATIONS, NAVIGATION, AND ORBITAL DEBRIS TRACKING AND CHARACTERIZATION SYSTEMS**

TA 6



**HUMAN HEALTH, LIFE SUPPORT, AND HABITATION SYSTEMS**

TA 7



**HUMAN EXPLORATION DESTINATION SYSTEMS**

TA 8



**SCIENCE INSTRUMENTS, OBSERVATORIES, AND SENSOR SYSTEMS**

TA 9



**ENTRY, DESCENT, AND LANDING SYSTEMS**

TA 10



**NANOTECHNOLOGY**

TA 11



**MODELING, SIMULATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND PROCESSING**

TA 12



**MATERIALS, STRUCTURES, MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, AND MANUFACTURING**

TA 13



**GROUND AND LAUNCH SYSTEMS**

TA 14



**THERMAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

TA 15

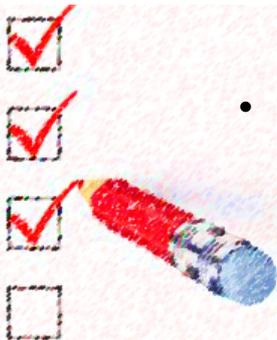


**AERONAUTICS**

<https://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/home/roadmaps/index.html>

# Checklist before Submitting Application

- Submit proposal prior to the deadline
- Perform the “Endorse Proposal” step, which is the final step in the submissions process
- Make sure you meet the format requirements (margin and font size, page limitation)
- Have the RI register correctly (STTR Requirement)
  - For STTR proposals the RI needs to endorse the Research Agreement prior to your proposal being complete and submitted
    - RI will need to create an account in the Proposal Submission EHB
    - register under your firm using your EIN, State, and PIN so they are attached to your proposal correctly
    - choose the RI option at the bottom of the page when entering their name, email, phone, etc.



# NASA SBIR/STTR Website [www.sbir.nasa.gov](http://www.sbir.nasa.gov)

The NASA SBIR/STTR website is located at [www.sbir.nasa.gov](http://www.sbir.nasa.gov)

Research NASA's Needs Annual Solicitations including past years

Looking to Join the Program?

- Program Basics
- Forms Library
- Model Contract
- In-depth Training Resources and FAQs

**THE CONCEPT**

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)  
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION  
2018-10-15-1714

SYSTEM MODERNIZATION UPDATES  
MODERNIZATION FOR EXISTING AWARDEES  
FEATURED RELEVANT STORIES

**THE CONCEPT**

THE CONCEPT - Spring 2018 Newsletter

Download to Read

**Proposers**

- SBIR/STTR Basics
- SBIR/STTR Schedule
- Interactive Participation Guide
- SBIR/STTR Firms Library
- Model Contract
- Training Resources
- FAQs

**Awardees**

- SBIR/STTR Schedule
- SBIR/STTR Firms Library
- Additional Sources of Assistance
- Awardee Firm's EHB
- Training Resources
- FAQs

**Publications**

- SBIR/STTR Newsletter – The Concept
- Interactive Participation Guide
- SBIR/STTR Annual Report
- FY 2016 Economic Impact Report

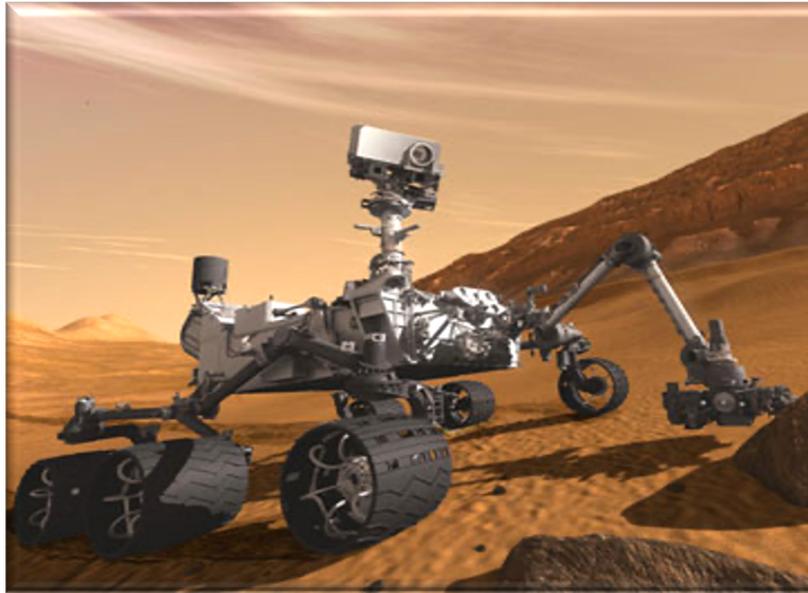
Contact the Program SBIR/STTR Helpdesk and Program Points of Contact

# JPL SBIR/STTR Program in Space – Curiosity

**Grammatech** - Software for eliminating defects in mission-critical and embedded software applications directing rover operations

**Starsys Research** - Planetary gearboxes for the articulated robotic arm and the descent braking mechanism for controlling rate of descent to planetary surface

**Creare** - A space-qualified vacuum pump for the Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) instrument package



## ABOUT THE MISSION

The Mars Science Laboratory mission's Curiosity rover, the most technologically advanced rover ever built, landed in Mars' Gale Crater the evening of Aug. 5, 2012 PDT (morning of Aug. 6 EDT) using a series of complicated landing maneuvers never before attempted. The specialized landing sequence, which employed a giant parachute, a jet-controlled descent vehicle and a bungee-like apparatus called a "sky crane," was devised because tested landing techniques used during previous rover missions could not safely accommodate the much larger and heavier rover.

Curiosity's mission is to determine whether the Red Planet ever was, or is, habitable to microbial life. The rover, which is about the size of a MINI Cooper, is equipped with 17 cameras and a robotic arm containing a suite of specialized laboratory-like tools and instruments.

**Yardney Technical Products** – Lithium ion batteries that enable the power system to meet peak power demands or rover activities

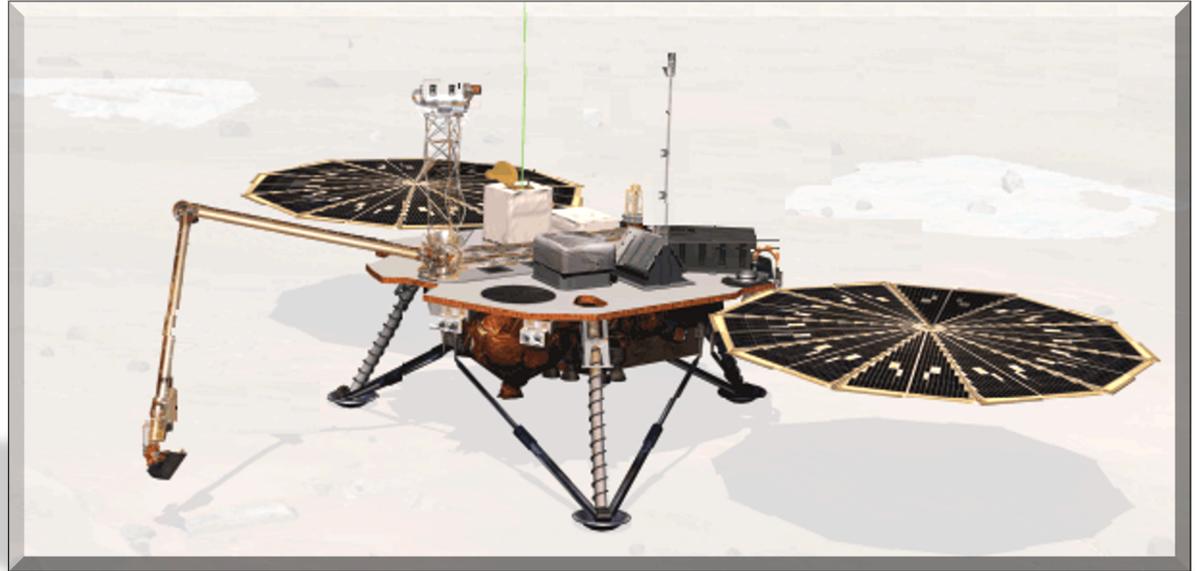
**Honeybee Robotics** – Dust removal tool used to remove the dust layer from rock surfaces and to clean the rover's observation tray and designed the sample manipulation system for the Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) instrument package

**inXitu**– Features of their automated sample handling system are implemented in the Chemistry and Mineralogy experiment (CheMin) instrument

# JPL SBIR/STTR Program in Space - Phoenix

Icy Soil Acquisition Device  
supplied by **Honey  
Robotics, Inc.**

Lithium ion batteries  
supplied by **Yardney  
Technical Products, Inc**



**SpaceDev** contributed wet  
chemistry elements of the  
Microscopy  
Electrochemistry and  
Conductivity Analyzer  
(MECA)

## ABOUT THE MISSION

Phoenix was a lander sent to the surface of Mars to search for evidence of past or present microbial life. Using a robotic arm, it could dig up to half a meter into the Red Planet to collect samples and return them to onboard instruments for analysis. Besides verifying the existence of water-ice in the Martian subsurface, Phoenix discovered traces of the chemical perchlorate, a possible energy source for microbes and a potentially valuable future resource for human explorers.

As planned, the Phoenix lander ended communications in November 2008, about six months after landing, when its solar panels ceased operating in the dark Martian winter.

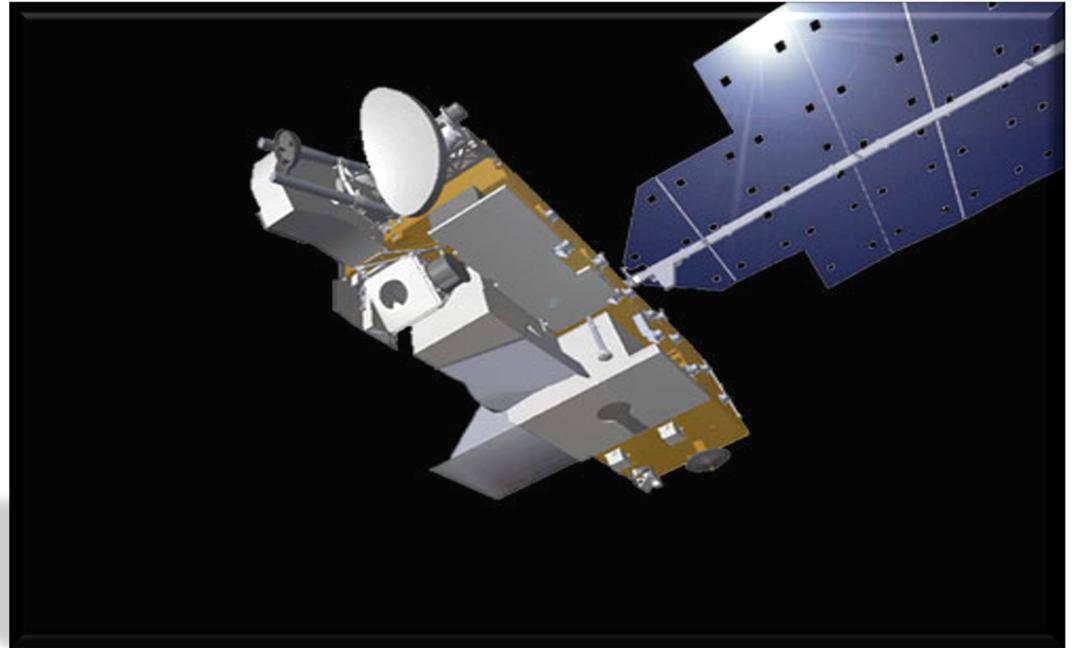
# JPL SBIR/STTR Program in Space – Aura Mission

**Composite Optics** provided light weight, large aperture reflector of graphite reinforced composite material with high surface accuracy for the Microwave Limb Sounder (MLS)

**DeMaria Electrooptics** Under a \$6.5 million contract with JPL, the company provided a terahertz radiometer for the MLS

**Spaceborne** supplied two correlator chips that make the analog to digital signal conversion and clean up the signal received by MLS

**Lightwave Electronics** provided two diode pumped solid state lasers for Tropospheric Emission Spectrometer (TES)



## **Seaspace Corporation**

Developed low cost system that makes it possible for universities and other purchasers to receive the data transmissions from Aura

## ABOUT THE MISSION

Aura (formerly EOS/Chem-1) is the chemistry mission of NASA with the overall objective to study the chemistry and dynamics of Earth's atmosphere from the ground through the mesosphere. The mission monitors the complex interactions of atmospheric constituents from both natural and man-made sources, such as biomass burning that effect the creation and depletion of ozone. The Aura mission provides global surveys of several atmospheric constituents which can be classified into anthropogenic sources (CFC types), radicals (e.g., ClO, NO, OH), reservoirs (e.g., HNO, HCl), and tracers (e.g., N<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O). Temperature, geopotential heights, and aerosol fields will also be mapped.

# JPL SBIR/STTR Points of Contact

- For complete program overview and current information, go to <http://sbir.nasa.gov/>

- JPL Contacts

- Science Mission Directorate Liaison
  - Dr. Carol Lewis
  - (818) 354 3767
  - [Carol.R.Lewis@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Carol.R.Lewis@jpl.nasa.gov)
- JPL Center Technology Transfer Lead
  - Mark Davidson
  - (818) 354 1246
  - [Mark.H.Davidson@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Mark.H.Davidson@jpl.nasa.gov)
- JPL SBIR/STTR Administration
  - Janelle Nguyen
  - (818) 354 3511
  - [Janelle.Nguyen@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Janelle.Nguyen@jpl.nasa.gov)

- Visit JPL's SBIR page at <http://sbir.jpl.nasa.gov/>



Contact us and let's innovate together

Website

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**<https://sbir.nasa.gov/info>**

NASA Help Desk

**301.937.0888**