SBIR

2016 TIBBETTS AWARDS / SBIR HALL OF FAME

Tuesday, January 10, 2017
White House Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Washington DC
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE

2016 Tibbetts & SBIR Hall of Fame Awards

Created in 1953, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) helps Americans to start, grow, and succeed with their own companies. The agency’s mission often is described as the “three Cs”: facilitating access to capital, providing counseling, and ensuring that small businesses receive a quarter of federal contract dollars.
One key way the SBA accomplishes these goals is through two programs: the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Through these competitive programs, SBA ensures that the nation’s high-tech, innovative, small businesses are a significant part of the federal government’s research and development (R&D) efforts.

These programs have helped tens of thousands of small businesses over the years. Today, we recognize the cream of the crop—those companies and individuals across the country that have used their SBIR/STTR funds to advance technological innovation and stimulate economic growth.

**Tibbetts Awards**
Named after Roland Tibbetts, who was instrumental in developing the SBIR program, the Tibbetts Awards are presented annually to those who are beacons of promise and models of excellence in high technology. Winners are selected based on the economic impact of their technological innovation, and the extent to which that innovation served federal R&D needs, encouraged diverse participation, and increased the commercialization of federal research. There are two types of Tibbetts Awards: awards for businesses that have received SBIR Phase I or Phase II awards, and awards for individuals and organizations who have supported the SBIR Program.

**SBIR Hall of Fame**
The SBIR Hall of Fame recognizes companies and individuals with a long period of extraordinary success in research, innovation, and commercialization within the SBIR program. To be eligible for the award, a nominee must have won a SBIR award and continued to contribute significantly to the goals of the SBIR program.

In the pages that follow, we profile each recipient and their achievements. Individually, these profiles evince remarkable ingenuity, resolve, and success. As a whole, they demonstrate a remarkable range of benefits – locally, regionally, and nationally – and sustain the conviction that America’s future is as bright as its past.

**INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION NOMINATION**
Individuals/organizations are evaluated on the basis of unique, long-term service, creation and/or initiation of new programs, and/or advocacy of the SBIR programs.

**SBIR/STR Firm**
Companies are evaluated on how they leveraged the SBIR investment and program to stimulate technical innovation, generate business impacts, and spur broader social and economic benefits.
Lynntech, Inc.

What are some of the greatest scientific challenges to overcome? It appears that this question is what drives Texas-based Lynntech, which began operations in 1987, providing early-stage scientific research and technology development for government-sponsored initiatives. Building on early successes, Lynntech expanded into prototype and product development and explorative research for wide-ranging applications, including technologies to better sustain the warfighter, improve space missions, and fight cancer. The company's first SBIR award was made in 1990 to the then 3 employee company – today Lynntech has 110 employees with 25-30% of its workforce composed of Ph.D.s in a variety of scientific disciplines.

Current Phase III contracts with the U.S. Navy and DHS related to the company's three most recent SBIR-funded technologies are worth $20 million. Lynntech has continually leveraged Federal funding to address specific, and critical challenges ranging from its Electrochemical Breathing Device for Hypoxia Training for the Navy to a sensor fusion system for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to improve the performance of infrared cameras and to identify low thermal signatures in a maritime environment. Lynntech has partnered with dozens of universities, industry experts, technology experts, and private companies to facilitate innovation. The company's research has resulted in patents and licenses that support the formation of independent businesses rooted in its technological innovations.

The company notes that the unique character of the SBIR program is the ability to test new concepts for solving important real world problems in health, defense, and energy to name but a few. Its recent transition successes go all the way back to those initial two contracts as Lynntech has had the ability to fully develop the materials, methods and engineering design criteria to produce complete power systems for the Navy's UUV fleet.

Lynntech has specialized in electrochemical power for over two decades, with a strong focus on fuel cell technology – today this expertise is being utilized by the Navy and NASA. To further demonstrate the company's technical reach, with support from NCI, Lynntech is working to counter the emergence of primary and secondary resistance to therapies that are used for treating patients with HER2+ breast cancer by developing a novel class of HER3 antagonists that potentiate anti-tumor effects of current HER2-directed therapies via blocking ligand-dependent and ligand-independent HER3 heterodimerization.

Lynntech's business model centers around providing high-demand solutions, spinning off successful businesses, and continuing to innovate.

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SBIR and STTR Programs

The SBIR Program
The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program is a highly competitive program that encourages domestic small businesses to engage in Federal Research/Research and Development (R/R&D) that has the potential for commercialization. Through a competitive awards-based program, SBIR enables small businesses to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization. By including qualified small businesses in the nation’s R&D arena, high-tech innovation is stimulated and the United States gains entrepreneurial spirit as it meets its specific research and development needs.

The STTR Program
Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) is another program that expands funding opportunities in the federal innovation research and development (R&D) arena. Central to the program is expansion of the public/private sector partnership to include the joint venture opportunities for small businesses and nonprofit research institutions. The unique feature of the STTR program is the requirement for the small business to formally collaborate with a research institution in Phase I and Phase II. STTR’s most important role is to bridge the gap between performance of basic science and commercialization of resulting innovations. Federal agencies with extramural research and development (R&D) budgets that exceed $1 billion are required to reserve 0.45% of the extramural budget for STTR awards to small businesses.

SBIR Participating Agencies
Each year, Federal agencies with extramural research and development (R&D) budgets that exceed $100 million are required to allocate a percentage, 3.2 percent, of their R&D budget to these programs. Currently, eleven Federal agencies participate in the program:

- USDA
  Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Transportation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Science Foundation

Each agency administers its own individual program within guidelines established by Congress. These agencies designate R&D topics in their solicitations and accept proposals from small businesses. Awards are made on a competitive basis after proposal evaluation.