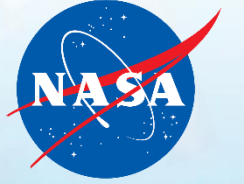


National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Program Overview

Haley Doude | MSFC Center Technology Transition Lead | Nov 15, 2023

NASA SBIR/STTR Program

sbir.nasa.gov

What is the SBIR/STTR Program?



- Highly competitive program that encourages domestic small businesses to engage in Federal Research/Research and Development (R/R&D) with the potential for commercialization
- **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)**
 - Has been around since 1980s
 - NASA is 1 of 11 participating agencies
- **Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)**
 - Established in the 1990s; created to facilitate cooperative R&D between small businesses and U.S. research institutions (RIs)
 - NASA is 1 of 6 participating agencies

Approximately \$3 billion invested per year by participating agencies

SBIR + STTR Programs



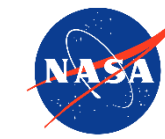
Department of Defense (DOD)



Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)



Department of Energy (DOE)



National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)



National Science Foundation (NSF)



Department of Agriculture (USDA)

SBIR Program Only



Department of Education (ED)



Department of Transportation (DOT)



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



Department of Homeland Security (DHS)



Department of Commerce (DOC)

What is the difference between SBIR and STTR?



- The STTR program exists to unlock the power and innovative thinking of the country's **research institutions**
- The primary difference is that for STTR, the small business **must formally partner** with a research institution (RI)
- Topics in **SBIR** support NASA's **mission directorates**, whereas the **STTR** topics are derived from the specific needs of NASA's **ten centers**
- The **period of performance** for a Phase I is longer for STTR due to the nature of the academic calendar for universities
- SBIR: Principal Investigator (PI) must be more than 50% employed by the small business
- STTR: Principal Investigator (PI) can be employed by either the small business or the research institution

What do we provide research institutions?



For RIs:

- A path to turn **cutting-edge research** from the lab to **life-changing technology** in the market
- The **credibility** that comes from working alongside **NASA's researchers and experts**
- A **federal funding** mechanism to advance research in your area of interest



For Professors:

- Research data for potential **publication in the future**
- A way to **expose students to exciting projects** that could lead to employment
- An approach to **foster entrepreneurship and innovation** in students
- A **differentiator when marketing** your institution to potential students



For Students:

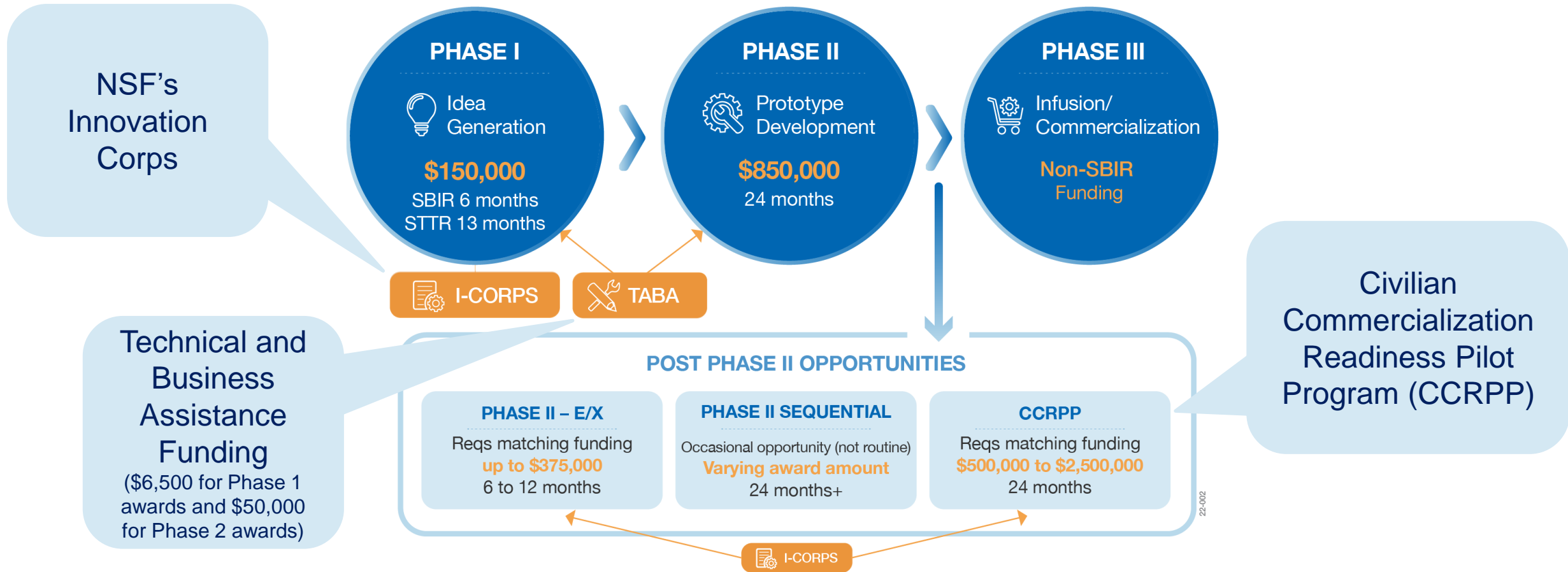
- The opportunity to work on **pioneering research projects**
- **Experience** that could lead to employment

What exactly do you get?



Up to \$1 million for Phase I and II and nearly \$3 million or more for Post Phase II opportunities!

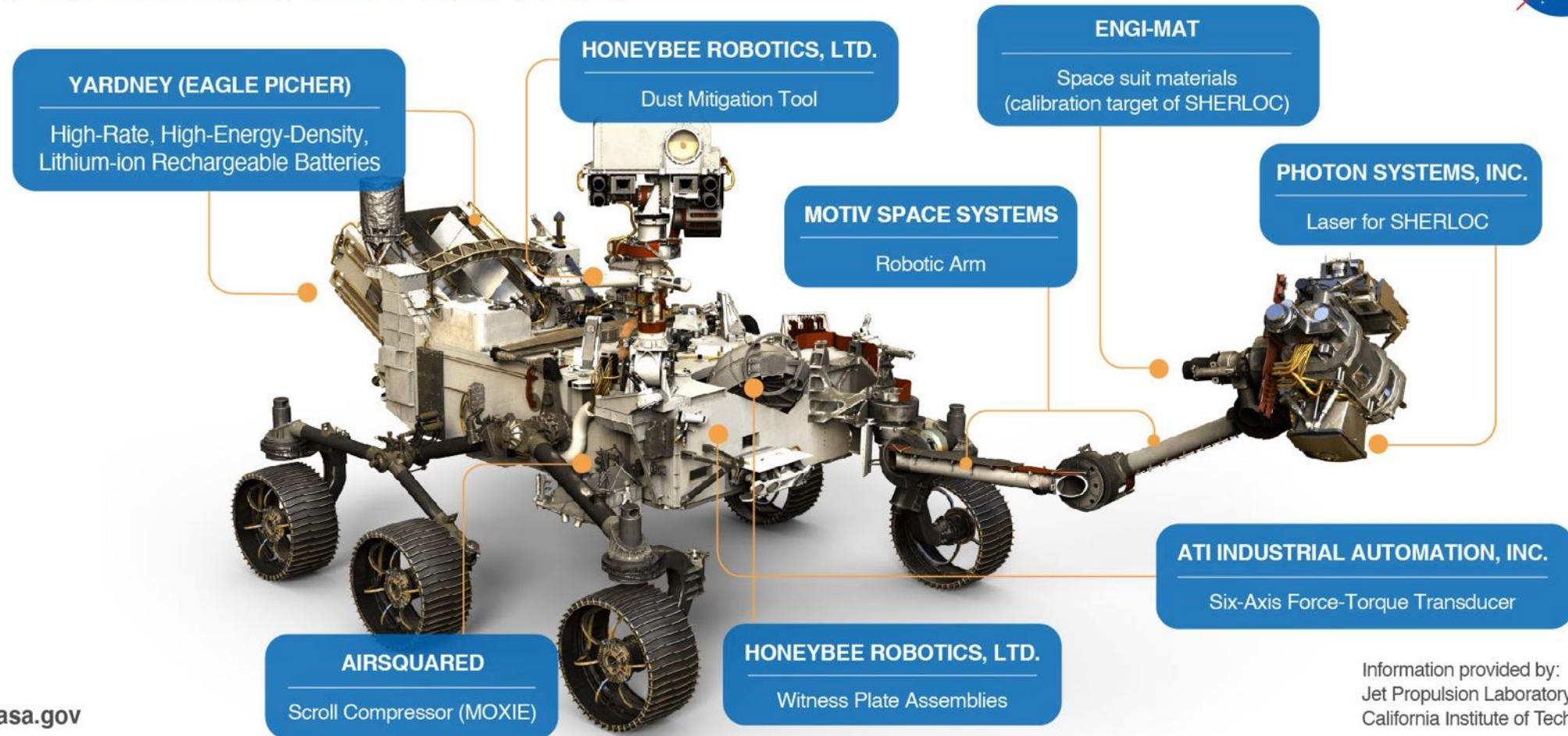
NASA SBIR/STTR PHASES



Infusion into NASA's missions



SBIR TECH ON-BOARD MARS 2020 PERSEVERANCE ROVER



How does it work?



Solicitation Release

January 2023



Proposal Submissions

January – March 2023



Proposal Reviews and Selection

March – June 2023



Phase I Selection Announcement

June 2023



Contract Negotiations/Awards

June – August 2023



Phase II Proposal Submission

Due by Phase I Contract End Date



Note: Dates are subject to change. For the latest dates, please visit our website's "Schedule & Awards" page.

Note: A Federal agency may enter into a Phase III agreement at any time with a Phase I or Phase II awardee.

Who can join?



- The SBIR/STTR program's **focus is on R&D**, funding ideas that have the potential to solve some of NASA's most pressing challenges
- You **must be a Small Business Concern (SBC)** with 500 employees or less and legally established in the U.S. (visit our website for the full criteria)
- **For STTR**, the partnering research institution must be in the U.S. and be a nonprofit college or university, domestic nonprofit research organization, or a federally funded R&D Center (FFRDC)
- **If NASA is not the right fit**, there are 10 other government agencies that have SBIR/STTR programs that you may want to explore: <https://www.sbir.gov/agencies-landing>

Approximately 80% of the small businesses we fund have less than 50 employees

What opportunities are available for Minority Serving Institutions (MSI)?



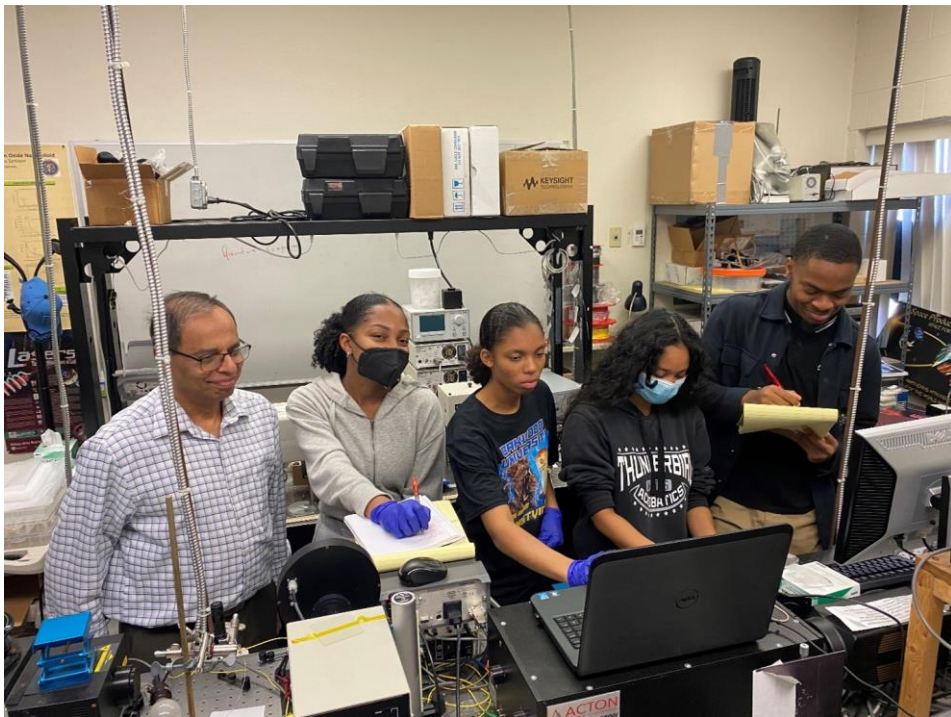
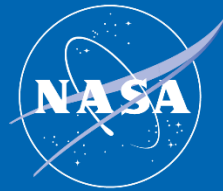
MSI partners can apply for future **MPLAN award**

- MPLAN awards provide **funding** (to be shared with a small business) and **NASA guidance** to MSIs in preparation for larger funding opportunities like the NASA STTR solicitation. They are typically offered in the Spring; most recent opportunity closed May 30, 2023.
- Offered by NASA's Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP), MPLAN is an evolution of the previous M-STTR solicitation.

Join the **MSI Exchange** or look for a partner whose capabilities align with your tech

- The MSI Exchange is a platform for NASA researchers, prime contractors, small businesses, and MSIs to review capabilities, connect, and collaborate.
- It provides a central location to **upload and search MSI capability statements** in pursuit of partnership opportunities. Learn more: <https://msiexchange.nasa.gov>

The Research Institution Perspective on the M-STTR Initiative



Dr. Patel (left) and four Oakwood University students record data related to their NASA STTR research. *Photo credit: Oakwood University*

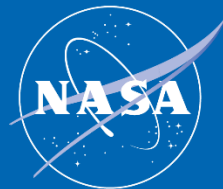
Oakwood University

Huntsville, Alabama

- In 2022, this Historically Black College was a **first-time** RI participant in the NASA STTR program with partner SSS Optical Technologies, LLC (SSSOT).
- Prior to the STTR award, Oakwood University and SSSOT participated together in the **M-STTR (now MPLAN) research planning grants** initiative.
- According to Dr. Patel of Oakwood University, the M-STTR grant allowed the team to **generate preliminary data** that would later be proposed for the 2022 STTR award.

READ MORE: [Web](#)

The Research Institution Perspective on the M-STTR Initiative



M-STTR helped us solidify the collaboration with SSSOT by focusing our team on specific, tangible goals.

– **Dr. Darayas Patel**
Oakwood University
Professor of Mathematics & Computer Science



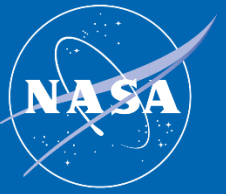
Dr. Patel and Dr. Sergey Sarkisov, President and CEO of SSSOT, formed a partnership that led to successful M-STTR and STTR awards.

Where do you start?



- Visit our website and **read the recent solicitations**, <https://sbir.nasa.gov/solicitations>, to understand NASA's technology focus areas. Get a feel for the types of challenges NASA is looking to solve and if you think you have a solution, NASA could be a fit for you!
- Determine your **topic(s)** of interest. If STTR, find a research institution partner.
- Sign up for our **newsletter** and other communications: sbir.nasa.gov/info
- Keep an eye out for opportunities to meet with **NASA experts**: <https://sbir.nasa.gov/programevents>
- Contact a Center Technology Transition Lead (**CTTL**): sbir.nasa.gov/contacts
- Watch our **Dissecting the Solicitations** webinar recording for advice you can use year-round to prepare for the next Phase I solicitations: https://youtu.be/Xqti9u_mgTM
- Find additional sources Watch our **Dissecting the Solicitations** webinar recording for advice you can use year-round to prepare for the next Phase I solicitations: https://youtu.be/Xqti9u_mgTM
- of **assistance**: sbir.nasa.gov/content/additional-sources-assistance

Upcoming Opportunities



2024 SBIR/STTR Phase I - Solicitation expected early 2024

2024 MPLAN – Expected Spring 2024

What resources do you have?



- **Resource Library:** sbir.nasa.gov/resource-library
 - Access video and print guidance for Phase 0, Phase 1, Phase 2, and beyond.
- **Success Stories:** sbir.nasa.gov/success-stories
 - Read how others have found success with NASA SBIR/STTR.
- **Blog:** sbir.nasa.gov/blog
 - Check out even more insights from the NASA SBIR/STTR community.
- And of course, don't hesitate to **Contact Us:** sbir.nasa.gov/contacts
- **Local Assistance:** <https://www.sbir.gov/local-assistance>
 - Find small business support in your state through the SBA's website.
- **NASA Office of Small Business Programs:** nasa.gov/osbp
 - Explore another path for working with NASA; ideal for small businesses without an R&D focus.
- **NASA Mentor Protégé Program (MPP):** nasa.gov/osbp/mentor-protege-program
 - Learn how eligible small businesses and research institutions can pair with NASA prime contractors to develop long-term business relationships.

Questions?

Visit our website:
www.sbir.nasa.gov

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haley.r.doude@nasa.gov

