

# Small Business Innovation Research

## Program Highlights

June 8, 2021

## Announcements

### [EPA Awards Over \\$3 Million in SBIR Phase II Funding to Small Businesses](#)

EPA [announced](#) over \$3 million in funding for contracts with eight small businesses as part of Phase II of the SBIR Program. Recipients of Phase II funding receive up to \$400,000 to further develop and commercialize novel environmental technologies. This year's Phase II [recipients](#) are providing innovative solutions to environmental challenges including PFAS remediation in water, microplastic characterization, air quality monitoring and food waste prevention.

### [EPA SBIR 2022 Phase I Solicitation Anticipated to Open in June](#)

The next EPA SBIR Phase I solicitation is anticipated to open in mid-June 2021. An [informational webinar](#) will be held on June 10, 2021 at 2 p.m. EDT to provide an overview of this year's topics and proposal requirements. Register for the webinar [here](#).

### [Water Toxicity Sensor Challenge Now Open](#)

EPA recently [announced](#) the Water Toxicity Sensor Challenge, calling on innovators to develop a sensor that can identify whether there are chemical pollutants and natural toxins in various types of water much faster and less expensively than current lab methods. Up to three winners will receive awards of up to \$15,000 each. Proposals are being accepted until July 26. Register for the [informational webinar](#) on June 8 at 2 p.m. EDT and read more about the challenge and how to apply [here](#).

### [US Department of Energy Announces \\$14.5 Million to Combat Plastics Waste and Pollution](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) [announced](#) an investment of up to \$14.5 million for research and development of processes and materials that will help enable the recycling and upcycling of plastic films. Proposed work includes novel approaches to recycle and upcycle films, and redesign of multi-layer films for infinite recyclability or biodegradability. To be considered for funding, submit a concept paper by June 28, 2021. Final applications are due August 16, 2021. Read the full funding opportunity announcement [here](#).

## SBIR Small Business Spotlight

[PittMoss](#), an EPA SBIR small business awardee located in Pennsylvania, used EPA SBIR funding to develop a sustainable product that serves the same function as peat moss, which sequesters 33 percent of the world's stored soil carbon. This sustainable alternative to potting soil is made of paper rescued from landfills and delivers many benefits over traditional peat moss, including lower price, decreased runoff and decreased water usage. Last year, PittMoss hit record revenue over \$525,000 and their products are now found in over 150 garden centers. To date, PittMoss has helped reduce carbon emissions by 3,811 metric tons and prevented 206 tons of paper waste and 144 tons of cardboard waste from going to landfills. In 2015, PittMoss founder Mont Handley appeared on the ABC television show Shark Tank and convinced three "sharks" to invest \$600,000 in PittMoss.

### NEXT EPA SBIR SOLICITATION ANTICIPATED OPENING:

June 2021

If you are interested in applying to SBIR, start early with your required registrations. For more information:

<https://www.epa.gov/sbir/how-apply-sbir-contract>

The EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment. EPA's Small Business Innovation Research Program supports small businesses to develop and commercialize novel environmental technologies that support this mission.

## Phase I:

Phase I awards are \$100,000 for six months for "proof of concept" of the technology.

## Phase II:

Phase II awards are up to \$400,000 for two years to further develop and commercialize the technology. Phase II companies that obtain qualifying third-party investments are eligible for a commercialization option of \$100,000.

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EPA SBIR: [www.epa.gov/sbir](http://www.epa.gov/sbir)

Federal SBIR Information:  
[www.SBIR.gov](http://www.SBIR.gov)

## EPA SBIR ALUMNI: Share your story.

If you're a former EPA SBIR awardee whose technology has made an impact, we want to hear from you. Contact [Richards.April@epa.gov](mailto:Richards.April@epa.gov) and share any successes your technology or small business has experienced since your EPA SBIR award.

