



EPA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) 2026 Informational Webinar

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EPA SBIR Team

Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions

September 16, 2026

Welcome to the EPA SBIR Webinar!

All participants are muted.

Slides and Q&A will be posted to our website after the webinar.

To ask a Question:

1. Select **Q&A** at the bottom of the screen.
2. Type your question in the compose box, and then select **send**. *You have the option to submit questions anonymously.*

Audio Settings ^



Chat



Raise Hand



Q&A

Leave

Agenda

EPA SBIR Background

Annual Solicitation

EPA SBIR Topics

What You Need to Know When Applying

Tips from Contracting Office by Megan Fliter, Contracting Specialist

Technical and Business Assistance (TABAs) Support

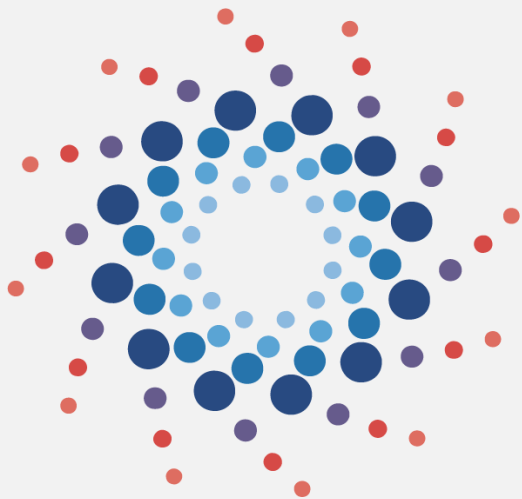
Fraud, Waste & Abuse by Special Agents, Office of Inspector General

Success Stories

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Q&A

EPA SBIR Program Background



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SEED FUND**

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Federal SBIR Program Background



Set-aside program for small businesses to engage in federal R&D



Goal is commercialization



Non-dilutive funding



11 agencies participate



3.2% of Agency's Extramural R&D Budget



\$4+ billion across federal government



www.SBIR.gov

EPA SBIR Mission

EPA: Protect human health and the environment

SBIR: To provide seed funding for innovative technologies to meet Agency's mission

Advancing the Administrator's *Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative*



Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American



Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance



Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership



Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World



Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs

EPA SBIR Funding

Budget

~\$5.0 Million

One Funding Cycle Per Year

- Phase I proof of concept = \$100,000 for 6 months
- Phase II development & commercialization = \$400,000 for 2 years
- Commercialization Option = \$100,000 supplement to match 3rd party investment

Projects

Awarded as Contracts

EPA SBIR's Previous (2025) Phase I Cycle

2025

- 16% funding rate
- 60% of small business applicants had no prior SBIR awards
- 60% of EPA SBIR awardees were first-time SBIR recipients

EPA SBIR Program

Applying

Have specific topics – proposals should be responsive

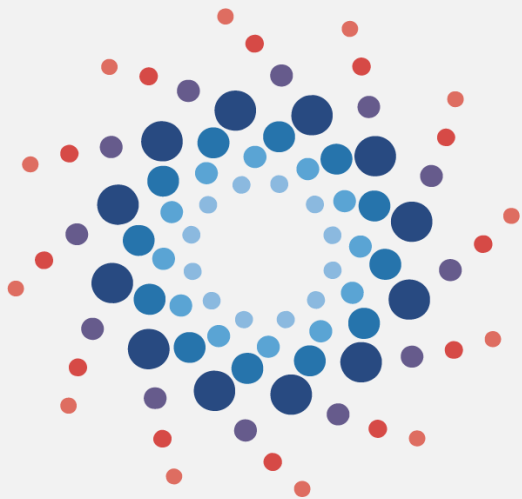
Funded Projects

- Provide companies with EPA technical/topic connection
- Provide commercialization support
- Communicate successful projects

Goal

Protect human health and the environment

Annual Solicitation



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Phase I Solicitation/BAA

(planned dates)

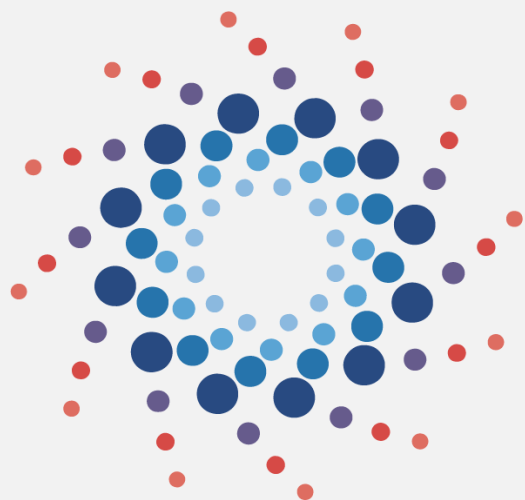
Open: September 24, 2026

Close: November 8, 2026

[Further SBIR funding information](#)

[Subscribe to SBIR listserv](#)

EPA SBIR Topics



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Solicitation: Topics/Broad Focus Areas

Topic 1: Clean and Safe Water

Topic 2: Air Quality

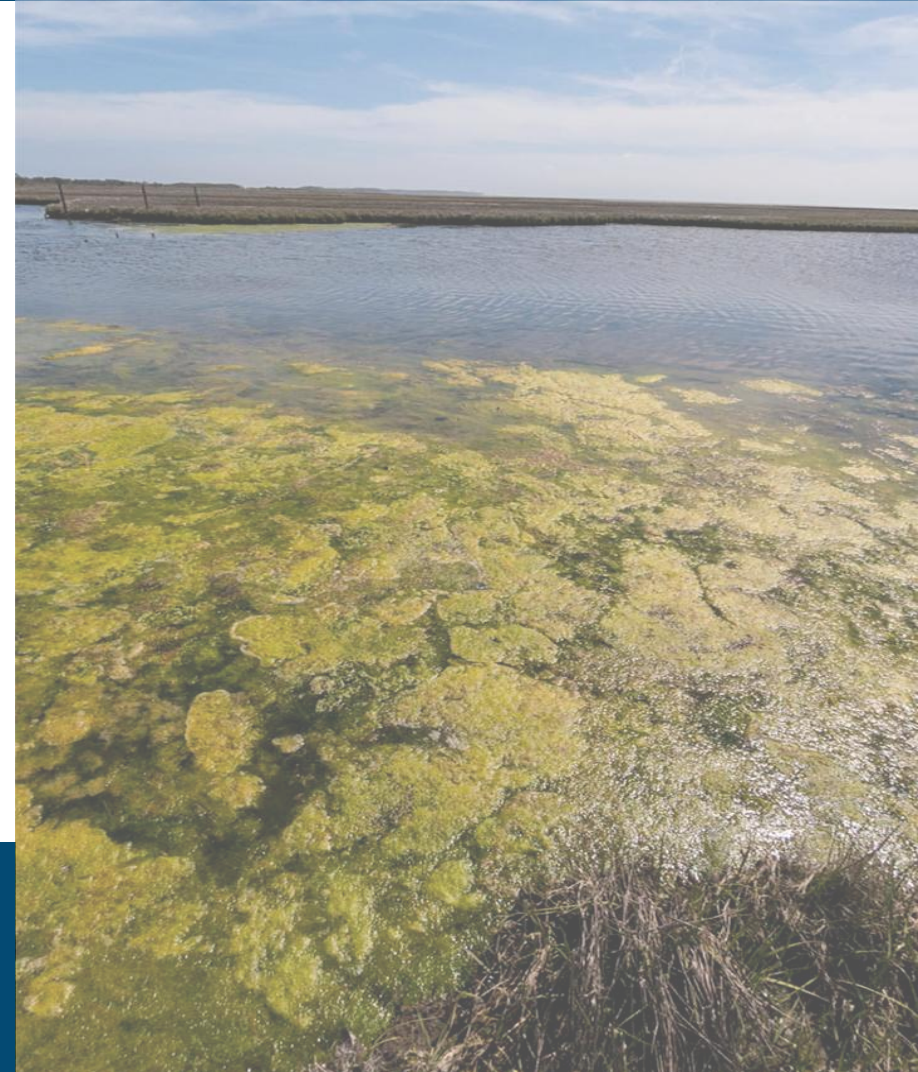
Topic 3: Circular Economy/Sustainable Materials

Topic 4: Safer Chemicals

Clean and Safe Water

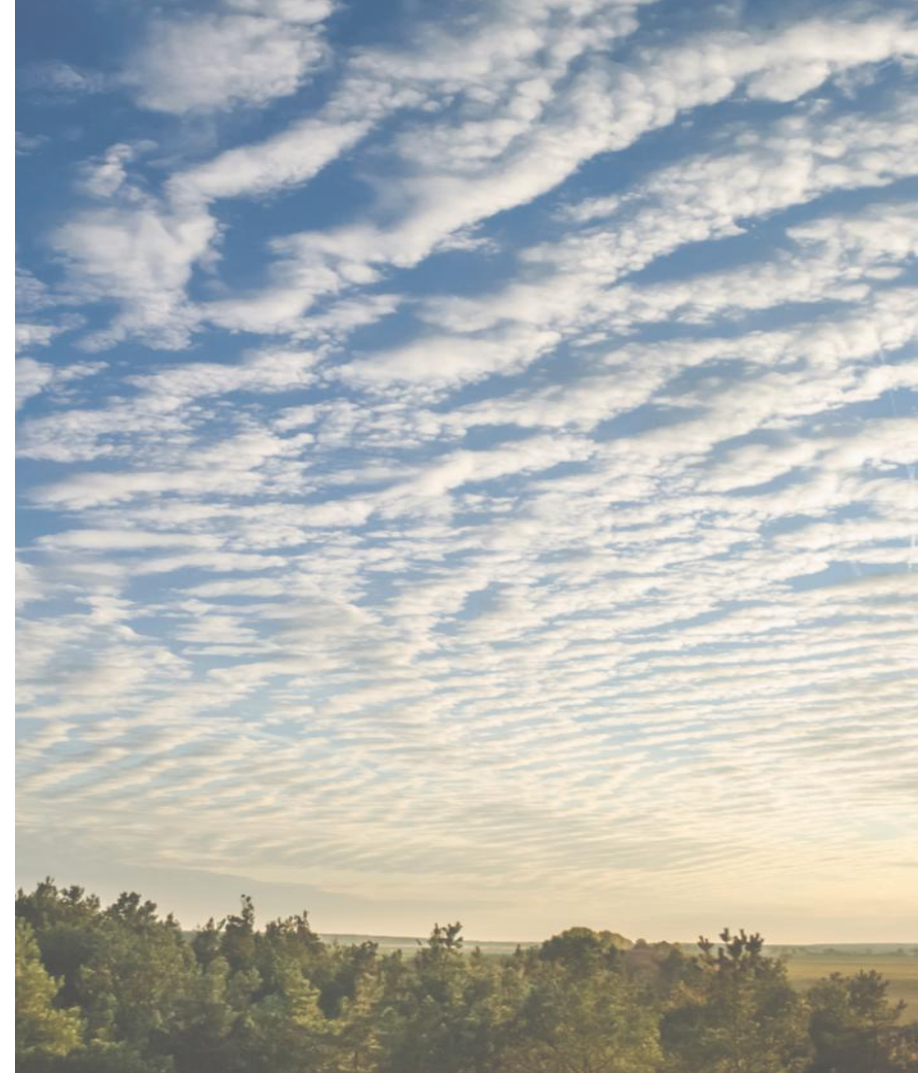
- **Topic 1A:** Monitoring Technologies for Water Reuse
- **Topic 1B:** Treatment of PFAS in Wastewater Sewage Sludge and Biosolids
- **Topic 1C:** Technologies for the Removal and/or Destruction of PFAS in Groundwater

Note: Technologies for Sensors to Detect PFAS in Water are responsive to Topic 2A.



Air Quality

- **Topic 2A:** Sensors to Detect PFAS in Environmental Matrices
- **Topic 2B:** Advancing Technologies to Monitor Carbon Monoxide



Circular Economy/ Sustainable Materials

- **Topic 3A:** Innovative Technologies to Prevent and Recycle Food Waste
- **Topic 3B:** Critical Mineral Recovery from Lithium Batteries and Safe Recycling/Reuse of Batteries
- **Topic 3C:** Technologies that Mitigate the Impacts of Critical Mineral Mining or Extract Critical Minerals from Acid Mine Drainage



Safer Chemicals

- **Topic 4A:** Rubber Anti-Degradants That Are Lower Concern for Human Health and the Environment
- **Topic 4B:** Improved Lead Test Kits



What You Need to Know When Applying



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General Information on Applying



Proposals should be responsive to solicitation topics



SBIR team can provide general advice on your proposed technology



Always your choice whether to submit or not

Anticipated Schedule

2026: Phase I

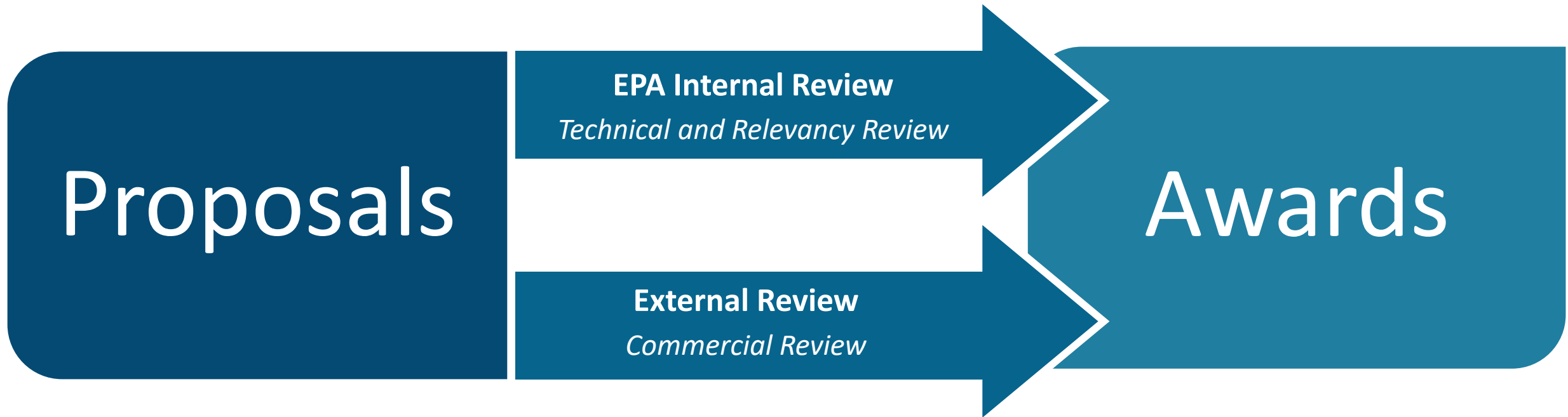
- Solicitation Opens September 24, 2026
- Solicitation Closes: November 8, 2026
- Estimated start date: February 2027



2027: Phase II

- Solicitation Opens: July 2027
- Solicitation Closes: 45 days later (August 2027)
- Estimated start date: November 2027

Proposal Evaluation & Selection



Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Technical Review

- Technical Approach
- Company/Team (Technical)

Relevancy Review

- Impact/Relevance to topic

Commercial Review

- Innovation/IP
- Market Opportunity
- Company/Team (Commercial)
- Commercialization Approach

Each review is 1/3 of overall score

Apply Via FedConnect



FedConnect is a web portal that connects EPA to vendors

<https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/>



Can view the solicitation through “public opportunities”



Must be registered to respond to solicitation

FedConnect®

The Government Acquisition & Grants Portal

Required Registrations



[SBA Company Registry](#): Register at SBIR.gov to obtain an “SBC Control ID”. See solicitation for instructions on how to register and how to **indicate proof of registration** in your proposal.



[System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#): Applicants must complete and maintain an active SAM registration, **which requires renewal at least annually**. The renewal process may require as much time as the initial registration.



[Unique Entity Identifier Number \(UEI\)](#): (Replaces DUNS numbers.) Small businesses are required to use UEI assigned by the System for Award Management (SAM.gov). All current SAM.gov registrants have been assigned a UEI and can view them on SAM.gov.



[FedConnect](#): FedConnect is the platform EPA uses for posting solicitation and proposal submission. Companies must be registered with FedConnect to submit a proposal.

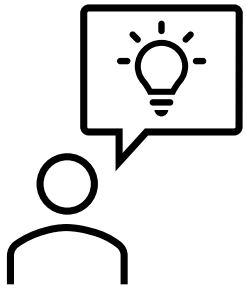
If you decide to apply

Reminder: Solicitation closes on
November 8, 2026

- Solicitation is official word on all proposal requirements
- Find guidance on the EPA SBIR [how to apply](#) page
- Proposal Forms are mostly electronic and fillable and can be found on the [EPA SBIR Required Forms](#) page
- Page limit – entire proposal must be no more than 36 pages (with all attachments)
- Checklist – use checklist at end of solicitation to make sure you have all required elements
- Click “submit” in FedConnect and you should receive automated response

Human Subjects

Research will be considered to involve human subjects if research obtains information through:



- Intervention or interaction with human subject(s).
- Using, analyzing, or generating identifiable private information, such as from surveys & questionnaires.

Research that involves human subjects may be subject to additional regulations.



Due to the short timeframe of SBIR Phase I projects, EPA **does not recommend** submitting proposals that require the use of human subjects.

Foreign Risk - New Requirements

SBIR Program reauthorized by Congress in 2026

New requirements to address risks

- Foreign personnel/affiliations
- Patents
- Cybersecurity

For EPA, there are new due diligence requirements

- Disclosure form related to foreign affiliations (required if selected for award)
- Cybersecurity education (required if awarded)

Tips from Contracting Office

by Megan Fliter, Contracting Specialist



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General Tips

General



- Offerors need to be registered in SAM, FedConnect, and as a Small Business Concern with the SBA – This should be your first step.
- Please read the first two pages of the Solicitation/BAA carefully.
- Please utilize the checklist (last page of the Solicitation) to perform a self-check to ensure proposal is conforming.

FedConnect Tips

FedConnect



- You will find the Solicitation posted to FedConnect. Proposals must be submitted via the response button.
- **Note:** Questions or proposals submitted via messages will **not receive a response**.
- **Only contract related questions** submitted to Paige Long, via email at long.paige@epa.gov may receive a response.

System for Award Management Tips

SAM



- Ensure you complete your registration in its entirety.
- Ensure you elect both Contracts and Grants (Registration should read “All Awards”).
- This is a contract.
- Ensure you keep your SAM renewal up to date.

Technical and Business Assistance (TABA) Support



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Technical and Business Assistance (TABA)

Technical and Business Assistance can help companies strengthen commercialization strategies and increase the likelihood of market success.

- An additional \$6,500 separate from the \$100,000 award.
- TABA vendors can assist companies with:
 - Market analysis
 - IP strategy, development, and management
 - Marketing and online presence
 - Commercialization and Phase II application preparation

TABA Resources

- Resources for TABA and finding third-party vendors: your local [Federal and State Technology \(FAST\) Partnership Program](#) or [Small Business Development Center](#) for assistance.
- Other TABA uses: I-Corps fees, hire new staff, augment staff, or direct staff to conduct or participate in training activities.

EPA will **not** be providing a third-party vendor, and TABA support funds are not automatically guaranteed upon award.

Requirements for TABA

- Must provide a detailed list of activities that will be completed using TABA funds in Phase I proposal.
 - Eligible third-party vendor details (letter of support is encouraged), needs that will be addressed with TABA funding, anticipated benefits from TABA usage.
- If awarded, companies must provide a separate invoice and report on how TABA funds were used and how activities have supported/will support project objectives and future goals.

Awardees must submit their TABA proposals *no later than 45 days before* the project period end date to receive funds.

Fraud, Waste, & Abuse

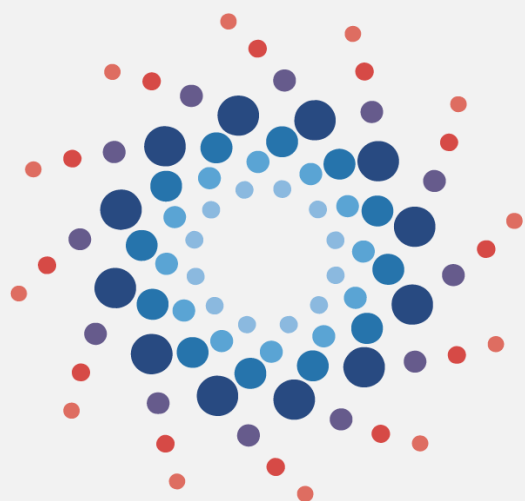
Office of Inspector General



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Success Stories



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Ecovative Design, LLC: Green Island, NY

Developed mushroom-based materials for various uses including packaging, construction materials, and furniture.

- Bio-fabrication using mycelium grown on natural/waste products
- Commercial success
 - Clients include Ikea, Dell and Crate & Barrel
 - Raised over \$110 million in capital in 2021
 - Launched spinoff, MyForest Foods, to produce gourmet mycelia for whole-food, meat-free ingredients
 - Launched the Fashion for Good Cooperative to partner with leading brands to develop sustainable products using mycelium materials

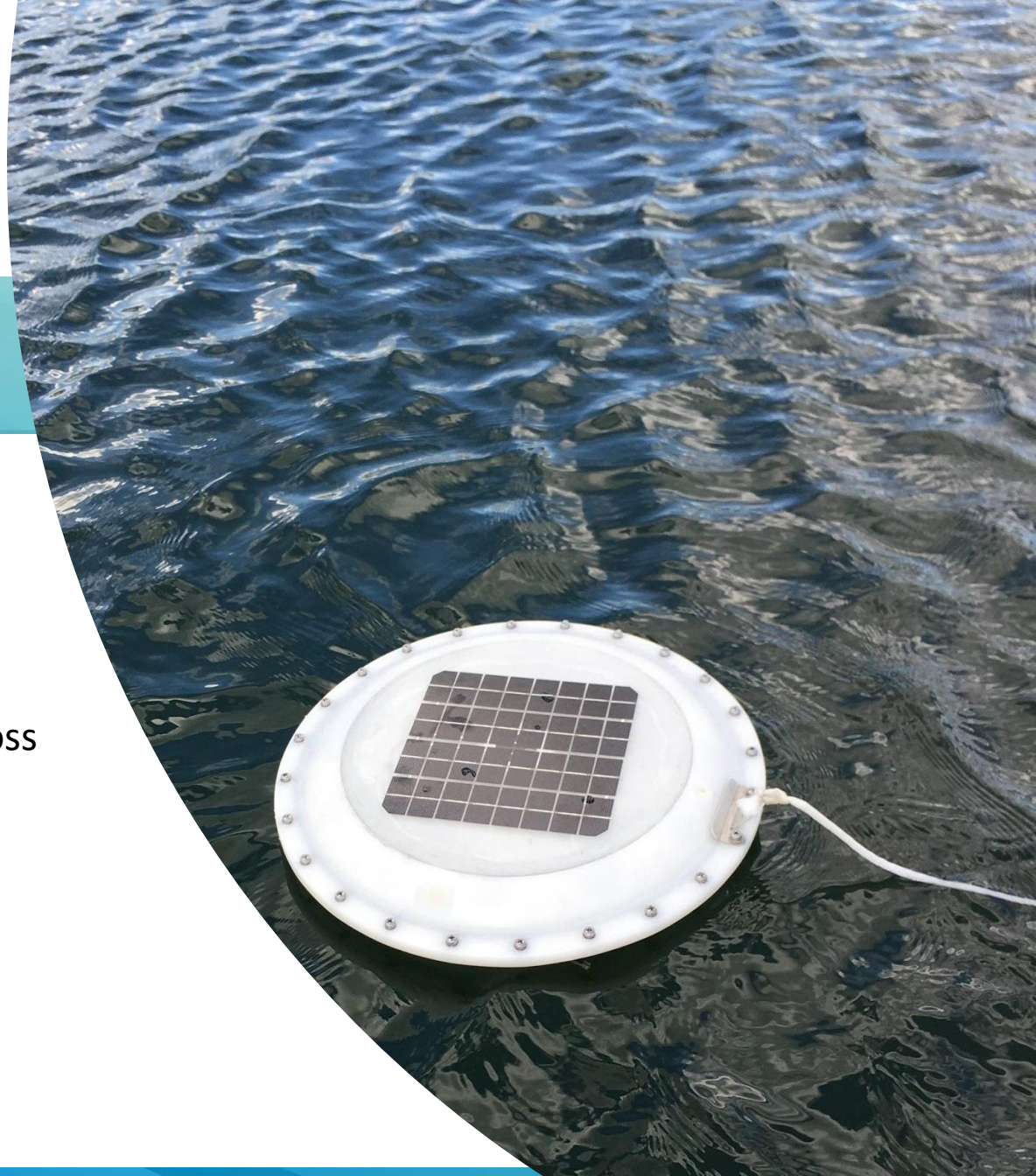


AquaRealTime, Inc.:

Boulder, CO

Developed AlgaeTracker™, an early detection system for water contamination (including harmful algal blooms (HABs)).

- Reduces closures, expenses and health hazards leveraging Internet of Things (IOT) sensors and data analytics
- Network of floating HABs sensor buoys
- SBIR funding allowed AquaRealTime to pilot AlgaeTracker™ across the US
- Currently sells data to multiple government clients



Other Environmental SBIR Funding



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Environmental SBIR Funding



National Science Foundation (NSF)



National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)



Department of Energy (DOE)



United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Environmental SBIR Funding- More Information

NSF



“Almost all areas of technology”.

DOE



Scientific Instrumentation to Characterize Water, Soil, and the Atmosphere, Renewable Energy, Carbon Capture and Removal, Remediation, Water-Energy nexus.

NOAA



Climate, weather, oceans and coasts (including clean water and air).

NIEHS/SRP



NIEHS/Superfund Research Program (SRP) - Hazardous Substances Remediation and Site Characterization.

USDA



Forests, Conservation of Natural Resources, Aquaculture, Biofuels and Biobased Products.

Take Home Messages

1

Make sure your technology fits one of the specified topic areas.



2

Read solicitation carefully.



3

Start your registrations early!



4

Develop a strong, readable proposal.



5

Address all review criteria.



6

Do not wait until the last minute--submit your proposal before the deadline!



Contact Us for More Information

EPA SBIR Program Contacts:

Sneha Hoysala hoysala.sneha@epa.gov

Deborah Segal segal.deborah@epa.gov

Website: epa.gov/sbir

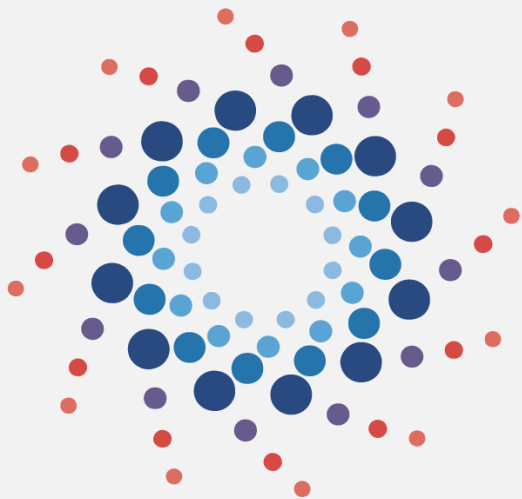
Listserv: epa.gov/sbir/sbir-listserv

Program Overview: epa.gov/sbir/about-epas-sbir-program

SBA SBIR website: SBIR.gov



Q & A



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