

# SBIR 2.0 – Frequently Asked Questions

## What is SBIR 2.0?

SBIR 2.0 is a set of initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the SBIR program across the participating 11 agencies.<sup>1</sup> The initial set of changes focuses on making the program more entrepreneur-friendly. The spirit of SBIR 2.0 includes simplifying and streamlining, sharing best practices across agencies, improving performance management, and increasing program transparency.

## Where did the ideas for these changes come from?

Most of these ideas are not new; many have been discussed for some time. We have seen them in recommendations from independent, 3<sup>rd</sup> party studies like the National Academies, as well as in feedback from many small businesses. This effort is the product of an inter-agency working group that brought together SBIR program managers to identify and implement changes to the program in a coordinated way across all agencies.

## What do you mean by “2.0”

Ok. We are guilty as charged in jumping on the “2.0” bandwagon. Embodied in that concept, though, are important ideas. First, we are launching a series of enhancements to improve the program – particularly from the perspective of the entrepreneur. We look at this as an “updated release” – to borrow the language of software development. Second, we are moving towards a bias in making progress – let’s take ideas for improvement and be proactive. Let’s not make “the perfect” be the enemy of “the good.” We will get started with changes and look to iterate and evolve - based on feedback and empirical data. We are thinking in terms of evolution than revolution.

## What agencies are participating in SBIR 2.0?

All agencies have had the opportunity to participate in the effort. It is important to note that SBIR 2.0 is not one initiative but several initiatives packaged to increase the effectiveness of the program for entrepreneurs.

Different agencies are participating in different initiatives. Consult the agencies’ programs for further specifics on participation.

## When will all of this happen?

It’s best to think of this as an ongoing set of changes that will be rolled out during the year. The timing will depend on the specific initiative.

In some cases, like the joint solicitation, it will be immediate. The solicitation will open in late September with an application deadline in early December. In other cases, like the development of the

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<sup>1</sup> For links to the specific agencies’ programs, please consult: [http://www.sbir.gov/federal\\_links.htm](http://www.sbir.gov/federal_links.htm)

integrated portal, we will begin work immediately, but the results won't be rolled out until 2011. For the streamlining effort, we will set the two month target right now but recognize that it will take time to implement tools and change processes to make that happen. And clearly for any changes that include modification of the SBA policy directive, such as an amendment to data rights, we will follow the traditional process of OMB review – including public comment and other protocols.

**How are the matching funds assigned to Phase II companies?**

In general, each agency matches qualified, 3<sup>rd</sup> party investment in Phase II companies. The particular Phase II Match funds' policies are set at the agencies' program level and do not have a uniform way that the funds are applied. Please consult the individual agencies for specific details

**How can I find the technology transfer SBIR topics?**

Please consult the individual agency sites for the topics, as they become valuable. As we begin to remake the SBIR site, we will mark the technology transfer topics.

**What is the relationship between SBIR 2.0 and the pending reauthorization of the SBIR program?**

There is no relationship with the reauthorization discussions in Congress. SBIR 2.0 is an effort to improve how the program is managed within the present statutory authority.

**Does SBIR 2.0 affect eligibility requirements for small businesses?**

No, the current eligibility requirements for companies to apply to the SBIR program are not affected as a product of these initiatives.