

RAMP for Innovators Act

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Background

- **For over 40 years, the SBIR/STTR program has supported innovative small businesses**, converting scientific breakthroughs into technologies that address federal R&D needs.
- **Too few projects funded by SBIR/STTR become commercialized technologies.** Across 11 participating federal agencies—including DOD, HHS, NASA, DOE, and NSF—only about half of SBIR/STTR awards result in commercialized products.
- **Delays in application decisions, disbursement of funds, and patent awards** make it difficult to keep a small business operational while waiting on SBIR/STTR funds.
- **Congress must increase the program's emphasis on commercialization** and needs greater visibility into SBIR/STTR program performance.

The Research Advancing to Market Production (RAMP) for Innovators Act would:

1. **Streamline and accelerate the application and award process**, and ensure assessment of commercial potential when evaluating SBIR/STTR grant applications.
2. **Provide agencies a fast-track option for promising firms**, allowing projects with commercial potential to receive Phase II awards without having previously received a Phase I award.
3. **Designate a Technology Commercialization Officer** at each agency with an SBIR/STTR program..
4. **Provide awardees with uniform technical assistance and commercialization support** across agencies and expand the allowable uses of funds to include commercialization activities.
5. **Provide awardees with access to I-Corps training**, which helps innovators bring their technologies to market.
6. **Increase clarity on SBIR/STTR commercialization performance** by requiring a data-driven impact assessment.
7. **Establish a fast-track patent examination process**, allowing SBIR and STTR recipients to protect their intellectual property.

The RAMP for Innovators Act is endorsed by Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), the University City Science Center, the Delaware Small Business Development Center, and BPC Action.