

Endorsements for the RAMP for Innovators Act

"ITIF supports RAMP for Innovators, the Research Advancing to Market Production for Innovators Act, which will further bolster the commercialization potential of SBIR/STTR programs through improvements such as making commercialization potential a stronger consideration in project selection, clarifying that all awardees may use a share of Phase I and II funds for commercially oriented activities, and supporting the ability of innovators to secure intellectual property rights underpinning their inventions through stronger linkages with the PTO," **said Dr. Rob Atkinson, President of ITIF.**

"The RAMP for Innovators Act will further strengthen the commercialization opportunities from SBIR and STTR, and will enact several key changes to help small businesses better transition their technologies to the marketplace," **said Jere Glover, Executive Director of the Small Business Technology Council.**

"The University City Science Center heartily endorses the Research Advancing to Market Production (RAMP) for Innovators Act introduced by Senators Coons and Rubio and Representatives Houlahan and Balderson. This legislation would codify language that has already been signed into law to ensure that commercialization is central to the goals of SBIR and STTR. The RAMP for Innovators Act fulfills the mission of the 2016 SBIR/STTR recommendations from the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NACIE) at the Department of Commerce. I was honored to serve as a member of NACIE during this time and believe these recommendations are necessary to fulfill our commercialization needs in this country," **said Tiffany Wilson, CEO of the University City Science Center.**

"Delaware SBDC is pleased to endorse the new SBIR Commercialization Bill, the Research Advancing to Market Production for Innovators Act. There are significant improvements to help entrepreneurs move innovation to commercialization," **said Mike Bowman, Director of Delaware Small Business Development Center.**

"American innovation is the foundation upon which U.S. economic competitiveness is built. Commercializing more new technologies helps the United States strengthen its edge over our competitors and ensures taxpayers get a good return on their investment in research and development. BPC Action applauds Senators Coons and Rubio for their bipartisan leadership in reintroducing the RAMP for Innovators Act," **said Michele Stockwell, Executive Director of BPC Action.**

"Several aspects of this bill, including allowing patent expenses and providing business assistance, are commendable as they would pave the way for start-ups to mature and commercialize their innovative technologies," **said Sridhar Kota, Founder and CEO of FlexSys Inc.**

Letter of support from the National Small Business Development Center (SBDC) organization is included below.



April 18, 2023

The Honorable Christopher Coons
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Coons,

America's SBDCs, the association representing the sixty-three small business development center (SBDC) networks and their nearly 1,000 centers, wishes to express its strong support for the *RAMP for Innovators Act of 2023*. This bill will rejuvenate the SBIR/STTR programs and restore their effectiveness in supporting technological innovations that address federal agency R&D needs. SBDCs play a strong role in the SBIR/STTR programs by aiding entrepreneurs in applying for SBIR/STTR and supporting their journey to commercialization, and we believe these improvements are necessary.

In the 30-year history of SBIR/STTR barriers have arisen that hamper its ability to support small business innovation. Delays in applications, disbursement of funds, and a lack of geographic and demographic diversity mean that the commercialization of many worthwhile technologies fails, and useful innovations and nascent firms fall into the "valley of death". The *RAMP Act* seeks to prevent these failures and aid our clients and other innovators seeking to reach the marketplace.

In particular, America's SBDCs support the provisions to ensure assessment of commercial potential when evaluating SBIR/STTR grant applications and expanding the allowable uses of funds to include commercialization activities.

We also support your efforts to reduce the time from research project to marketable product by streamlining and standardizing the application process and accelerating agency final decisions from one year to 180 days. SBIR participants will also be able obtain IP protection before going to market using a SBIR/STTR only prioritized examination pathway, and waivers of prioritized examination fees vital tools in the path to commercialization.

Again, Senator Coons, thank you for this timely legislation. America's SBDCs look forward to working with you on its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Edward Rowe III".

C. Edward Rowe III
President/CEO