

## **New Concept:**

### **Integration of SBIR and Private Funds to Support the Commercialization of Federal Technologies**

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The SBIR Program is designed in part to promote the commercialization of federal technologies. The SBIR TT Program initiated at NIST addresses that goal by soliciting SBIR research proposals that advances federal technologies toward commercial application and providing SBIR funds along with other supporting resources. See: C. Asmail, "Use of Small Business Innovation (SBIR) Program in Support of Technology Transfer," *les Nouvelles*, vol. XLV, No. 3, pp 135-139. Sept 2010. The resulting SBIR TT projects have an intrinsic value much larger than the normal SBIR award. That is, in addition to the accrual of SBIR funds and the values added by the awardee, SBIR TT projects inherit the in built-in value of the background technology developed at the federal lab. At the time of this writing, several other federal agencies' SBIR programs are in various stages of implementing this approach. Most notably, the NIH has already launched a solicitation which includes SBIR TT subtopics.

There are many agencies that implement commercialization acceleration programs in adjunct to their SBIR programs. These programs are varied in their operations, size and limitations. Many of these programs provide government funds as leverage to supplement private capital raised by their SBIR awardees. See attached spreadsheet for details on each of these implementations.

For agencies that have intramurally-developed technologies which they seek to commercialize through an SBIR TT approach, there may be added benefit if a commercialization acceleration program were to be supplemented to the background technology/SBIR award package. The agency would bolster the advancement of its intramural research by a small company through the SBIR research project and continue to invest in it through the supplemental commercialization advancement award. Further, and importantly for the private investment community, such projects would be significantly attractive as there is generous investment already embedded in the technology (first at federal lab and then augmented via SBIR award) in addition to the government vetting that the company had already overcome to have secured the SBIR TT award.

An SBIR TT 2B –type program poses a win-win for the federal agency and the private investment community seeking to take advantage of valuable, often dormant, federal technologies which require additional private sweat and capital equity.

NIST does not intend to pursue implementation of an SBIR TT 2B program. This concept paper is for information only; it does not imply recommendation or endorsement by NIST.