

# WARFIGHTER FIRST

Defense Logistics Agency Research & Development

## SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION PROGRAMS (SBIP) SBIR/STTR/RIF

DLA's mission is to sustain Warfighter readiness and lethality by delivering proactive global logistics in peace and war. Sustaining a full range of military operations in an increasingly complex global environment remains DLA's number one priority. DLA strives to make it fast and easy for customers to work with our Agency by quickly understanding current requirements and anticipating their future needs. In support of the major subordinate commands and military Services, SBIP helps to ensure readiness and lethality across the end-to-end supply chain by optimizing retail and industrial support, which ultimately reduces risk and increases efficiency, and positions solutions for Warfighter requirements.

*“The men and women of our Nation’s Armed Forces... stand ready to selflessly defend our Nation. We owe it to our warriors to ensure that we provide them with the necessary training and equipment to meet current and future challenges.”*

President Donald Trump, Proclamation on Armed Forces Day, 2020

### SUPPORTING WARFIGHTER READINESS



Warfighters need maintained, reliable weapons to fight and win our nation's battles, but many systems are challenged by obsolescence and limited sources for critical parts.

Through three competitive awards-based programs – the **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)**, **Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)**, and the **Rapid Innovation Fund (RIF)** – SBIP works with industry and DLA customers to qualify small businesses with core competencies in reverse engineering and parts manufacturing as new sources of supply and transition innovative advanced manufacturing techniques to government programs of record.

DLA's top priorities are the Air Launched Cruise Missile, F107 Engine, Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, Ohio Class Submarine, B52 Stratofortress, B2 Spirit, and MK48 Torpedo.



### STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

**Nuclear Modernization.** To maintain nuclear weapons systems readiness, SBIP seeks to qualify alternate sources of supply through the reverse engineering of technical data and/or source approval processes to improve availability for consumable parts for weapons systems with limited or diminishing sources of supply.

**Force Readiness & Lethality.** To improve life cycle performance through technological advancement, innovation and reengineering, SBIP strives to mitigate single points-of-failure that threaten the readiness of weapons systems used by our Warfighters.

**Supply Chain Innovation.** To maintain a secure and resilient supply chain, SBIP provides opportunities for our small business industrial base to engage in technological innovations that enhance supply chain operations, improve procurement lead times, and reduce life cycle costs.

**Supply Chain Assurance.** To ensure supply chain readiness, SBIP endeavors to secure the microelectronics supply chain, adopt industrial base best practices associated with counterfeit risk reduction, and develop a domestic supply of rare earth elements essential to maintain the integrity of DLA's complex supply chain.

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## “The Nation’s Combat Logistics Support Agency”

### WARFIGHTER READINESS INNOVATIONS



Response Technologies (West Warwick, RI) is reinventing a decades-old technology – the flexible fuel cell. The current process used for manufacturing flexible fuel cells, does not capitalize on advanced manufacturing capabilities or

efficiencies. Response Technologies incorporated additive manufacturing and materials engineering, resulting in a seamless, crashworthy, ballistically-tolerant, self-sealing fuel cell that is universally fuel compatible and will be the first to conform to MIL-DTL 27422F.



Parts Life, Inc. (Moorestown, NJ) reverse engineered a critical ‘no source’ item for the Air Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) Program Office – non-metallic RAM Fin Seals. Parts Life was approved by the Air Force

Engineering Support Activity as a source of supply and delivered their first procurement order for the seals within a year of receiving their SBIP contract.



Spectral Labs, Inc. (San Diego, CA) reverse and value engineered the Multiple Bank Field Radio Battery Charger and is now an approved source of supply, selling the redesigned charger to the defense supply chain. Primarily used for tactical

radios, the charger was previously a limited source item and Spectral Lab’s design reduced cost up to 35%.



QorTek, Inc. (Williamsport, PA), reverse engineered and manufactured the Naval Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) DC-DC Power Supply. Prior to QorTek’s effort, the LCAC Power Supply was a critical ‘no-source’ item,

which threatened the functionality and deployment of the amphibious landing hovercraft. LCACs are used to transport weapons systems, equipment, Marines and Sailors from ship-to-shore in operational areas.

### HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

More information about the Small Business Innovation Program can be found on the SBIP Website:

<http://www.dla.mil/SmallBusiness/SmallBusinessInnovationPrograms/>



A schedule of solicitations and topics released by all DoD components (Broad Agency Announcements (BAA)), can be found on the DoD SBIR/STTR website, the Defense Innovation Portal:

<https://www.dodsbirsttr.mil/submissions/login>



Carefully review the instructions. Evaluate the topic content and reach out to the SBIP program management team within the first 30 days from the announcement date for questions or clarifications.

At minimum, proposals are evaluated on: **1)** The relevance of the innovation to the DLA requirement; **2)** Technical sufficiency, facilities and SOW feasibility; **3)** Qualifications of the PI and supporting staff; **4)** The potential of technology for transition to a program of record; and **5)** Cost.

A small business can distinguish themselves among the competing proposals by including: **6)** A business case analysis; **7)** A strategy and a plan to transition the innovation to a government program of record; and **8)** An industrial partner that will qualify the innovation for the DoD supply chain and connect the innovation with a government program of record. OEM letters of endorsement and/or in-kind support are recommended.

**If you have any questions, please contact us at [DLASBIR2@dla.mil](mailto:DLASBIR2@dla.mil)**

