

# 2000 Innovations in American Government Awards

## DoD's "Fast Track" Initiative Named Semifinalist

SMALL BUSINESS  
INNOVATION RESEARCH  
Department of Defense



"Fast Track," a bold experiment in public-private collaboration to enable small companies to develop commercially successful new technologies, has placed DoD's Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) squarely in the running for one of the coveted 2000 *Innovations in American Government Awards*.

The new Fast Track initiative, managed by the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SADBU), provides a significantly higher chance of Small Business Innovation Research/ Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/SBTT) award and continuous funding to small companies that can attract outside investors. For the investors, Fast Track offers an opportunity to obtain a match of between \$1 and \$4 in DoD SBIR/STTR funds for every \$1 the investor puts in.

The Department of Defense (DoD) SBIR and STTR programs fund over \$5 billion each year in early-stage Research and Development (R&D) projects at small technology companies – projects that serve a DoD need and have commercial applications.

- The SBIR Program provides up to \$850,000 in early-stage R&D funding directly to small technology companies (or individual entrepreneurs who form a company).
- The STTR Program provides up to \$600,000 in early-stage R&D funding directly to small companies working cooperatively with researchers at universities and other research institutions.

Small companies retain the intellectual property rights to technologies they develop under these programs. Funding is awarded competitively, but the process is streamlined and user-friendly.

### About the Awards

Started in 1986, the Innovations Awards are sponsored by the Ford Foundation and administered by Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government. The awards recognize government initiatives that are original and effective. The rigorous selection process is based on four criteria that are used to evaluate each application: originality of the approach; effectiveness in addressing important problems; value of services to clients; and the potential for replication in other jurisdictions.

In early September, the National Selection Committee will name 25 finalists. On October 13, they will announce the 10 winners who are then awarded \$100,000 each from the Ford Foundation. The remaining 15 finalists will each receive \$20,000.

**Editor's Note:** If you have questions about how to participate in SBIR, STTR, or Fast Track, please contact the SBIR/STTR Help Desk by phone, fax, or E-mail.

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