

# **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.*