

GAO Review of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

Questions for the Women In Defense

1. Please provide an overview of your organization, its membership, and your role in the organization.
2. Do you believe SBIR agencies--in particular the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Institutes of Health, and the National Science Foundation--have struck a reasonable balance between promoting commercialization of innovations derived from federally funded research and development (R&D) and addressing the SBIR program's other goals, such as meeting federal R&D needs?
3. Of these agencies, which, in your opinion, has the most effective outreach to businesses owned by women or disadvantaged groups and why? Do you have any suggestions for improving SBIR agencies' outreach to such businesses?
4. Please share your views on the key challenges that businesses owned by women or disadvantaged groups face in commercializing the results of SBIR R&D. To what extent do SBIR agencies' efforts to promote commercialization address these challenges? Would you recommend any areas for improvement in SBIR agencies' efforts to promote commercialization?
5. Do you have any suggestions for either improving how agencies monitor the commercialization of SBIR research, or for encouraging SBIR award recipients to report on commercialization successes or failures, in order to help agencies evaluate the program?
6. What opportunities has your organization had for input into the SBIR program? Are you in contact with SBIR agencies in relation to the program? If so, please explain (e.g., purpose and frequency of the contacts, who initiates them).
7. Was your organization, or to your knowledge, any other small business interest group, consulted in relation to SBA's initiatives to improve the SBIR program – i.e., SBIR 2.0?
 - a. What are your views on these initiatives?
 - b. Are there any issues important to your organization that SBIR 2.0 is not addressing?
8. Is there anything else that you would like to add regarding the SBIR program?
9. Are there any other industry representatives or other parties that you recommend we contact for our review?