

Federal Agency Access to StormCenter Technology via SBIR Phase III Contracts

The SBA's Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)

SBIR is a highly competitive program that encourages small businesses to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization.

Each year, thirteen federal departments and agencies are required to reserve a portion of their R&D funds for award to small businesses through agency SBIR programs.

Three-Phase Program

Following submission of proposals, agencies make SBIR awards based on small business qualification, degree of innovation, technical merit, and future market potential. Small businesses that receive awards then begin a three-phase program.

- Phase I is the startup phase. Awards of up to \$100,000 for approximately 6 months support exploration of the technical merit or feasibility of an idea or technology.
- Phase II awards of up to \$750,000, for as many as 2 years, expand Phase I results. During this time, the R&D work is performed and the developer evaluates commercialization potential. Only Phase I award winners are considered for Phase II.
- Phase III is the period during which Phase II innovation moves from the laboratory into the marketplace. No SBIR program funds support this phase. The small business must find funding in the private sector or through federal contracts that are not funded by SBIR programs.

Phase III Contract Facts

(The full text of the SBA's *SBIR Policy Directive* is available at

https://www.sbir.gov/sites/default/files/sbir_pd_with_1-8-14_amendments_2-24-14.pdf)

1. Phase 3 contracts may be awarded by federal agencies other than those that funded Phase I and II contracts.
2. The **competition for SBIR Phase I and II awards satisfies any competition requirement of the Armed Services Procurement Act, the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, and the Competition in Contracting Act**. An agency that wishes to fund an SBIR Phase III project is not required to conduct another competition in order to satisfy those statutory provisions. As a result, in conducting actions relative to a Phase III SBIR award, it is sufficient to state for purposes of a Justification and Approval pursuant to FAR 6.302-5, that the project is a SBIR Phase III award that is derived from, extends, or completes efforts made under prior SBIR funding agreements and is authorized under 10 U.S.C. 2304(b)(2) or 41 U.S.C. 3303(b).
3. There is **no limit on the number, duration, type, or dollar value of Phase III awards** made to a business concern. There is no limit on the time that may elapse between a Phase I or Phase II award and Phase III award, or between a Phase III award and any subsequent Phase III award.

4. To the greatest extent practicable, **agencies** or their Government-owned, contractor-operated facilities, Federally-funded research and development centers, or Government prime contractors **that pursue R/R&D or production developed under the SBIR Program, shall issue Phase III awards relating to technology, including sole source awards, to the SBIR awardee that developed the technology.**

StormCenter Communications Has Achieved Phase III Status

By virtue of having successfully completed NASA Phase 1 contract NNX11CH53P and NASA Phase 2, 2-e contract NNX12CA85C, agencies across the federal government may contract with StormCenter on a sole source basis for technical work in the following SBIR Phases I- and II-funded areas:

- **Collaborative decision-making using a Common Operating Picture (COP),**
- **Decision support services requiring geospatial situational awareness,**
- **Cross-platform virtual globe collaboration,**
- **Visualization of earth science data using 3-D virtual globes,**
- **Real-time collaboration using geobrowsers (i.e., NASA World Wind or Google Earth®), and**
- **Innovation, training, or support related to any of these topics.**

StormCenter Contacts

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