



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: July 15, 2002

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Release Number: 02-37

Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news/indexheadline.html>

SBA SEEKS NOMINEES TO COMPETE FOR SBIR'S HIGH-TECH TIBBETTS AWARD

WASHINGTON –The U.S. Small Business Administration is seeking nominations for companies, groups and individuals affiliated with or participating in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program to receive the prestigious Tibbetts award.

The award is presented annually by the SBA to small businesses working in research and development to recognize them as “models of excellence” in the area of high technology.

Companies, organizations and individuals participating in the SBIR program are invited to review the nomination requirements on the SBA Web site at www.sba.gov/sbir. The deadline for submitting a nomination is July 31.

“These small business owners will be recognized for their contributions to the federal government and society by way of their innovative concepts, technological advances and research and development,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto.

This is the seventh year for the Tibbetts award, named for Roland Tibbetts who spearheaded the creation of the SBIR program. In years past, the award was presented to companies and individuals from almost every state in the nation. This year’s award presentation will take place on Oct. 2 at the Hotel Washington in Washington, D.C.

“The SBA is committed to representing small business men and women as an effective and efficient 21st century national organization that focuses on innovation, simplification and dedication, in order to create a climate in which entrepreneurship can be both encouraged and sustained,” Administrator Barreto continued.

The SBIR program is administered by the SBA and implemented by 10 federal agencies with research and development budgets of over \$100 million. Those agencies are the Department of Defense, Department of Commerce, Department of Education, Department of Energy, Department of Health & Human Services, Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, National Aeronautics & Space Administration, National Science Foundation, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

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The SBIR program is widely acknowledged as producing some of the government's most highly rated research. SBIR is a competitive three-phase program that allows small businesses to propose innovative ideas to meet the specific research and development needs of the federal government. The program also promotes commercialization of the innovations derived from the federal research effort. Federal grants and contracts for the research and development proposals are awarded on a competitive basis.

The Tibbetts award winners will be selected based on, among other things, the economic impact of the technological innovation, overall business achievement and demonstration of effective collaborations.

Anyone interested in the Tibbetts awards can obtain additional information by contacting their local SBA district office listed in the government section of the telephone book or by accessing the agency's Web page at: www.sba.gov/sbir.

For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at <http://www.sba.gov>.

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