

SBIR/STTR TRANSITIONS

NAVSEA SPOTLIGHT



NAVSEA Receives DoD SBIR Vanguard Award

By Tara M. Clapper

The DoD awarded the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) team with its SBIR/STTR Vanguard Award in September in recognition of NAVSEA's outstanding work in FY2019.

The team received the award for focusing on the Department of Navy's (DoN's) broader stated goal: to rapidly and adaptively procure innovative technologies from small businesses. The NAVSEA team accomplished this by accelerating the SBIR submission and awards processes as well as streamlining the submission forms, evaluation, and approval methods and timeframes.

Specifically, the team reduced the average contract award timeline from 143 days to 59 days. Pleased with the process, SBIR small business concerns (SBCs) reported enthusiasm about applying for SBIRs in the future.

Phase I improvements focused on reducing applications from 20 pages to five.

NAVSEA implemented an SBIR/STTR Phase II pilot, the Accelerated SBIR/STTR Acquisition Program (ASAP), which reduced technology development timelines from six years to three while providing the same amount of funding as a typical Phase II to accelerate development and get funding to the SBCs more quickly.

Regarding Phase III contracts, the team took an alternative approach to transition, working directly with the General Services Administration (GSA). Instead of the typical 10-18 months expected for Phase III transition, the team narrowed the timeline to 190 days.

The award-winning NAVSEA SBIR team includes:

- Dean Putnam, NAVSEA SBIR/STTR Program Manager
- Bob Mitchell, PEO Ships SBIR/STTR Technology Manager
- Douglas Marker, PEO IWS SBIR/STTR Technology Manager
- Denitra Carter, SEA 05T Financial Management Analyst
- Brad Goodrich, PEO USC Innovation Technical Director
- Richard Park, PEO Carriers SBIR/STTR Technology Manager
- Patrick Tyler, PEO Submarines Deputy Program Manager, SEA 07
- John Vlattas, Deputy Undersea Warfare Chief Technology Officer & Program Manager
- Brian Quarles, PEO Submarines SBIR/STTR Technology Manager

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Various contractors also contributed to the work.

The DoD presents this award to a team that “exemplifies excellence in government service and has achieved outstanding results implementing innovative solutions across all phases of the SBIR program, from initial topic development to successful transition of technologies to a program of record.”

In addition to a congratulatory message from DoN SBIR/STTR Program Director Bob Smith, the NAVSEA SBIR team received a commendation from NAVSEA Division Director Jeffrey Brewer.

Brewer stated, “This award recognizes the defense acquisition workforce’s collaborative commitment to creating small business opportunities and maximizing small business

contributions to support the department’s mission.”

Recognized formally by the DoD, the team’s commitment to innovation and development continues to exemplify success that propels the DoN forward by harnessing technological advancements produced by small businesses to meet emergent government needs in a competitive global seascape.

By reducing the amount of administrative paperwork required for transition, creating more accessible and streamlined documentation for SBCs, and working directly with the GSA and other participating agencies, the NAVSEA SBIR team can and will continue to save time and innovate on a tighter timeframe, contributing to the overall technological advantage the United States Navy holds over adversaries.



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class James Vazquez/Released)

