About AFVentures

A dual-use approach to national security solutions — AFVentures, the commercial investment arm of the Air Force, creates simple pathways for commercial innovators and private capital investment to help the Department of the Air Force solve problems.

The flag-ship investment program at AFVentures is the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program Open Topic. With the Open Topic, AFVentures leverages a portion of the SBIR/STTR budget to enable the Air Force to develop and adopt commercially viable innovations while providing a competitive edge to the U.S. entrepreneur and technology ecosystem.

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AFVentures (AFV)

Stakeholder(s):
U.S. Air Force

Vision

Mission
To leverage commercial technology to deliver better capability to the warfighter, faster.
1. Small Business Solutions

*Provide funding to small businesses offering unsolicited solutions*

**Stakeholder(s):**

**Small Businesses:**
This program is open to startups and small businesses with less than 500 employees that are majority American-owned.

SBIR Open Topic — The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Open Topic program operates on a single solicitation that is an open call for all solutions - this allows businesses the flexibility to bring us tools and technology we didn't think to ask for.

1.1. Technological Potentials

*Enable small businesses to explore their technological potentials*

**Stakeholder(s):**

**Air Force Research Lab (AFRL):**
AFWERX, in partnership with Air Force Research Lab (AFRL), and the National Security Innovation Network (NSIN), developed the SBIR Open Topics to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and transition rate of the SBIR program.

**National Security Innovation Network (NSIN):**

1.2. Commercialization

*Provide incentive for commercialization of small business’ technological potentials*
2. Partnership Solutions

Provide funding to small businesses offering unsolicited solutions in partnership with universities, research centers, and non-profit development organizations

Stakeholder(s)

Small Businesses: Businesses that apply to STTR must have less than 500 employees, be at least 51% U.S.-owned, complete at least 40% of the proposed work, and partner with a university, research center, or non-profit development organization to perform at least 30% of the proposed work.

Universities

Research Centers

Non-Profit Development Organizations

STTR Open Topic — The Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Open Topic program operates on a single solicitation that is an open call for all solutions - this allows businesses the flexibility to bring us tools and technology we didn't think to ask for.

2.1. National Security

Identify, validate, and integrate technological advances affecting our national security

Commercializing Research — Technology advances affecting our national security continue to emerge from our university system and R&D communities. The Air Force’s competitive advantage will be our collective ability to quickly identify, validate, and integrate those technologies.

2.2. Commercialization

Help small businesses commercialize emerging research in partnership with universities, non-profit entrepreneurship centers, and research centers

The Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program ‘Open Topic’ aims to help small businesses commercialize emerging research in partnership with a university, non-profit entrepreneurship center, or research center. Different from the traditional STTR program, the Open Topic is ‘open’ to any technology, customer, or application.

Stakeholder(s):

Small Businesses

Universities

Non-Profit Entrepreneurship Centers

Research Centers

2.3. IP & Marketing

Enable small businesses to protect their IP and establish themselves in both the commercial and federal marketplace

By streamlining the proposal process, accelerating contract award, and providing direct access to our global network of customers and capital, our STTR Open Topic provides unrivaled opportunity for small businesses to protect their IP and establish themselves in both the commercial and federal marketplace.

2.3.1. Proposals

Streamlining the proposal process
2.3.2. Contracts
   Accelerate contract awards

2.3.3. Customers & Capital
   Provide access to our global network of customers and capital

Administrative Information
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