

SBA announces Tibbets Awards for SBIR/STTR excellence

The U.S. Small Business Administration has announced 38 companies, seven organizations and 14 individuals as the winners of the prestigious Tibbetts Award for their accomplishments in creating cutting-edge technologies through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.

The Tibbetts Awards, named after Roland Tibbetts, the founder of the SBIR Program, honors these awardees for the exceptional successes they achieved through SBIR/STTR programs administered by DoD and other federal agencies.

In the individuals category, three civilians from the Department of the Navy received Tibbets Awards. They were Anthony Brescia, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Patuxent River, Maryland; Thomas Hill, Naval Air Systems Command, Lakehurst, New Jersey; and Dave Noel, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Of the small business recognized as Tibbets Award winners, seven of them have participated in the Navy's SBIR/STTR Transition Program, which helps small companies build upon the Navy's SBIR investment to create capability for warfighters and value for the companies. The winning Navy companies are:

ATA Engineering, San Diego

Bascom Hunter Technologies Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana

BlackBox Biometrics Inc. , Rochester, New York

Colorado Engineering Inc., Colorado Springs, Colorado

KCF Technologies Inc., State College, Pennsylvania

Orbit Logic, Greenbelt, Maryland

SubUAS LLC, Hillsborough Township, New Jersey

The products and services developed across various industries include artificial intelligence, genetics, nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, clean energy, sensors, aerospace and telecommunications. Details on each of the winners can be found on www.tibbettsawards.com.

“For nearly four decades, the SBIR and STTR programs have been assisting small businesses with launching ideas from conception to market. The Tibbetts Awards highlight our nation’s next generation of competitive creators who help push the U.S. economy into the future,” said SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza. “SBA continues to play a key role in administering these research and technology funding programs, providing ‘seed money’ to help our nation’s greatest and most innovative research entrepreneurs start, grow and transition into high-growth companies. The companies and the technologies they create played a unique role in job creation, the building of new industries and communities and addressing the nation’s most pressing challenges.”

In addition to DoD, other federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, Department of Homeland Security and Department of Energy take advantage of SBIR/STTR funding to help small companies deliver innovation technology.

According to the SBA, the SBIR/STTR program has awarded over 170,000 awards with over \$50 billion in funding to small businesses through the 11 participating federal agencies since its inception in 1982. It boasts one of the highest returns on taxpayer investment when measuring federal funding and economic impact, the SBA statement said.