

The National Tibbetts Awards Nomination Criteria 2007

Named for the individual that pioneered the program, Roland Tibbetts is universally acknowledged as the “Father of the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)” – these coveted and highly prestigious awards are made to those small firms, and in some cases specific individuals, judged to best exemplify the philosophy and doctrine of the SBIR Program.

Every effort is made to seek out the best companies and individuals from the hundreds of awards made each year to demonstrate that innovation fosters technology developments across the spectrum of science, research, technology, and development. The central theme of the National Tibbetts Awards is to emphasize those accomplishments where economic results are directly traceable to SBIR funding and significant and definable outcomes are demonstrated.

State and regional variations may exist. Efforts will be made to generate geographic distribution of the awards. The Awards are results focused and the best examples, wherever they are generated, of technological innovation, commercialization, and economic outcomes that are realized as a result of the funding by the federal government’s SBIR Program.

Two broad categories exist for the Tibbetts Awards. First, the broad Industry Sector Award where awards are made to specific SBIR Companies in as many of the categories (listed below) as possible each year. The award will be made to the Company with the understanding that no Company can perform well without a dedicated group of talented individuals.

The second category is the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award. This is the category where individuals, not employed by any SBIR company, can be nominated for potential recognition because of their active involvement with the SBIR Program, policies, and the SBIR community as a whole. This category includes, individuals working at state organizations, trade associations, state/federal employees (including elected officials), venture capital entities, universities/research centers, and non-profit organizations. This category is established to recognize those individuals that have a passion for the program beyond their normal work routines and work tirelessly to advocate and collaborate for the benefit of all the small businesses that benefit from the SBIR Program. These are often the “unsung heroes” and “behind the scenes” individuals that mentor companies and establish policies that benefit a wide spectrum of companies. An individual may receive this award **only once** in their lifetime

Award Categories

(select 1 only)

- **Individual**
- **SBIR Alumni** (*firms that have outgrown SBIR*)
- **New/young SBIR winner** (*won first SBIR less than 5 years ago*)
- **Prime Contractor of year**
- **Sub Contractor of year**
- **Medical**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Materials**
 - **Composites**
 - **Semiconductors**
- **Energy**
- **Agricultural**
- **Communications**
- **Educational**
- **Aerospace**
- **Transportation**
- **Security**
- **Environmental**
- **Software**
- **Life Sciences**
- **Nano-**
- **Chemical**
- **National Defense**
- **Other**

Judging and evaluation for companies will look at the following:

- New or strengthened national capabilities Commercial Achievement
- Novelty of Technology
- Commercial Potential
- Affect on humanity, nation, and technical community
- Corporate growth/Community Development
- Number and type of Jobs created and/or retained

National Tibbetts Award for Outstanding Individual Achievements

Criteria for qualification, an individual should have:

- 1) Created (individually or as part of a team) initiatives/policies/practices that directly resulted in the overall economic enhancement of SBIR Companies.
- 2) Initiated/implemented new (not previously established) programs that led to significant industry advances/cost-savings.
- 3) Introduced efforts which provided incentives to SBIR Companies (beyond the SBIR funding) to create new jobs or achieve new growth into areas not previously involved.
- 4) Established new efforts which foster collaborations supportive of SBIR companies beyond the initial impact of SBIR funding, which strengthened national capabilities.
- 5) Advocated policies supportive of federal SBIR Program efforts and worked with congressional principals to address shortfalls requiring legislative changes.

Judging will be done by panels of at least three individuals. One of the judges will be a government official, one will be an SBIR winner (preferable a previous Tibbetts award winner) and one judge will be from a non-profit, state or association organizations. Judges will not be allowed to participate on evaluations where they or their organizations have an interest or have made an award.

Send questions to help@tibbettsawards.org

Tibbetts Awards: An initiative of the non-profit Small Business Technology Council (SBTC) with support from NIH, NASA, NSF, Department of the Navy, DARPA, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, The Association for Manufacturing Technology, Cybernet, and Physical Sciences, Inc. Additional sponsors are pending and other sponsors are welcome.