



MTI SBIR/STTR Assistance Program

The Maine Technology Institute (MTI) has developed a robust SBIR/STTR (Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer) Assistance Program including both funding and technical support to encourage entrepreneurs and small businesses to participate in the federal SBIR/STTR Program. The +\$2Billion SBIR/STTR program is designed to encourage small businesses to perform high risk, technology-oriented research and development leading to the commercialization of new products or services.

Funding Support:

TechStart \$5,000 Grant

As a component of the Business Innovation Program, small businesses may apply for a TechStart grant to help defray the costs of writing a SBIR/STTR Phase I proposal. Applications are accepted monthly for up to \$5,000 per proposal. The grants require 1:1 matching funds consisting of actual cash, salaries, staff time or expenses directly related to developing the proposal.

Funds may be used for direct costs such as: technical proposal preparation and review, grant writers for preparing the Phase I proposal, costs to gather information (literature search, market research, etc.), in-state travel to develop partnerships for the proposal. All projects must end with the submission of a completed Phase I SBIR/STTR proposal. For more information and to download a copy of the Grant Application, go to: <http://www.mainetechnology.org/fund/techstart-grant>.

Business Accelerator Grant

Another component of the Business Innovation Program, this grant is for activities that will increase a company's chance of success such as business planning, strengthening financial management capacity, developing strategies to secure key customers, strategic partners and investors and entrepreneurship training for management. Eligible Maine companies will be those that have received federal SBIR/STTR awards and also first-time entrepreneurs who are awarded an MTI Development Loan. Companies may receive up to \$15,000 or not-to-exceed 20% for a Phase I award and up to \$50,000 or not-to-exceed 10% for a Phase II award. This award does not require a match or payback. For more information, please visit <http://www.mainetechnology.org/fund/business-accelerator-grant>.

Separate from and in addition to the funding programs listed above, MTI's offers a strong Technical Assistance Program consisting of consultants providing pro-bono guidance and advice to small businesses submitting competitive proposals to SBIR/STTR agencies:

No-Cost Technical Assistance including:

- Introduction to the SBIR/STTR program
- Proposal strategy and planning meetings
- Government accounting assistance in preparing an overhead rate and SBIR/STTR budget development
- Proposal writing guidance and support throughout the entire process
- Critical technical editing and reviews of your proposal
- Expanded follow-on assistance and support for the Phase II proposal (and in Phase I depending on the Agency), including government accounting assistance, market research and commercialization planning from expert consultants.

To set up a meeting to discuss the SBIR/STTR program, the MTI assistance programs and how your company may participate, please call MTI's SBIR/STTR consultant Karen West of C & P Management Services, LLC at 207-845-2934 or email at cpmgmt@fairpoint.net.