

November the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) launched the first ever Federal agency SBIR/STTR Phase 0 Assistance Program, aimed at helping eligible small R&D businesses and individuals successfully apply for SBIR/STTR federal funding from the DOE. Since the program is entirely funded by the DOE, these services are **AT NO COST TO PARTICIPANTS.** The goal of this program is to increase the number of responsive, high quality proposals submitted to the Department of Energy within targeted states with historically low SBIR/STTR submissions to the DOE, and amongst women and minority-owned businesses nationally.

As part of this initiative, we have already assembled a national database of small, women and minority owned firms that work in technology areas relevant to the Department of Energy. Companies and researchers may apply for services directly by completing a simple on-line form. Applicants will subsequently be contacted by a representative of the DOE Phase 0 Assistance Program to affirm that they meet the additional criteria specified by the DOE.

Recognizing that many states and other concerns offer some level of assistance to SBIR/STTR applicants, the DOE Phase 0 Assistance program may complement services already offered by existing professional organizations, small business development centers, universities, incubators and other state organizations. By working together we can increase the likelihood of attracting DOE SBIR/STTR funding to your state and to the members of your organization. For those organizations and agencies that wish to also recommend our services, we will share the names and contact information of the small businesses and qualified individuals within your state and/or organization that apply for services from the DOE Phase 0 Assistance program, thus increasing your reach. Your agency's and organization's name will also be listed on our website as a source from which a small business or qualified individual may receive complementary services.

With the upcoming DOE Funding Opportunity Agreement (FOA) to be released on November 24, 2014 we anticipate providing services to a small pool of between 40 and 100 potential applicants and will conduct outreach directly to eligible small R&D firms that meet the eligibility criteria. Eligible companies and individuals already receiving services at the state level may receive additional services from the DOE Phase 0 program. The number of companies that we can assist will increase substantially in 2015 and beyond.

The services offered by the DOE SBIR/STTR Phase 0 Assistance Program are completely **FREE to eligible small businesses and qualified individuals** who commit to form a company should they win a DOE SBIR/STTR award. Eligible parties may receive one or more specialized services following an initial assessment by a member of the Dawnbreaker team. The services include:

- 01. Letter of Intent (LOI) writing assistance;
- 02. Phase I proposal preparation, review and submission assistance;
- 03. Small business development training and mentoring;
- 04. Communication and Market Research Assistance;
- 05. Technology advice and consultation;
- 06. Indirect rate and financial information.

Additional services will be available in 2015. As part of this initiative, an on-line learning management system (LMS) is under development and will be available in May 2015. This site will provide training on proposal preparation for individuals interested in preparing a DOE SBIR/STTR Phase I proposal and will be available nationally at no charge to everyone.

For more information on the DOE Phase 0 initiative, please visit our website at: www.dawnbreaker.com/DOEPhase0

