



U.S. Small Business
Administration

SBIR Road Tour: Pittsburgh Federal Agency Program Manager Bios

Contents

1.	Dennis Forbes, USPTO	2
2.	Brittany Sickler, SBA.....	2
3.	Ben Schrag, NSF	3
4.	Robert Vinson, NIH	3
5.	Elden Hawkes, USDA.....	4
6.	Chris O'Gwin, DOE	4
7.	Anthony Aldrich, DOD - USSOCOM.....	5
8.	Jordan Reynolds, DOD - MDA	5
9.	Susan Celis, DOD - DARPA.....	6
10.	Joy McGlasson, DOD - NAVY	6
11.	Rajesh Mehta, NSF.....	7
12.	Dusty Lang, DHS.....	7
13.	Carol Lewis, NASA	8
14.	Jonathan Leggett, DOD - NAVSEA	9

1. Dennis Forbes



Innovation Development Outreach and Program Specialist
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

Dennis Forbes, an Innovation Development Outreach and Program Specialist at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, works in the Office of Innovation Development (OID) where he actively develops and launches outreach engagement programs that foster meaningful patent education awareness for independent inventors, small businesses, entrepreneurs, makers, and universities, including K-12. In addition, Forbes conducts interactive informational presentations of design intellectual property products to USPTO visitors. Forbes received an MPA from American University, Washington, D.C., and earned an M.A. and B.A. from North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina.

2. Brittany Sickler



Outreach and Partnership Strategist, Office of Innovation
U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Brittany Sickler serves as outreach, training, and partnership strategist for the SBA's Office of Investment and Innovation. Her primary duties support the advancement of the Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/ STTR) programs, which enable small businesses to explore their technological potential and profit from its commercialization. She oversees initiatives to increase understanding of SBIR/STTR opportunities with SBA offices and partner networks across the country, as well as manages the agency's Federal and State Technology (FAST) Partnership Program. Brittany spent almost four years in SBA's North Dakota District Office as an Economic Development Specialist, building and strengthening connections throughout the state, particularly with regional startup networks and rural communities. She also served as Special Advisor in SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development, advancing strategic initiatives and coordinating SBA's first Virtual Conference.

Prior to SBA, Brittany served in Guatemala as a Peace Corps Volunteer and Volunteer Leader in the Sustainable Community Tourism program, a combination of economic development and environmental conservation. She was a Masters International Fellow, completing a Master's in International Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University. She also holds degrees in Business Administration and Spanish from Indiana Wesleyan University. Her career in economic development started in Southern Florida with microlender ACCION USA, providing small business loans to individuals who could not access traditional credit.

3. Ben Schrag



Senior Program Director for SBIR/STTR
National Science Foundation (NSF)

Ben Schrag is the acting Deputy Division Director for the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships at NSF, and the Senior Program Director for the SBIR/STTR program. He joined the NSF as a Program Director in 2009, leading the Advanced Materials and Instrumentation portfolio in the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs. Prior to NSF, he was the Director of Research and Development at Micro Magnetics, where he led a development effort to commercialize a new family of high-performance magnetic microsensor products for demanding consumer and military applications. Ben received his Ph.D. in Physics from Brown University.

4. Robert Vinson



Program Manager, SBIR
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Mr. Vinson serves as a Program Manager for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) SBIR/STTR Program in the Office of Extramural Programs, Office of Extramural Research (OER). In this role he is responsible for providing resources to Federal staffers and access to critical information for the small business community seeking early-stage Federal funding. His duties include serving as the Contracting Officer's Representative for the NIH Niche Assessment Program and the Commercialization Accelerator Program. These programs provide technical assistance, market analysis, and commercialization guidance for NIH SBIR/STTR Phase I and Phase II awardees. Rob is also the OER Task Manager for the NIH Performance Outcomes Data System.

Before joining the SBIR/STTR Program Office, he was a Senior Grants Policy Analyst at the National Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute (NHLBI). In that role, he managed initiatives and special projects on a variety of grants and administrative policy

issues. Rob had been with NHLBI since 1993 where his career began as a Grants Management Specialist and rose to the positions of Team Leader, Grants Management Officer, and Branch Chief. Prior to joining NIH Rob was a commercial loan officer, with an emphasis on small business development and community revitalization.

5. Elden Hawkes



Program Specialist
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Elden is a Program Specialist and coordinates and implements the procedures for the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) related to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. This includes planning, developing, and providing logistical expertise for competitive SBIR grants and applications and special projects related to the advancement of the SBIR program.

Prior to joining NIFA, he served as the Policy and Development Coordinator for the American Fisheries Society. He holds a B.S. in Environmental Science and Marine Science and an M.S. in Food and Agriculture with a concentration in Natural Resource Management both from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

6. Chris O'Gwin



Outreach and Assistance Program Manager
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

The mission of the DOE SBIR/STTR Programs Office is to manage the administration and evaluation of about 2,000 Phase I and Phase II grant applications each year. The annual budget of the DOE SBIR/STTR programs is \$205M and enables the DOE to award approximately 400 Phase I and II grants every year.

Chris is principally responsible for managing the DOE SBIR/STTR Outreach and Assistance program. In this capacity, he facilitates a nationwide effort to develop and increase its underrepresented small business research and development base in search of SBIR/STTR grant opportunities.

Chris has worked for the DOE since November 1987, holding positions of leadership in both administrative and technical organizations. He received a BS in Business Education from Longwood University and an MS in Government from the Johns Hopkins University.

7. Anthony Aldrich



SBIR Program Manager
U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)

Mr. Anthony J Aldrich is the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Program Manager for Special Operations Forces, Acquisition, Technology & Logistics (SOF AT&L), Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He is responsible for all USSOCOM SOF AT&L SBIR funded activities. Mr. Aldrich has over 14 years of civilian Federal service.

Mr. Aldrich entered Federal Service in 2002 as a Physicist at Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Florida where he served in the Guided Weapons Evaluation Facility as a Hardware-In-the-Loop Test and Evaluation engineer. In 2005, he transferred to the Eglin Range Support Squadron serving as an Electronics Engineer and Program Manager for the threat radar, tracking radar and telemetry systems. Mr. Aldrich transferred to Us Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation in 2009, where he supported the Range Radar Replacement Program as a Project Director.

Prior to entering Civil Service, Mr. Aldrich worked at various small businesses designing Industrial Control Systems, Medical Equipment and Aviation Electronics.

EDUCATION: University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK -Bachelor of Science degree in Physics, 1984.

8. Jordan Reynolds



Deputy Operations Manager, SBIR/ STTR Program
Missile Defense Agency (MDA)

Mr. Jordan Reynolds serves as the Deputy Operations Manager for the SBIR/ STTR program as part of the Missile Defense Agency Advanced Research Directorate. In this role, he executes the Agency's vision for capitalizing on the creativity and innovation of the nation's entrepreneurs and small businesses. Through an aggressive outreach program and encouraging business ties with the Government, the program enhances the technical capability of the Ballistic Missile Defense System.

Mr. Reynolds joined the Missile Defense Agency as a contractor in 2012 supporting the Command & Control, Battle Management and Communications (C2BMC) program. Serving as an Acquisition Analyst, he managed cost, schedule and performance for the program's Logistics, Operations & Sustainment Program. In 2014 Mr. Reynolds transitioned to Project

Manager for the new concept C2BMC Training Support System (TSS). He oversaw TSS development from prototype to production and coordinated the system's deployment in support of missile defense operations in STRATCOM, NORTHCOM, PACOM, EUCOM and CENTCOM. Mr. Reynolds began his civilian federal service career in 2015 with the Missile Defense Agency by joining the Advanced Research Directorate in his current role as the Deputy Operations Manager for the SBIR/ STTR Program.

Mr. Reynolds has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Military History from Presbyterian College and a Master's degree in Business Administration from The University of Alabama. He is a First Lieutenant in the Army Reserves and currently serves as a Civil Affairs Team Leader.

9. Susan Celis



Program Director, Small Business Programs Office
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

Ms. Celis has served the Department of Defense for 30 years in a variety of positions ranging from financial management, personnel management, and program analysis/management to computer information systems development, and training. She served as the US Army SBIR Program Manager at the US Army Materiel Command from 2004-2008 and is currently serving at DARPA as Small Business Programs Office Director, where she is focused on creating an environment that considers small businesses a primary source of innovative solutions. Ms. Celis holds a Bachelor of Science in Management and Computer Information Systems from Park University, and a Master of Public Administration from American University.

10. Joy McGlasson



SBIR/STTR Operations Manager
U.S. Navy

Mrs. McGlasson recently joined the Federal civilian workforce after nearly 20 years as a Government contractor. As SBIR/STTR Operations Manager for the DON SBIR/STTR Program Management Office, she helps ensure that the DON SBIR/STTR programs successfully execute their missions and achieve organizational goals.

Mrs. McGlasson is a management professional committed to delivering high-quality and innovative solutions. She possesses a thorough understanding of the Navy and DoD SBIR/STTR policies, processes, management tools, data, and

reporting. She began her SBIR/STTR career in 1996 as a support contractor for the Navy SBIR/STTR programs, bringing with her several years of previous information technology and management experience to help design the DON SBIR/STTR Program Manager's database that is still in use today. After a break during which she spent time at home with her two young children, she rejoined the workforce to support the DoD SBIR/STTR programs, focusing on annual reporting, commercialization, and solicitation process oversight. In 2006, she returned to the DON SBIR/STTR programs where she managed a team that further developed and supported the DON SBIR/STTR database and applications and related program reporting requirements.

Mrs. McGlasson holds a BA in Anthropology from George Mason University. In 2015 Mrs. McGlasson completed a Contracting with the Federal Government Certificate Program from George Mason University.

11. Rajesh Mehta



Program Director, SBIR/STTR
National Science Foundation (NSF)

Rajesh Mehta is a Program Director in the Small Business Innovation Research Program at the National Science Foundation. His focus areas include Advanced Manufacturing and Nanotechnology.

Prior to joining NSF in 2012, he was a senior research technologist at Kodak where his 26-year career spanned work at Kodak Research Laboratories, and Manufacturing Research and Engineering Organization. His work covered a broad range of materials science-based technologies related to photographic film and paper manufacturing, thermal, inkjet, and electro-photographic printing, and OLED device manufacturing.

He has a B. Tech. degree in Chemical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Chemical Engineering from Penn State, a post-doctoral fellowship at Imperial College, and a M.S. degree in New Product Development from Rochester Institute of Technology

12. Dusty Lang



SBIR Management and Program Analyst
U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

In 1998 Dusty began working at Patuxent River Naval Air Station at the Hazardous Materials Warehouse. After subsequent positions in the Information Resource Management Office and PMA-207, in 2006 she moved to the Naval Air Systems Command Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) office. During her time in the NAVAIR SBIR office, she served as the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Lead, with a brief intermission, from 2015-2016, as the Department of the Navy STTR/STP Program Manager. In 2016 she moved to the Department of Homeland Security SBIR program.

13. Carol Lewis



SBIR/STTR Technology Transition Lead
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Dr. Carol R. Lewis is the SBIR/STTR Technology Transition Lead at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Her primary responsibility is to manage the transition of SBIR/STTR-developed technologies into programs and projects, and through industry for commercialization support. This includes participating in the planning, development, and implementation of activities to assure that the program produces technologies that support JPL and NASA missions, and collaborates toward their commercialization. She coordinates JPL's SBIR/STTR activities with those of the Program Management Office and the Mission Directorate Representatives and Liaisons.

Prior to joining the SBIR/STTR Program, Dr. Lewis served as a technical line manager for spacecraft power systems and technologies, and optical and chemical sensors. Her organizations supported numerous planetary and earth orbiting flight projects with hardware design, development and testing of spacecraft power subsystems and lasers/optical metrology subsystems. They also conducted cutting edge technology development on photovoltaic arrays, thermal to electric power conversion, solid state electrochemistry, advanced bulk and thin film batteries, direct methanol fuel cells, optical metrology sources, and array-based chemical sensing. As Instrument Manager for JPL's Electronic Nose (ENose), she led the delivery of this array-based sensing technology demonstration, bridging the TRL 4-to-6 transition; a year later, ENose completed its successful six-month flight experiment onboard the International Space Station. Before joining JPL, Dr. Lewis supervised the materials research and development group at the Varian Research Center (Palo Alto, CA) that was responsible for numerous record-breaking efficiencies for single-junction and multijunction single-crystal semiconductor solar cells.

Dr. Lewis received a Ph.D. degree in Inorganic Chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a B. S. degree in Chemistry from Yale University.

14. Jonathan Leggett



SBIR/STTR Outreach Coordinator
Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA)

Mr. Leggett is responsible for planning and executing the outreach activities for the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) SBIR/STTR Program Office to educate and encourage small businesses to participate in the program. Mr. Leggett has been working with various Department of Defense Programs since May 2000. He worked two years in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, Space Policy as the Office Administrative Manager. Mr. Leggett previously worked on NAVSEA's Force Advanced Warfare Technologies (FACT) Program and the Navy's Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Program as a Test Planner. Mr. Leggett graduated from Marymount University in the spring of 2003 where he obtained his Master's in Business Technologies. He has a Bachelor degree in Business Writing from Christopher Newport University.