SBIR Satisfaction Survey for New Phase I Solicitation - Proposers

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Survey Overview

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) proposal submission process recently changed. We would like to hear from you about this pilot process, which was created to reduce the burden on small businesses and NSF program staff. The *newly added* **Project Pitch** requires a small business to outline the technical innovation, commercialization potential, and broader impact of their project before submitting a full proposal to NSF. Only projects that are determined to be a good fit for the program's objectives of supporting innovative technologies **that show promise of commercial and/or societal impact and involve a level of technical risk** (mentioned above and outlined on our website: https://seedfund.nsf.gov/) will be invited to submit a full proposal, therefore reducing the time and effort spent by small businesses in order to receive initial feedback on their potential fit with the program requirements. To gauge the effectiveness and clarity of this new process, we would appreciate your feedback.

Please note:
1. Your participation is voluntary.
2. Your individual responses will remain confidential and will be compiled with those from other respondents to improve the NSF's program.
3. Your answers will NOT affect the outcome of any current, pending, or future NSF funding requests.

Section 1. Familiarity with the NSF SBIR/STTR program

This section asks about your familiarity with the program as well as your level of experience in applying to the program.

1-1. **Has your small business submitted a full proposal to the NSF SBIR/STTR Program before?**
- o Yes
- o No

1-2. **[If answered 'Yes' to Question 1-1] How many full proposals has your small business previously submitted to the NSF SBIR/STTR Program?**
- o   1
- o   2
- o   3 or more

1-3. **How did you first hear about the NSF SBIR/STTR Program? (Mark all that apply)**
- o   Conference or trade shows
- o   Professional or personal network
- o   Consultant or service provider
- o   Angel investor(s)
- o   Venture capitalist(s)
- o   University business incubator or accelerator
- o   State economic development office
- o   Small Business Administration
- o   United States Patent and Trademark Office
- o   Grants.gov
- o   NSF.gov
- o   Social Media – Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn
- o   Others – please specify

1-4. **How did you first learn about the new Project Pitch requirement? (Select one)**
- o   NSF Solicitation
- o   NSF SBIR/STTR website (http://seedfund.nsf.gov)
- o   The FAQs section of the NSF SBIR/STTR Website
- o   Email/Phone call with NSF Staff Members
- o   Webinars
- o   Presentations from SBIR/STTR Program Directors
- o   Others – please specify

1-5. **Out of all the sources, which is the most helpful to you in learning about the new step or helpful to you in submitting a Project Pitch? (Select one)**
- o   NSF Solicitation
- o   NSF SBIR/STTR website (http://seedfund.nsf.gov)
- o   The FAQs section of the NSF SBIR/STTR Website
- o   Email/Phone call with NSF Staff Members
- o   Webinars
- o   Presentations from SBIR/STTR Program Directors
- o   Others – please specify

Section 2. Process Satisfaction

This section asks about the overall submission process and the length restrictions on the Project Pitch.

2-1. **How easy or difficult was it to submit your Project Pitch via the online form?**
- o Very difficult
- o Somewhat difficult
- o Neither difficult nor easy
- o Somewhat easy
- o Very easy

2-2. **Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?** *I understood what I was asked to submit in the Project Pitch.*
- o Agree
- o Neither Agree nor Disagree
- o Disagree

2-3. **Approximately how long did you spend in preparing and submitting the Project Pitch?**

Time (minutes):

2-4. **The Project Pitch was limited to approximately 3 pages. Did you think this limit was too long, too short, or about right?**
- o Too long
- o Too short
- o About right

2-5. **The Technical Innovation section of the Project Pitch was limited to 500 words. Did you think this limit was too long, too short, or about right?**
- o Too long
- o Too short
- o About right

2-6. **The Technical Risk section of the Project Pitch was limited to 500 words. Did you think this limit was too long, too short, or about right?**
- o Too long
- o Too short
- o About right

2-7.   The <u>Customer Profile and Pain Point(s)</u> section of the Project Pitch was limited to 250 words. Did you think this limit was too long, too short, or about right?
- o   Too long
- o   Too short
- o   About right

2-8.   The <u>Background and Current Status</u> section of the Project Pitch was limited to 250 words. Did you think this limit was too long, too short, or about right?
- o   Too long
- o   Too short
- o   About right

Section 3 – Technology Areas

This section asks about the technology area of your small business, and whether you have had any interaction with NSF SBIR/STTR Program Directors before submitting the Project Pitch.

3-1.   **Which of the following best describes your research or technology area? (Select one)**
- o   Advanced Manufacturing
- o   Advanced Materials
- o   Artificial Intelligence
- o   Biological Technologies
- o   Biomedical Technologies
- o   Chemical Technologies
- o   Digital Health
- o   Distributed Ledger
- o   Educational Technologies and Applications
- o   Energy and Power Systems
- o   Environmental Technologies
- o   Information Technologies
- o   Instrumentation and Hardware Systems
- o   Internet of Things
- o   Medical Devices
- o   Nanotechnology
- o   Other Topics
- o   Photonics
- o   Quantum Information Technologies
- o   Robotics
- o   Semiconductors
- o   Sensors
- o   Space
- o   Wireless Technologies

3-2. **Did you have any interaction with NSF SBIR/STTR Program Director(s) prior to submitting the Project Pitch?**

- o Yes
- o No

Section 4 - Time Commitment & Other Comments
This section asks about burden and additional feedback/concerns that you would like to share with us.

4-1. **Approximately how long did it take you to complete this survey?**

Time (minutes):

4-2. **How can NSF better meet your needs? Please describe other concerns that were not addressed in this survey.**