

Frequently Asked Questions

Program Year 2026 STRATFI/TACFI Program

- **What is the difference between a STRATFI and a TACFI?**
 - The key difference between STRATFI and TACFI is the amount of SBIR funding being requested:
 - **TACFI** - \$375,000 to \$2 million, with a period of performance of up to 24 months.
 - **STRATFI** - \$3 million to \$15 million, with a period of performance of up to 48 months.
 - See the Notice of Opportunity for further guidance.
- **Who is eligible for the STRATFI/TACFI Program?**
 - The small business concern (SBC) must be performing under an active SBIR/STTR Phase II award or must have completed a Phase II SBIR/STTR award within two years of capability package submission.
 - Eligibility is determined based on the final deliverable date of the Phase II contract.
 - See the Notice of Opportunity for all eligibility requirements.
- **How is a STRATFI/TACFI submitted to SBIR/STTR Management and who is responsible for submitting it?**
 - A STRATFI/TACFI package is submitted via the PY26 STRATFI TACFI Submission App, which will be available when the opportunity window opens.
 - A government point of contact is responsible for submitting the package.
- **Can a Phase III submit for STRATFI/TACFI if it has never had a Phase II award?**
 - No. STRATFI/TACFI is available only to Phase II efforts that are active, were completed within the past two years, have not received a sequential Phase II award and are at least 90 days beyond the original Phase II award date.
- **Can Selectable/Not Funded Phase II SBIR/STTRs submit for a STRATFI/TACFI?**
 - No. Selectable/Not Funded Phase II SBIR/STTR efforts are not eligible for consideration under the STRATFI/TACFI program.
- **Does the STRATFI/TACFI program require the same technical point of contact (TPOC) and MOU signers of the Phase II effort?**
 - The Phase II customer, end user and TPOC will likely be involved in a STRATFI or TACFI effort; however, this is not required. The STRATFI/TACFI effort must build upon the original Phase II work, but a company may identify different and/or

additional customers and end users. customers/end users to the table.

- **What is the difference between the end user and customer?**

- The end user is the organization that will operationally benefit from the solution. The customer is the organization responsible for acquiring the solution on behalf of the end user.
- See the Collaboration Agreement for further guidance.

- **Can the end user and/or customer be from another Department of War component?**

- The primary end user must be from the Department of the Air Force; however, the customer may be from another military service in the case of joint organizations, such as United States Special Operations Command or F-35 Joint Program Office. If another service serves as the customer, the submission must explain how that organization supports the DAF end user.

- **Can the end user and customer be from the same organization?**

- Yes. The end user and customer may be from the same organization, provided they fulfill the distinct roles and responsibilities assigned to each.

- **Can a Phase II outside the DAF be submitted for STRATFI/TACFI?**

- Yes. STRATFI/TACFI may be based on a Phase II award from another military service, provided the effort has a DAF end user and meets the signatory requirements outlined in the Collaboration Agreement.
 - For example, if the Department of the Air Force and the United States Navy are collaborating on a radar improvement effort, a Navy-led Phase II may transition to a DAF STRATFI or TACFI.
- DAF SBIR funds may not be used to support another service's project.

- **What are the end user and customer signatory requirements?**

- **For TACFI**, there are no special rules around the type, size or nature of the organization except that it is appropriate for the effort in question, and the Agreement signatories must hold, **at a minimum, the rank of O-6/GS-15**.
- **For STRATFI**, the customer organization must be at the Strategic level – e.g. USAF Program Executive Office (PEO), MAJCOM, AFMC Center, etc – and the Agreement signatories must be the ranking member of the organization (e.g. the Program Executive Officer) or deputy and must hold, **at minimum, the rank of O-6/GS-15**.
 - A-level signatories are appropriate at the MAJCOM level.
 - TD signatories are appropriate when for non-PEOs (e.g. AFRL).
- See the Collaboration Agreement for further guidance.

- **Why is Staff Function acceptance needed?**

- Staff functions play a critical role in contract execution for selected efforts. Failure to provide accurate points of contact may result in processing delays.
- See the Collaboration Agreement for further guidance.

- **Who is responsible for issuing the contract should an effort be selected for supplemental funding?**

- The customer is responsible for providing or identifying a DAF Contracting Office that will award the contract/agreement.
- See the Collaboration Agreement for further guidance.

- **What are the matching funds requirements?**

- Matching fund requirements depend on whether the submission is for TACFI or STRATFI.
 - **TACFI** matching ratio is one part SBIR funds for every one part eligible third-party or non-SBIR/STTR Government funding (1:1) (Government-only or Government-Private)
 - **STRATFI** matching ratio is one part SBIR funds for every two parts eligible non-SBIR/STTR Government funding (1:2) (Government-only), or one-part SBIR funds for every one part eligible non-SBIR/STTR government funding and two parts third-party funding (1:1:2) (Government-Private)
- See the Matching Funds Guidance for further information

- **What type of funds can be considered for matching?**

- Matching funds may be provided by the customer, end user, another government agency or a third-party investor.
- Government matching funds must support the development of the SBIR/STTR effort and must be used in accordance with the applicable appropriation categories, such as research and development, operations and maintenance, or procurement. (3600 - R&D, 3400 - O&M, 3020 - Space/Missiles, etc.)
- Check with the customer, end user or other government sponsor for guidance.

- **Is there a limit to the number of funding sources that can be associated with a single matching option?**

- No. There is no limit to the number of eligible funding sources that may be used within a single matching option.
- See the Matching Funds Guidance for further information.

- **Can in-kind contributions be considered for matching?**

- No. In-kind contributions and other tangible assets are not eligible sources of matching funds.

- **Can a Phase III be considered for matching?**

- Yes. A Phase III award that logically extends, completes or derives from the associated Phase II effort and was executed within the **six** months preceding

- capability package submission may count as strategic matching.
- See the Matching Funds Guidance for further information.

- **Can a company submit more than one capability package?**

- No. Qualified SBCs may submit one complete capability package per Notice of Opportunity, either for STRATFI or TACFI, on behalf of the entire firm.

- **Can a company that has or previously had a STRATFI submit for another STRATFI?**

- No. An SBC may execute only one STRATFI during the lifetime of the company.

- **What is the difference between a Phase IIb and a Sequential Phase II contract?**

- A Phase IIb is a modification to the current Phase II contract.
- A Sequential is a new Phase II contract issued to increase the scope of the original Phase II effort.

- **Do letters of support help with the selection process?**

- No. Letters of support are neither required nor considered during the selection process.

- **What is the difference between Government-Private and Government-Only?**

- The difference is based on the source of the matching funds:
 - **Government-Private** combines eligible government and third-party private funding.
 - **Government-Only** uses only eligible non-SBIR/STTR government funding.
- See Matching Funds Guidance for further information.

- **Can funds matching be changed from Government-Private to Government-Only (vice versa) after a package submission?**

- No. The matching structure must be determined before the capability package is submitted.

- **Can the amount of funds requested be increased after a package submission?**

- No. The total amount of funding requested must be determined before submission.

- **Who do you contact with additional questions concerning**

STRATFI/TACFI?

- For questions not addressed in the guidance documents, email afri.rgv.stratfi-tacfi@us.af.mil

- **What is the review/selection process?**

- Each STRATFI/TACFI submission undergoes multiple levels of review before AFWERX makes a final determination. A complete package is essential to avoid review delays.

