

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE (DAF)**  
**SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) /**  
**SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (STTR)**  
**STRATEGIC FUNDING INCREASE (STRATFI) PROGRAM**

Version 1 - July 2025

**Attention to Reader:** The author of this notice reserves the right to modify the content of this notice and the submission requirements to improve management of the DAF SBIR/STTR STRATFI Program.

**NOTE – This “Notice of Opportunity ” serves as an overview of the Program Year 26.1 DAF STRATFI Program and is not to be used as a template for submission, but guidance for the overall process.**

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1. Background and Purpose**

In accordance with the [2022 National Defense Strategy](#) (NDS), our defense science and technology (S&T) enterprise must “leverage asymmetric American advantages: our entrepreneurial spirit and our diversity and pluralistic system of ideas and technology generation that drive unparalleled creativity, innovation, and adaptation.” The [2023 Defense S&T Strategy](#) further advocates to sharpen our competitive edge and be more proactive with its engagement with the private sector to make the right investments to capitalize on emerging technologies, as well as to preempt adversary attempts to do the same by protecting critical and emerging technologies early in the development cycle. The [2019 DAF S&T Strategy](#) gives us the framework to strengthen our DAF S&T investment in emerging technologies to achieve the objectives of the NDS.

Accomplishing these objectives relies on strong partnerships between DAF End Users, DAF acquisition professionals, and the private-sector in the National Industrial Base. The purpose of the STRATFI program is to catalyze those relationships and to bridge the capability gap between current SBIR/STTR Phase II efforts, resulting in SBIR/STTR Phase III scaling efforts that facilitate the delivery of strategic capabilities for the DAF, with a strong emphasis on the [DAF Operational Imperatives](#). The STRATFI program provides supplemental funding to eligible Phase II efforts as a sequential Phase II or Phase IIB modification to support this purpose.

### **1.2. Explanation of Notice**

The following information serves as a Notice of Opportunity to DAF organizations to participate in the PY26.1 SBIR/STTR STRATFI Program. In this notice, the DAF encompasses both the Innovation Arm of the Air Force (AFWERX) and the Innovation Arm of the Space Force (SpaceWERX). The DAF seeks to obtain firm

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interest and key information to help DAF acquisition program leaders determine the most relevant technology areas for the Government's strategic investment. The following pages will provide details regarding preliminary information required for the government's consideration in determining how to best prioritize and/or maximize limited strategic investment budgets across eligible efforts.

The STRATFI Program is covered by this Notice of Opportunity. 26.2 TACFI announcements and supporting documentation are planned for release in early CY 2026. STRATFI award amounts range from \$3M to \$15M and have a Period of Performance duration of up to 48 months. STRATFIs are subject to stringent matching and support requirements, which are clearly described in this notice.

### 1.3. Eligibility

**Only Government Organizations are eligible to submit applications for this SBIR/STTR technology transition support program.** In preparation for submitting each interested **Government** organizations should review the criteria below prior to preparing their capability packages for contemplated projects/technologies. This opportunity is limited to technologies that meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

- i. The company is still considered a Small Business Concern (SBC) per [Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) policy at the time of award and is eligible for a SBIR/STTR award.
- ii. SBC is on an active SBIR/STTR Phase II (P2) or completed a SBIR/STTR P2 within 2 years of Capability Package submission. The date will be based on the P2 Period of Performance (POP)/calculated from the date of final deliverable on the P2 contract.
- iii. The subject P2 effort has not already been awarded a second (AKA "sequential") P2.
- iv. At least 90 days have passed since the beginning of the associated SBIR/STTR P2 execution and the capability package submission. The date is calculated from day one of the original contract award date.
- v. SBC has not already been awarded a prior STRATFI or is not executing a prior STRATFI effort at the time of submission. (A SBC may be awarded only one STRATFI during its lifetime. A company may submit a STRATFI Capability Package if currently executing a TACFI effort at the time of submission, unless that TACFI effort was awarded as a second (AKA "Sequential") P2, or the proposed STRATFI is unrelated to the current TACFI).
- vi. Anticipated work is to be performed in the United States.

## 1.4. Submission Instructions

This “Notice of Opportunity” serves as an overview of the STRATFI Program; it ***is not to be used as a template for submission***, but guidance for the overall process.

Templates and instructions for submitting your capability package can be found here: <https://afwerx.com/stratfi-tacfi/>. Please note the submission documents and supporting information will also be posted to Microsoft Teams. The Microsoft Teams link will be available on the STRATFI-TACFI website.

- i. All requested information must be filled out in the ingest form. The ingest form must be completed by a Government Point of Contact (POC), i.e. end-user, customer or Technical POC (TPOC).
- ii. All corresponding and applicable documents must be uploaded in the designated section.
- iii. All documents must be submitted as separate files unless otherwise described in the specific section.

If you have questions or issues during the submission process please contact [afrl.rgv.stratfi-tacfi@us.af.mil](mailto:afrl.rgv.stratfi-tacfi@us.af.mil).

**NOTE – The use of the provided templates is MANDATORY. All elements of these templates MUST BE present and complete. Companies without a complete submission, based on these templates, will not be considered.**

## 2. Required Information

### 2.1.1. SBC Registration

This memo is required confirming SBC registration and business size. Memo must be retrieved by the SBC from SBIR.gov and **must** reference a **date no older than 30 days from app ingest submission date**.

Be sure to upload the SBC Registration in one file. Label the file: *STRATFI SBC Registration {SBC Name}*.

### 2.1.2. SBC Private Funding Capitalization Table

**THIS IS A MANDATORY MEMO FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS.**

This memo outlines SBC ownership and is not related to the type of matching funds. All information provided will be kept confidential.

Be sure to upload the table as the provided excel document. Label the file: *STRATFI Private Funding Cap Table {SBC Name}*

## 2.2. Capability Package

This information is intended to convey the details of the solution you wish to provide

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in the STRATFI effort, how it ties into the previous Phase II work, and what value this will provide to the Government. The Phase II effort identified in the capability package must remain the same for the duration of the opportunity.

Be sure to upload your capability package in one file. Label your file:  
*STRATFI Capability Package {SBC Name}*

### **2.3. Milestones & Spend Plan**

This information is intended to convey where funding is coming from, when it will be available, the Program Year of the funding, the kind (color/use) of the funding, and how it is intended to be used. It is meant to list each task that can be anticipated: (major task / milestone / effort / deliverable) and to associate it to the funding source (who is providing the funding and for what effort).

Label your Excel file: *STRATFI Milestones Spend Plan {SBC Name}*

### **2.4. Matching Funds**

This information is intended to convey where money is coming from, when it will be available, what kind of money it is, and how it is intended to be used. The Government Funding Letters and/or Private Funding Letters demonstrate direct buy-in from each source of funding and show us how the funds will be used. These funds should align with the Milestones & Spend Plan.

NOTE 1: Combine all funding letters into one individual file and use the below nomenclature:

STRATFI Government Funding Letter {SBC Name} or STRATFI Private Funding Letter {SBC Name}

NOTE 2: Include the requested private and/or government funding organization lists and use the below nomenclature:

STRATFI Government Funding Organizational List {SBC Name} and/or STRATFI Private Funding Organizational List {SBC Name}

### **2.5. Collaboration Agreement**

This information is intended to convey the benefit this solution will bring to the DAF, buy-in of senior leaders supporting the technical solution, the willingness of the staff to award the contract within 120 days and to execute this solution, and specifically outlines/details the transition (Phase III) acquisition strategy once the STRATFI effort has successfully concluded.

Label your file: *STRATFI Collaboration Agreement {SBC Name}*

## **2.6. Delegation of Contracting Responsibility Acceptance**

This memorandum or e-mail (with the contents of the memo) serves as an acknowledgment of Contracting workload/execution acceptance as outlined in the Collaboration Agreement for the STRATFI effort.

Label your file: STRATFI Contracting Responsibility Acceptance {SBC Name}  
MEMO or EMAIL

## **2.7. STRATFI Submission Quad Chart**

This information represents the effort and its key elements to provide senior leaders insight during selection consideration. This is the centerpiece of your submission package. Please ensure that everything listed on the Quad Chart matches the supporting documents in your submission.

Label your file: *STRATFI Submission Chart {SBC Name}*

## **3. Disclaimers**

- i. This notice is not a Request for Proposal and does not constitute a commitment to a contract award, future government work, or a positive investment decision by the DAF. All information submitted in response to this notice is voluntary, and the DAF will not pay for information requested nor will it compensate any SBC for any costs, to include proposal development costs, incurred in developing information provided to the DAF. Responding to this Notice of Opportunity does not guarantee that an award will be received.
- ii. The STRATFI Program is subject to small business size, affiliation rules, and ownership or investment disclosure and registration requirements referenced in 13 C.F.R. §§ 121.701-705, Size and Eligibility Requirements for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs, the “Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program Policy Directive” dated May 3, 2023 (hereinafter SBIR/STTR Policy Directive)
- iii. Small Businesses Concerns (SBC) that are owned in majority part by multiple Venture Capital Operating Companies (VCOC), hedge funds, or private equity funds may be eligible to participate in the STRATFI Program to the extent authorized by 15 U.S.C. 638(dd) and the SBIR/STTR Policy Directive (2023).
- iv. Pursuant to the SBIR/STTR Policy Directive, “Agencies may offer special SBIR/STTR awards, such as Phase IIB awards, that supplement or extend Phase II awards.” Additionally, “A Phase II Awardee may receive one additional, sequential Phase II award to continue the work of an initial Phase II award.”

### **3.1. Due Diligence Program to Assess Security Risks.**

The SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117-183) requires the Department of Defense, in coordination with the Small Business Administration, to establish and implement a due diligence program to assess security risks presented by small business

concerns seeking a Federally funded award. The full text of the SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022 is available at:

<https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ183/PLAW-117publ183.pdf>

In accordance with 15 USC 638(vv) (Section 4 of the SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022); the Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum; Subject: Defense Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Due Diligence Program dated May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024; and the Department of the Air Force Guidance Memorandum to AFI 61-102, on DAF Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Due Diligence Program dated February 25, 2025, the Department of Defense will review all packages submitted in response to this NOO to assess security risks presented by small business concerns seeking a Federally funded award. The Department will use information provided by the small business concern in response to the Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries (Attachment 02.03 Foreign Disclosure Form) and the package to conduct a risk-based due diligence review on the cybersecurity practices, patent analysis, employee analysis, and foreign ownership of a small business concern, including the financial ties and obligations (which shall include surety, equity, and debt obligations) of the small business concern and employees of the small business concern to a foreign country, foreign person, or foreign entity. The Department will also assess packages utilizing open-source analysis and analytical tools, for the nondisclosures of the information set forth in 15 U.S.C. 638(g)(13). If DoD assesses that a small business concern has security risk(s), DoD will review the package, the evaluation, and the security risks and may choose to either 1) create a plan to mitigate the risk(s) or 2) decide to not select the package for funding based upon a totality of the review.

#### **4. Additional Information**

##### **4.1. Frequently Asked Questions**

Frequently updated FAQs are available at <https://afwerx.com/stratfi-tacfi/>

##### **4.2. Contact Information**

For questions on this opportunity, please email [afrl.rgv.stratfi-tacfi@us.af.mil](mailto:afrl.rgv.stratfi-tacfi@us.af.mil).

## ACRONYMS/TERMS

ACRONYMS/ TERM	DESCRIPTION
7600A	United States Government Interagency Agreement Form from Bureau of the Fiscal Service
AFRL/RGF	Air Force Research Laboratory/AFWERX Financial Management
AFWERX	Innovation Arm of the Air Force
AKA	Also Known As
C.F.R.	Code of Federal Regulations
DAF	Department of the Air Force
DoD	Department of Defense
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
N/A	Not Applicable
NDS	National Defense Strategy
NOO	Notice of Opportunity
P2	Phase 2 (sometimes referred to as Phase II or PII)
PY	Program Year
S&T	Science & Technology
SBIR	Small Business Innovation Research
SpaceWERX	Innovation Arm of the Space Force
STRATFI	Strategic Funding Increase
STTR	Small Business Technology Transfer
U.S.C.	United States Code
VCOC	Venture Capital Operating Company