

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY
SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) / SMALL BUSINESS
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (STTR)
Department of the Air Force (DAF) Tactical Funding Increase (TACFI) PROGRAM

Version 1 - June 2026

Attention to Reader: AFWERX reserves the right to modify the content of this notice and the submission requirements to improve management of the DAF SBIR/STTR TACFI Program.

NOTE – This Notice of Opportunity provides an overview of the Program Year 26.2 DAF TACFI Program. It is intended as guidance for the overall process and should not be used as a submission template.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background and Purpose

In accordance with the [2022 National Defense Strategy](#) (NDS), our defense science and technology 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 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 science and technology 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 our national security industrial base. The purpose of the TACFI program is to catalyze the relationships needed to bridge the capability gap between current SBIR/STTR Phase II efforts and SBIR/STTR Phase III scaling efforts, facilitating the delivery of strategic capabilities to the DAF with a strong emphasis on the [DAF Operational Imperatives](#). The TACFI 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 participate in the PY26.2 SBIR/STTR TACFI Program. In this notice, the DAF encompasses both the Air Force (AFWERX) and the Space Force (SpaceWERX). The DAF seeks to obtain firm 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 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 **TACFI** Program is covered by this Notice of Opportunity. TACFI award amounts range from \$375K to \$2M with a period of performance of up to 24 months.

1.3. Eligibility

Government organizations should review the criteria below prior to preparing their capability packages. This opportunity is available for qualified **Phase II** efforts that meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

1. The Small Business Concern (SBC) meets the SBIR/STTR size and eligibility standards in accordance with 13 CFR 121.702 at the time of award.
2. 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.
3. The subject P2 effort has not already been awarded a second (also known as “sequential”) P2.
4. 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.
5. A company may submit a TACFI Capability Package if currently executing a STRATFI or TACFI effort at the time of submission, provided that the proposed TACFI is unrelated to the current STRATFI or TACFI.
6. Anticipated work is to be performed in the United States.

1.4. Submission Instructions.

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 Teams. The Teams link will be available on the STRATFI-TACFI website.

1. 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).
2. All corresponding documents must be uploaded in the designated section.
3. 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.

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. SBC TACFI Participant Information

2.1.1. SBC Registration

This memorandum is required to confirm SBC registration dated no earlier than 30 days before the application ingest submission date.

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

2.1.2. SBC Private Funding Capitalization Table

This memo outlines SBC ownership. This **is a mandatory memo**; all information provided will be kept confidential.

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

If the SBC is majority-owned by venture capital operating companies (VCOCs), upload proof of SBC registration as a single file.

Label your file: *TACFI SBC Registration {Firm Name}*

2.2. Capability Package

This information is intended to convey the details of the solution that will be provided in the TACFI 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: *TACFI Capability Package {Firm Name}*.

2.3. Matching Funds

This information explains the source of matching funds, when the funds will be available, the type of funding and how the funds will be used. The Government Funding Letters or Private Funding Letters demonstrate direct buy-in from each source of funding and show us how the funds will be used.

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

TACFI Government Funding Letter {Firm Name} or TACFI Private Funding Letter {Firm Name}

2.4. 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 90 calendar days and to execute this solution, and specifically outlines/details the transition (Phase III) acquisition strategy once the TACFI effort has successfully concluded.

Label your file: *TACFI Collaboration Agreement {Firm Name}*

2.5. Delegation of Contracting Responsibility Acceptance

This memorandum or e-mail (with the contents of the memo) serves as an

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acknowledgment of Contracting workload/execution acceptance as outlined in the Collaboration Agreement for the TACFI effort.

Label your file: *TACFI Contracting Responsibility Acceptance {Firm Name}*
MEMO or EMAIL

2.6. TACFI Submission Quad Chart and White Paper

This document summarizes the effort and its key elements to provide senior leaders with insight during the selection process. It is the centerpiece of the submission package. This is the centerpiece of your submission package. Please ensure that everything listed on the Quad Chart and White Paper matches the supporting documents in your submission. Please submit this product as a pdf file.

Label your file: *TACFI Submission Quad Chart & White Paper {Firm 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 submission 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 TACFI program is subject to the small business size standards, affiliation rules and ownership, investment disclosure and registration requirements referenced in 13 C.F.R. Sections 121.701-705 and the Combined SBIR/STTR Policy Directive (2023).
- iii. SBC that are majority-owned by multiple Venture Capital Operating Companies (VCOC), hedge funds, or private equity funds may be eligible to participate in the TACFI Program to the extent authorized by 15 U.S.C. 638(dd) and the Combined SBIR/STTR Policy Directive (2023).
- iv. Pursuant to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program Policy Directive dated May 3, 2023, "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."

4. Other Factors considered during the selection process

4.1 Focus Areas Review Priority (Air Force Submissions only)

For the PY26.2 TACFI Program, DAF is primarily interested in submissions that are aligned with the below focus areas. Accordingly, DAF intends to only evaluate submissions that are aligned within these focus areas. After the review of the submissions that are aligned within these focus areas, subject to funding availability, the DAF may evaluate submissions that are not aligned within these focus areas. There is no guarantee that the DAF will evaluate submissions that are not aligned within these focus areas.

Evaluation prioritization for the PY26.2 review will be granted to submissions that align with the Focus Areas specified below:

1. Autonomous Mass
 - a. Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA)
 - b. Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS)
 - c. Weapons Technology
2. Command, Control, & Battle Management
 - a. Command, Control, Communications, & Battle Management (C3BM)
 - b. Advanced Mission Systems Architecture & Engineering
3. Counter Incursion
 - a. Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems (cUAS)
 - b. Kinetic/Non-Kinetic Defeat
4. Agile Combat & Readiness
 - a. Contested Logistics
 - b. Manufacturing & readiness

5.1 Due Diligence Program to Assess Security Risks

15 USC 638(vv) and the Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act of 2026 requires the Department of War, in coordination with the Small Business Administration, to implement a due diligence program to assess security risks presented by small business concern seeking a Federally funded award.

In accordance with 15 USC 638 and the Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act, the DAF will review all capability packages submitted in response to this NOO to assess whether the SBC presents a security risk for any reason.

The measures the DAF will use include:

The Due Diligence Process required under 15 U.S.C. 638(vv),
Disclosures required under 15 U.S.C. 638(g) and (o), and
Coordination with the intelligence community, as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003), Federal law enforcement, and other counterintelligence capabilities of the United States Government.

Due Diligence process in accordance with 15 USC 638(vv)

The DAF will assess using a risk-based approach as appropriate:

- i) the cybersecurity practices,
- ii) patent analysis,
- iii) employee analysis,
- iv) foreign ownership of a small business concern seeking an award, 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,
- v) foreign affiliations of a covered individual, owner, or other key personnel of a small business concern with an entity in a foreign country of concern,
- vi) investment relationships of a small business concerns with an individual or entity in a foreign country of concern,
- vii) technology licensing agreements or joint ventures (including joint venture-like agreements) with an individual or entity in a foreign country of concern, and

viii) business relationships between a covered individual, owner, or other key personnel of a small business concern and an individual or entity in a foreign country of concern.

The DAF will also assess the capability packages utilizing open-source analysis and analytical tools, for the non-disclosures of the information set forth in 15 U.S.C. 638(g)(13) or 15 U.S.C.(o)(17) and examine any relationship of a small business concern seeking an award to any entity or individual included on the lists described in subsections 15 U.S.C. 638(g)(16)(D) and 15 U.S.C. 638(o)(20)(D).

If the DAF determines that a small business concern has security risk(s), DAF will review the capability package, the evaluation, and the security risks and may choose to either 1) create a plan to mitigate the risk(s) or 2) DAF may decide to not select the proposal for award based upon a totality of the review.

Disclosures Submitted Under 15 U.S.C. 638(g)(13) or 15 U.S.C. 638(o)(17)

The DAF will evaluate whether SBCs under this NOO present security risks for any reason through evaluation of disclosures submitted under 15 U.S.C. 638(g)(13) or 15 U.S.C.638(o)(17). SBCs will be required to disclose, under penalty of perjury, and as part of the capability package, the representations, attestations, and certifications required under 15 U.S.C. 638(g)(13) and 15 U.S.C. 638(o)(17). SBCs will fulfill these disclosure requirements by completing the Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries (Attachment 01.03 Foreign Disclosure Form). In addition, a written statement with any substantial changes to a foreign disclosure form must be provided to the awarding agency within 30 days of any changes while on a project for the DAF. This review will be conducted as part of the DAF's Due Diligence process outlined above.

Denial of Awards under 15 U.S.C. 638(g)(16) or 15 U.S.C. 638(o)(20)

The DAF will not make an award if the DAF determines that the small business concern submitting the proposal:

Has an owner or covered individual that is party to a malign foreign talent recruitment program; has a business entity, parent company, or subsidiary located in the People's Republic of China or another foreign country of concern;

Has an owner or covered individual that has a foreign affiliation with a research institution located in the People's Republic of China or another foreign country of concern;

Has an owner or covered individual that has a foreign affiliation with a research institution located in the People's Republic of China or another foreign country of concern; or has a security risk connecting the SBC to an entity, including any affiliates of the entity, or individual on:

- i) The UFLPA Entity List maintained by the Department of Homeland Security;
- ii) The Non-SDN Chinese Military-Industrial Complex Companies List of the Office of Foreign Assets Control maintained by the Department of the Treasury;
- iii) The Section 889 Prohibition List established under section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232; 132 Stat. 1917) and maintained by the Department of War;
- iv) The list of Chinese Military Companies required under section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (10 U.S.C. 113

- note) and maintained by the Department of War;
- v) The Military End User List maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce;
- vi) The Entity List maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce;
- vii) The List of Equipment and Services maintained by the Federal Communications Commission; or
- viii) The Withhold Release Orders and Findings List maintained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The DAF will not make an award if the DAF determines that the SBC submitting the proposal has a security risk with a primary source that is classified or has a security risk that the DAF determines warrants a denial.

Note that any award denial related to due diligence review does not prohibit the small business concern from being eligible for an award in a subsequent award cycle.

6. Additional Information

6.1 Discretionary Technical and Business Assistance (TABA)

15 USC 638(q) requires agencies conducting SBIR or STTR programs to authorize recipients of awards under the programs, if desired, technical and business assistance (TABA). Recipients can use TABA to hire new staff, augment staff, or direct staff to conduct or participate in training activities consistent with the goals of the activities outlined below.. Should an SBC be selected for a sequential TACFI, as authorized under 15 USC 638(ff), the RFP sent to the SBC shall provide for TABA.

Note:

- (1) Recipients may use up to \$50,000 per Phase II project for TABA**
 - (a) Initial Phase II + Sequential Phase II TABA will not exceed \$50K total**
- (2) This amount is not included in the total award price and will be funded by AFWERX.**

Examples of permissible TABA activities include:

- (1) Access to a network of scientists and engineers engaged in a wide range of technologies,
- (2) Assistance with product sales
- (3) Intellectual property protections,
- (4) Market research
- (5) Market validation
- (6) Development of regulatory plans and manufacturing plans
- (7) Access to technical and business literature available through online databases
- (8) Cybersecurity assistance

The above activities may be entered into for the purposes of assisting recipients in

- 1) Making better technical decisions concerning such projects,
- 2) Solving technical problems which arise during the conduct of such projects,
- 3) Minimizing technical risks associated with such projects,
- 4) Developing and commercializing new commercial products and processes resulting from such projects, including intellectual property protections,

5) Screening for potential foreign involvement in technology development or commercialization activities.

6.2. Frequently Asked Questions

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

6.3. Contact Information

For questions on this opportunity, please email afrl.rgv.stratfi-tacfi@us.af.mil.