

must be included in the database data collection effort.

SBA estimates the burden of this collection of information as follows:

(i) Approximately 300 concerns receive STTR Phase I and II awards each year. Each concern will be asked to complete the survey and voluntarily update such information annually for a period of 5 years.

(ii) SBA estimates that each respondent will require approximately .5 hour to complete the survey, for a total annual hour burden of 150 (300 times .5 equals 150).

(iii) The estimated annualized cost to respondents for the hour burden for collection of information should not be large as the information requested is kept in the ordinary course of business. A financial officer of the small business concern will likely input this information. SBA has assumed that the officer's pay is equal to a GS-14, step 1 in the Washington, DC area, which makes \$37.50/hour. Assuming this survey takes .5 hours to complete, then the estimated annualized cost to respondents is \$18.75 (\$37.50 times .5 equals \$18.75).

(iv) The total annual estimated cost includes the data that will be collected for the Government database.

SBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of SBA's responsibilities and functions under the STTR Program, including whether the information will have a practical utility; (2) the accuracy of SBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collections of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques, when appropriate, and other forms of information technology.

Notice of Proposed Policy Directive; Small Business Technology Transfer Program

To: The Small Business Technology Transfer Program Directors.

Subject: Small Business Technology Transfer Program Reauthorization Act of 2001—Amendments to the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program.

1. *Purpose.* Section 9(p) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) (as amended by Public Law 107-50) requires the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to modify its Small Business Technology

Transfer (STTR) Program Policy Directive, issued for the general conduct of the STTR Program.

2. *Authority.* This Policy Directive is issued pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 638(p).

3. *Procurement Regulations.* It is recognized that the Federal Acquisition Regulations may need to be modified to conform to the requirements of the Reauthorization Act and the final Policy Directive. SBA's Administrator or designee must review and concur with any regulatory provisions that pertain to areas of SBA responsibility. SBA's Office of Technology coordinates such regulatory actions.

4. *Personnel Concerned.* This Policy Directive serves as guidance for all Federal government personnel who are involved in the administration of the STTR Program, issuance and management of funding agreements or contracts pursuant to the STTR Program, and the establishment of goals for small business concerns in research or research and development acquisition or grants.

5. *Originator.* SBA's Office of Technology, Office of Government Contracting, Office of Government Contracting and Business Development.

6. *Date.* A final Policy Directive will be effective when published in the **Federal Register**.

Fred C. Armendariz,

Associate Deputy Administrator, Government Contracting/Business Development, Small Business Administration.

Hector V. Barreto,

Administrator, Small Business Administration.

Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program; Draft Policy Directive

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1. Purpose

(a) Section 9(p) of the Small Business Act (Act) requires that the Small Business Administration (SBA) issue an

STTR Program Policy Directive for the general conduct of the STTR Program within the Federal government.

(b) This Policy Directive fulfills SBA's statutory obligation to provide guidance to the participating Federal agencies for the general operation of the STTR Program. Additional or modified instructions may be issued by the SBA as a result of public comment or experience.

(c) The purpose of the STTR Program is to stimulate a partnership of ideas and technologies between innovative small business concerns (SBCs) and research institutions through Federally-funded research or research and development (R/R&D). By providing awards to SBCs for cooperative R/R&D efforts with research institutions, the STTR Program assists the small business and research communities by commercializing innovative technologies.

(d) Federal agencies participating in the STTR Program (STTR agencies) are obligated to follow the guidance provided by this Policy Directive. Each agency is required to review its rules, policies, and guidance on the STTR Program to ensure consistency with this Policy Directive and to make any necessary changes in accordance with each agency's normal procedures. This is consistent with the statutory authority provided to the SBA concerning the STTR Program.

2. Summary of Legislative Provisions

(a) The Small Business Technology Transfer Program Reauthorization Act of 2001, Public Law 107-50, amended section 9 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 638).

(1) The amendments:

(i) Continue the STTR Program through September 30, 2009;

(ii) Clarify data rights pertaining to STTR Phase I, Phase II, and Federally-funded Phase III awards.

(iii) Establish databases—one for the public and one for government use—to collect and maintain in a common format information that is necessary to assist SBCs and assess the STTR Program.

(b) Each Federal agency with an extramural budget for R/R&D in excess of \$1,000,000,000 must participate in the STTR Program.

(c) The statutory requirements establish a uniform, simplified process for the operation of the STTR Program while allowing the STTR agencies flexibility in the operation of their individual STTR Program. This Policy Directive fulfills the Congressional intent to minimize regulatory burden in the conduct of this program.