

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

For-profit organizations that are:

- **U.S. BASED**
(operating primarily in the U.S.)
- **MORE THAN 50% OWNED** by a U.S. citizen or legal resident
- **FEWER THAN 500** employees

MORE DETAILS: sbir.gov/apply

WE FUND IN PHASES

PHASE I
UP TO \$305,000

PHASE II
UP TO \$1,250,000

PHASE II B
UP TO \$500,000

We fund unproven, high-impact innovations in almost any area of technology.

HOW TO GET STARTED:

PROJECT PITCH

Submit a Project Pitch and find out in a few weeks if your project is a good fit.

PROJECT PITCHES MUST OUTLINE:

1. Technology Innovation
2. Technical Objectives and Challenges
3. Market Opportunity
4. Company and Team

If your project is a good fit, you will receive an official invitation to submit a Phase I proposal.

Each startup can only submit one Project Pitch at a time.

FIND OUT WHAT'S NEXT.
seedfund.nsf.gov

SBIR@NSF.GOV



Photo Credit:
Branch Technology,
Chattanooga, Tennessee

FUNDING FOR STARTUPS



UP TO \$2 MILLION FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

America's Seed Fund powered by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) funds startups in the development of deep technologies – those that are based on discoveries in fundamental science and engineering – transforming scientific discovery into products and services with commercial and societal impact.

With NSF funding you retain full control over your team, the direction of your work, and your intellectual property. Our hope is that the startups funded by NSF will become successful and have a positive impact.

\$230+ MILLION & 400 AWARDS EVERY YEAR

"So many people don't think of NSF SBIR/STTR as a source of funding, but it is. Not many investors are interested in funding early-stage, high-risk work, but I think that's precisely why these programs were created: for companies like Lilu that are doing some really intense R&D that a lot of people are not quite ready to make bets on. These awards and these grants have been just so impactful for us. Without the funding and support from the NSF it's likely that the outcome of the story would look very different. It's very exciting, very rewarding. We made it thanks to funding from NSF."

Adriana Vazquez

Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Lilu Inc.



ABOUT AWARDEES

255 small businesses received a Phase I award in Fiscal Year 2024

74% were created in the last 5 years

96% had fewer than 10 employees

62% were new to NSF successful exits

EQUITY AND EXITS FROM NSF-FUNDED COMPANIES*:

\$32B follow-on institutional (equity) financing

420 successful exits (acquisitions, mergers, IPOs)

*THESE FIGURES WERE PULLED FROM PITCHBOOK FROM 10/01/2015 TO 9/30/2024 AND INCLUDE COMPANIES THAT RECEIVED NSF FUNDING PRIOR TO 2016.