

Department of the
NAVY
SBIR/STTR
PROGRAMS



UNCLASSIFIED

Department of the Navy SBIR Experimentation Cell (DON SEC)

2026

navysbir.com/sec



About DON SEC

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- **Accelerate capability development** by guiding Phase II SBIR/STTR technologies through focused experimentation that maximizes transition success
- Increase government oversight by providing **quantifiable results** through experiment data

Program Goals

- Enable SBIRs to enhance **warfighting, lethality, and readiness** through experimentation
- **Connect** technology to events that maximize opportunities to advance innovations
- **Navigate** experimentation processes to streamline execution and compliance
- **Educate** with informative guidebooks, workshops, and stakeholder collaboration



Experimentation can provide Objective Quality Evidence (OQE) to support transition

Engagement



Two methods of contact:

- **Push:** The SBIR is recommended to us by the Program Manager or brought in by a request from the Technical Point of Contact (TPOC).
- **Pull:** The Performer contacts us directly or event sponsor notifies us of their inclusion in an event.

Business rules:

- **Introduction interview:** Our team meets to determine eligibility and experimentation maturity and then conducts a fact-finding interview to determine objectives and engineering challenges. If contact was a "Pull," a meeting will then be established with PM/TPOC to ensure compliance with government objectives and warfighter gap alignment.

All initiative support will be in cooperation with Program Office and TPOC

Current Status

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- ✓ DON SEC is fully funded with NO cost to the performer or Program Management Office (PMO)
- ✓ DON SEC does not provide funding, but may be aware of funding impacts

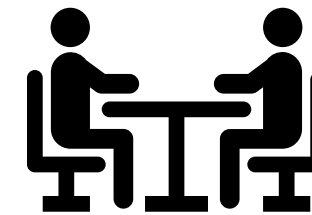
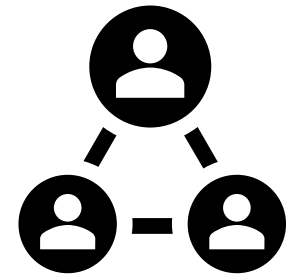
FY25 Performers

- 152 SBIRs were actively supported and engaged
- 44 were selected for 20 events that included Silent Swarm, ANTX Coastal Trident, Trident Warrior, TOEE series, Southern Lightning, JIFX series, TCE, Northern Edge, and Trident Spectre
- 7 SYSCOMs supported, with NAVAIR, ONR, NAVFAC, and MCSC most active
 - Note that some initiatives have multiple outcomes/experimentation opportunities and participated in event serials



Who We Support

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Small Businesses

Process Navigation
Mentor, Train, Facilitate
Onsite Event Support

TPOCs/SYSCOMs

Event Awareness
Planning Cycle Support
Objective Quality Evidence

PMOs

Event Awareness
Objective Quality Evidence

Venue Staff

Planning
Process Support
Onsite Execution Support

Opportunities for DON SBIRs/STTRs

Warfare Centers and SYSCOMs: Coastal Trident, TOEE, TCE, JIFX
Fleet/NWDC and other Commands: IBP, RIMPAC, Atlantic Alliance
External Agencies and Services: MACH-TB, Evasive Warrior, RDAX

Methods



Guidebooks

- SBIR 101 – Basics of Experimentation (tailored for SBIR community)
- SBIR 102 – Ship Riders' Guide
- SBIR 103 – Installation and Engineering Processes
- SBIR 104 – Experiment Analysis & Reporting
- Vulcan Quick Start User Guide
- Other – Engineering and Operations Process Guides (EPG/OPG)

Facilitation

Lower the threshold for entry and input into experimentation communities

Mentoring

Develop relationships to increase knowledge, awareness, and collaboration opportunities

Training

Promote continuing education through process navigation and interactive Learning Labs demystifying experimentation rigors



Key Differences

Demonstration



*Share Info
Already Tried
No Decisional Data*

Experimentation



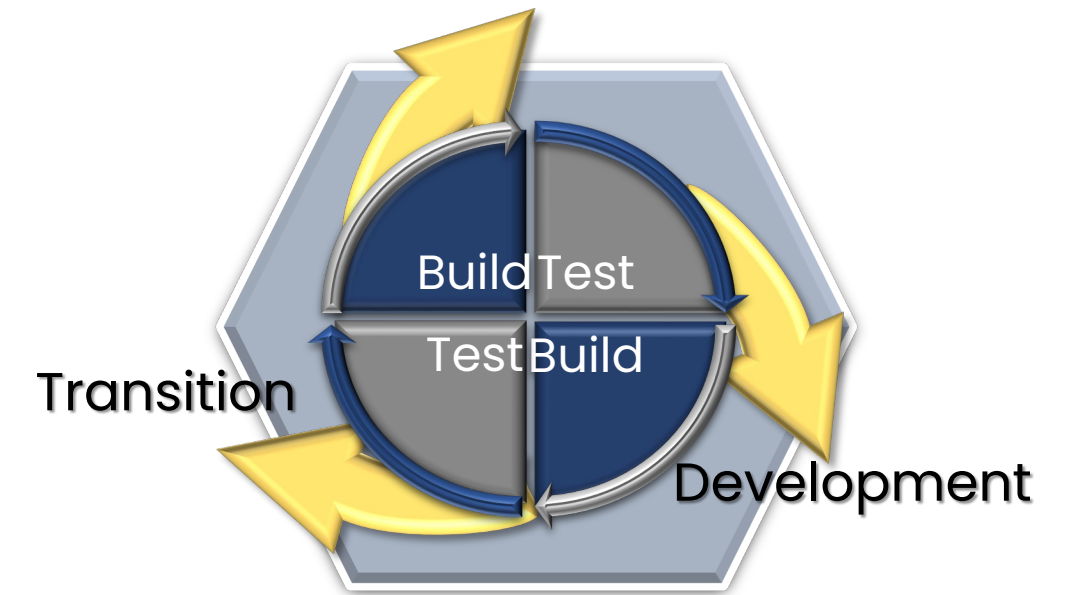
*Gain Knowledge
Explore New Areas
Report*

Test & Evaluation

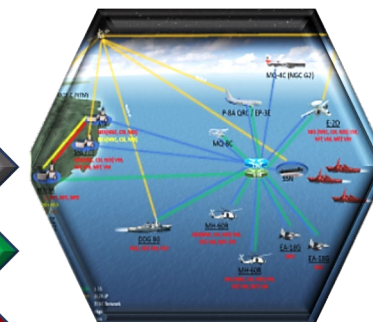
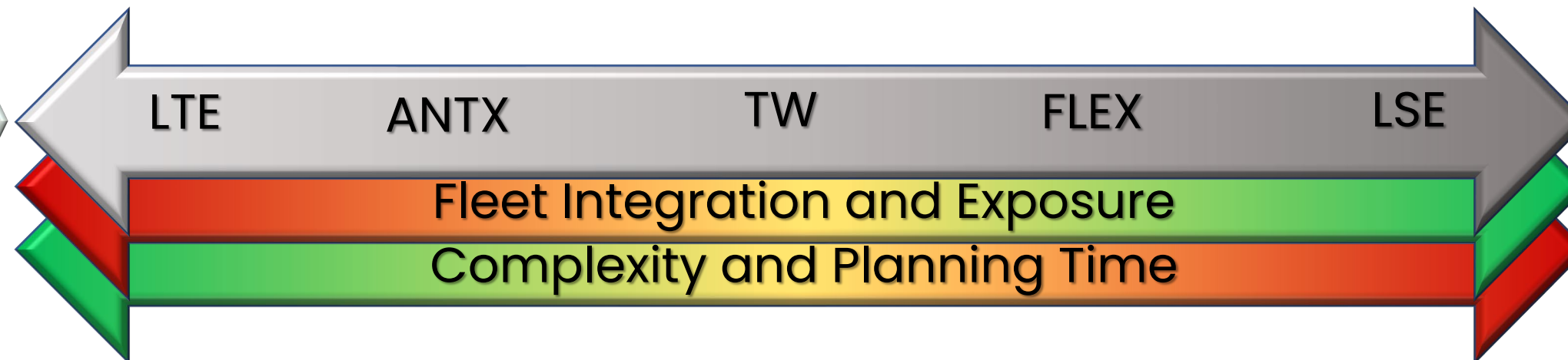


*Prove Requirements
Pass / Fail
Report*

Commercialization



**Build Test
Build**



Navigating Naval Experimentation

DON SEC works to align the factors below to support SBIR/STTR performers in planning for and participating in the experimentation events.

- **Cost:** Venue, Logistics, Manning
- **Schedules:** Event, Technology Development, Contract, Operations/Engineering Processes, Stakeholder Coordination
- **Performance:** Technical Assessments, Data Collection, Analysis, Commercialization Potential



Resident Expertise

Experiment Design

- Problem Statement
- Hypothesis Development
- Objective Development
- Models
- Liaison to event sponsors

Engineering

- Lithium-Ion battery certifications
- Ship Install – SHIPMAIN/NMP processes
- Airworthiness Certification
- Accreditation and Assessment (A&A)
- Mission Readiness Assessment (MRA)
- Application Integration (AI)

Operations

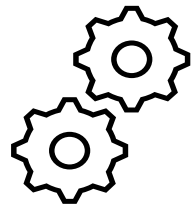
- Unmanned systems/DSD/107 Waivers
- Air/Water space management
- Spectrum (GPS/EA/Allocation)
- Environmental (PMAP/EIS)

Analysis

- Data Collection and Analysis
- Schedule of Events (SOE)
- Qualitative Analysis/Surveys
- Reporting

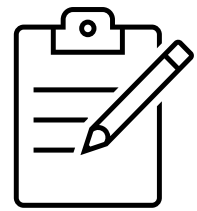
Experienced in all phases of Experiment Planning

Effects



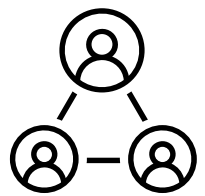
SBIR Initiatives become innovative solutions to fit warfighter needs

Maximize impact, communicate, and cross-pollinate data



Target premier technical experimentation environments and venues

Right venue, right event



“Take the load off” staff and amplify the return investment

More receptive TPOCs and event sponsors



Improve & Enhance

Do no harm, do not impede efforts





Thank You



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