

Eco-Innovation activities in key countries beyond Europe

Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR), USA



"The program is multi-stakeholder, plural-sector and a good example of public-private cooperation through many different modalities in the scope of growth creation. The program has proven very successful as an incubator modality to increase private sector commercialization of innovations."

The purpose of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) SBIR

program is to stimulate technological innovation; increase small business participation in federal research and development; foster and encourage participation by minority and disadvantaged persons in technological innovation and increase private sector commercialization of technology derived from federal research and development.

Funding instruments:

The program consists of two phases: Phase I awards are used for "proof of concept" of the proposed technology (contracts of up to 80,000\$ for 6 months). Phase II awards are intended for further developing and commercialize the technology (contracts of up to US\$300,000 for two year). The phased approach helps to determine whether the research idea, often on high-risk advanced concepts, is technically feasible, whether the firm can do high-quality research, and whether sufficient progress has been made to justify a larger Phase II effort. EPA also offers a "Commercialization Option" of up to 70,000\$ and one additional year for firms with third party financing for accelerating commercialization. SBIR grants average app. 295,000\$.

Target groups:

In the context of the program, "small business" is defined as a for-profit organization with no more than 500 employees that develops and commercializes new environmental technologies. In addition, the small business must be independently owned and operated, at least 51% owned by U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted resident aliens, not dominant in the field of operation in which it is proposing, and have its principal place of business in the United States. Joint ventures and limited partnerships are eligible for SBIR awards, provided the entity created qualifies as a small business.

SBIR focuses on

technological innovation in areas related to environmental protection including clean air and water, hazardous and solid waste, pollution prevention, remediation, and monitoring. Recent issues addressed include: bio-terrorism, arsenic in drinking water, diesel emissions, and storm water run-off. The programme focuses on support of research and of application/implementation of eco-innovation in **Small Businesses**.

Technical details:

- National program
- Established by the SBIR development act of 1982.
- Managed by 11 federal organizations.
- 2.5% of the EPA budget.



Boosting Eco-Innovation through Cooperation In Research and Dissemination



Grant agreement no: 266538