

FHWA Research Project Management

Marci Kenney
December 2007

Overseeing Research Projects

- FHWA Program Offices
- Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center
- Office of Acquisition Management
 - awards and administers contracts and cooperative agreements

Contracts or Cooperative Agreements ?

The choice of instruments depends on the purpose of the transaction. If the intent is to acquire property or services to carry out a DOT program function, a contract is required. If the intent is to assist the recipient to carry out its functions, a cooperative agreement is appropriate.

Contracts or Cooperative Agreements ?

- Contracting activities are governed by:
 - Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR)
 - The Transportation Acquisition Regulation (TAR)
 - The Transportation Acquisition Manual (TAM)
- Cooperative agreements with State and local governments are awarded and administered in accordance with OMB Circular A-102 and 49 CFR part 18.
- Cooperative agreements with universities and other nonprofit organizations are awarded and administered in accordance with OMB Circular A-110 and 49 CFR part 19.

Competitive Selection Process

- Anticipated procurements included in annual USDOT procurement forecast
- Procurement opportunities announced in FedBizOps www.fbo.gov
- RFP includes criteria, link to goal(s)
- 2 Stage Selection Process:
 - Multi-person panel of technical experts evaluates proposals
 - Best technical proposal then receives a cost evaluation

Tracking Projects and Reports

FHWA contracting officers evaluate the performance of contractors in terms of quality, time, and money (Did they produce a quality product on time and within budget?)

- Compusearch's PRISM software
- ABS (Accounting and Budget System)

PI's responsible for camera-ready copy

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

- FHWA invests 2.5% of its extramural research budget (as required by law) into the SBIR program
- The SBIR program is administered for USDOT by the Volpe Center

<http://www.volpe.dot.gov/sbir/index.html>

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

The purposes of the SBIR program are:

- To stimulate technological innovation;
- To use small business to meet Federal R/R&D needs;
- To increase private sector commercialization of innovations derived from Federal R/R&D; and
- To foster and encourage participation by minority and disadvantaged persons in technological innovation.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

- Research topics are identified by FHWA program offices and are linked to FHWA/DOT strategic goals
- Small businesses are solicited to submit innovative research proposals that address high priority requirements of the Department and have potential for commercialization
- The US DOT SBIR solicitation is released mid February each year

The Three Phases of the SBIR Program



SBIR is a competitive federal award system consisting of the following three phases:

Phase I - Is to evaluate the scientific technical merit and feasibility of an idea. Awards are for periods of up to six months in amounts up to \$100,000.

Phase II - Is to expand on the results of and further pursue the development of Phase I. Awards are for periods of up to two years in amounts up to \$750,000.

Phase III - Is for the commercialization of the results of Phase II and requires the use of private sector or non-SBIR federal funding. No SBIR funds may be utilized in Phase III.