



DOT Adopts Pitch Day Proposal Approach

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has issued its FY20 SBIR Phase I [pre-solicitation](#), which will be open through January 29 (5 p.m. ET). Effective with this solicitation, DOT is changing from a typical proposal submission to a Pitch Day approach. Key highlights are:

- **Pre-Solicitation Interchange:** During this period small businesses can review the technical topics and submit clarifying questions to the Technical Expert/Topic Authors at the Operating Administrations. Questions can be submitted to DOTSBIR@dot.com through 5 p.m. January 29
- **Streamlined Solicitation Process:** The solicitation period will be shortened to **30 days** and the proposals requirements will be streamlined, reducing the page requirements for the technical proposal.
- **Evaluation Down-Selection:** DOT evaluation teams will down-select the finalists being considered for awards. Finalists will be invited to participate in DOT's Pitch Day.
- **Pitch Day:** Following on the success of the U.S. Air Force's SBIR Pitch Day, DOT will introduce its own version of an in-person Pitch Day event for SBIR finalists to take place at DOT headquarters in Washington, D.C. This event will allow DOT evaluators to interact with the finalists to both hear their 15-minute "pitch" and engage in a Q&A session. Real-time evaluation enables quicker decision-making and streamlined Phase I awards.

An informational webinar about the solicitation and new program changes is tentatively scheduled for February 11, 2020 at 1:00 pm ET. Topics for this year:

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) topic:

20-FA1: Nondestructive Evaluation (NDE) of Critical Nickel Turbine Engine Parts

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) topics:

20-FH1: Physical Intervention System for Wrong-way Driving on Ramps

20-FH2: Innovative Layered Composite Metal Deck System

20-FH3: Real-time Monitoring and Modeling of Scour

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) topics:

20-FR1: Autonomous Track Inspection Technology

20-FR2: AI-Aided Machine Vision for Grade Crossing Safety

20-FR3: Platform Edge Proximity Detection to Prevent Inadvertent Passenger Car Door Opening

20-FR4: Crushed Aggregate Gradation Evaluation System

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) topic:

20-NH1: In-Vehicle Occupant Detection System

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) topics:

20-PH1: Development and Validation of Inline Inspection (ILI) Technologies for Circumferential Anomalies and Bending Stresses

20-PH2: Internal Repair of Steel Transmission Pipelines

20-PH3: Geohazard Identification and Quantification for Pipeline Risk Models

20-PH4: Scaling up of Composite Metal Foam Manufacturing for HazMat Packaging