



Department of Energy SBIR/STTR requirements and release dates

The US Department of Energy requires that Phase I SBIR or STTR applicants submit proposals to a specific topic and subtopic. These topics/subtopics are released annually in two stages: Phase I Release 1 and Phase I Release 2 (note the the Roman numerals for “Phase” and Arabic numerals for “Release”).

Each release includes a specific set of Department of Energy offices, and for the Fiscal Year 2021 the offices are divided as follows:

Phase I Release 1:

- Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research
- Office of Basic Energy Sciences
- Office of Biological and Environmental Research
- Office of Nuclear Physics

Phase I Release 2:

- Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security and Emergency Response
- Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation
- Office of Electricity
- Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Office of Environmental Management
- Office of Fossil Energy
- Office of Fusion Energy Sciences
- Office of High Energy Physics
- Office of Nuclear Energy

Generally, the offices remain in the same Release every year. This can help you predict which release you will be applying within and the timing of your submission. Also, the topics generally remain fairly similar for every Office of each Release. That allows you to look up old Topics Released documents from previous fiscal years to determine if an applicable category may be available for your technology before the current fiscal year’s topics have been released.

Topics are released approximately three months before proposal application submissions are due. The schedule of events (subject to change) with corresponding dates for FY2021 are listed below:

Phase I Release 1

Topics Released	Monday, July 13, 2020
Funding Opportunity Announcement:	Monday, August 24, 2020
Letter of Intent Due Date:	Tuesday, September 08, 2020 5:00pm ET
Application Due Date:	Monday, October 19, 2020 11:59pm ET
Award Notification Date:	Monday, January 11, 2021
Start of Grant Budget Period:	Tuesday, February 22, 2021

Phase I Release 2:

Topics Released	Monday, November 09, 2020
Funding Opportunity Announcement:	Monday, December 14, 2020
Letter of Intent Due Date:	Monday, January 04, 2021 5:00pm ET
Application Due Date:	Monday, February 22, 2021 11:59pm ET
Award Notification Date:	Monday, May 17, 2021
Start of Grant Budget Period:	Monday, June 28, 2021

The process for Phase II applications is also divided into Release 1 and Release 2 and follows a similar list of Offices and schedule of events.

All Phase I and Phase II documents and release dates are listed on the DOE SBIR/STTR website and are updated frequently: science.osti.gov/sbir/Funding-Opportunities