

# Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Ireland

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## What is Small Business Innovation Research?

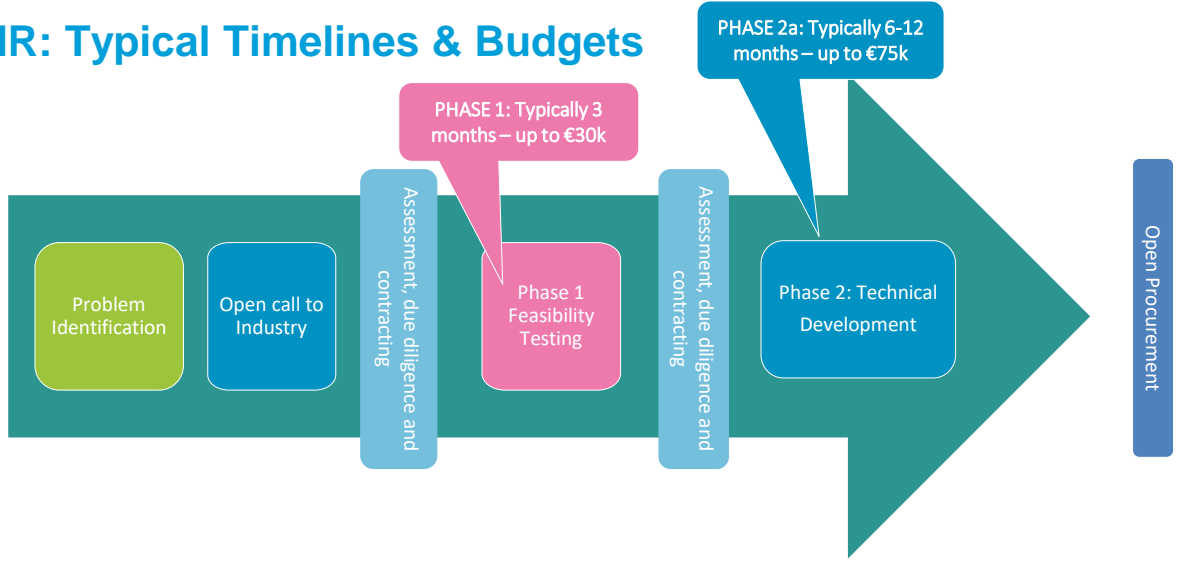
**SBIR drives innovation in the public sector, and in companies, as they co-design solutions with the Challenge Owner\* to address significant societal challenges that impact citizens**

### Key Features of SBIR

- A global Pre Commercial Procurement initiative
- Is there a new way of solving traditional problems?
- Enables public sector **address 'unmet needs' through innovation**
- Public sector body defines the Challenge & SMEs respond with innovative solutions
- Leads to **cheaper, smarter, more 'fit for purpose' solutions**
- SBIR is competitive in nature with a **two phased approach**
- Awarded companies win a development contract & co-design an innovative solution with the Challenge Owners to address defined problems
- Companies retain the IP developed
- EI currently contributes 50% of funding per challenge, matched by Challenge Owner
- Solves societal Challenges, fosters innovation within the public sector, stimulates economic development

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# SBIR: Typical Timelines & Budgets



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## SBIR Ireland: Where are we now?

### Progress

To date **2 competitive calls** to the public sector have been launched by SBIR Ireland;

- EI has approved **20 SBIR Challenges** to date, worth €1.25 million (co-funded by Challenge Owners)
- 70 Phase 1 contracts and 30 Phase 2 contracts have been awarded to date.
- A **variety of themes** including illegal dumping, diabetes prevention, flood monitoring and access to rural transport



An Roinn Caiteachais  
Phoiblí agus Aitheoirithe  
Department of Public  
Expenditure and Reform



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## SBIR Ireland Challenge Examples



### Office of Public Works – Creating a ‘Virtual Historic Dublin’

- How can we create a ‘living history’ of Dublin City
- Innovative companies creating augmented reality solutions in Dublin Castle



### Dublin City Council – How can we prevent flooding in the city?

- Sensors deployed across the city monitoring flood levels
- Empowering gully engineers with data: can identify the problem spots quicker



### Limerick Council – How can we entice people to live in Limerick City?

- Georgian buildings have high inoccupancy rates
- Fire safety is an issue – companies developing solutions that can monitor hazards

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## Can SBIR help your public sector organisation?

- ✓ Is there potential to benefit citizens?
- ✓ Do you have an ‘unmet need’ i.e. a challenge that you haven’t been able to solve to date through standard procurement? Or perhaps a solution doesn’t yet exist to solve your challenge
- ✓ Is this an urgent challenge – is it a priority for the Challenge Owner?
- ✓ Is there a champion(s) within your organisation that is willing to lead this challenge, and do they have support and resources to drive the Challenge forward?
- ✓ What is the potential for innovative technology to solve the problem identified?
- ✓ Is there a scope for broader market potential for the awarded suppliers?
- ✓ Can the investment deliver appropriate return to you and the suppliers involved?

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## New SBIR Ireland Call!

- Our third competitive call to the public sector
- 3-5 new SBIR challenges will be approved
- The call will not be sector / theme specific
- Applications can be from one organisation or multiple organisations, but must have a lead applicant
- Applicants must provide a commitment to a minimum of €100K funding over the course of the Challenge life if approved
- Call will be open from 14<sup>th</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> December
- How can we encourage teams to consider SBIR tool as a new way to solve their problems in innovative ways?

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## SBIR Ireland & Smart Dublin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Gw2DHnoUR4>

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# Contact Us

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