



Office of Small Business Programs

ACCELERATING TECHNOLOGY TRANSITION



Defense Rapid Innovation Fund
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Program Overview

- **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** The Rapid Innovation Fund (RIF) was established by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2011 as a competitive, merit-based program designed to accelerate fielding of innovative technologies from Phase II Small Business Innovation Research/Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR), defense laboratories, academia efforts, and other sources into military systems. The program was made permanent in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2017.
- RIF was funded through congressional adds from 2011-2019, but has not been funded since 2019. This is a key small business program and reinvigorating it is a pillar of the Small Business Strategy and the DSD's Innovation Ecosystem effort.
- **Program Objectives:**

DoD emphasis on rapid, responsive acquisition and engagement of innovative small business technologies to resolve operational challenges and address critical national security needs. Recent RIF efforts were aligned to support the National Defense Strategy pillars and modernization/critical technology priority areas:

 - Accelerate or enhance a military capability;
 - Reduce development, acquisition, sustainment or lifecycle costs of defense acquisition programs or fielded systems;
 - Reduce program technical risk;
 - Improve the timeliness and thoroughness of test and evaluation.



Program Overview (cont.)

➤ ACCOMPLISHMENTS/SUCCESS STORIES:

- **FY 2011-16: Over 60% of the RIF funded efforts transitioned**
 - RIF Participant Survey by TechLink: *96% recipients participated*
 - 479 recipients of 670 awards totaling \$1.4B in funding
 - 57% of RIF awards were transitioned to military use
 - 2.4 Billion of sales of products or services to the military
 - 587 or 88% of RIF awards totaling \$1.2 Billion in funding
 - \$410 Million in sales of products or services to non-Military Customers
 - 60% (or more) of RIF awards derived from SBIR/STTRs
- **FY 2017-2019: On track to transition up to 85% of efforts**
 - Milestone reports on RIF program effectiveness were delivered in JUN and SEP 2022.
 - As of FY 2022 close, 65 out of 317 projects from FY 2017-2019 appropriations are still active.
 - 78 total projects successfully closed in FY 2022



Issues/Challenges

- **ISSUES/CHALLENGES:** In Q1 FY 2023, the RIF program was **transferred with no current budget or active funds** from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OUSD(R&E)) to the Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) within the Office of the Under Secretary for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD(A&S)).
 - **Between 2011-2019 RIF received on average \$250M in appropriations per year to fund approximately 100 projects annually**
 - **No appropriations were received after FY 2019 which:**
 - Prompted cancellation of FY 2020 broad agency announcement
 - Impacts execution of ongoing projects
 - Forced initiation of close-out process
 - **Lack of funding endangers both current and out-year funding efforts:**
 - Current projects could fail to demonstrate and transition
 - Participating components may not be able to adequately plan for resources and/or staffing
 - Small businesses could fail contractual requirements
 - May result in lack of performer payment, contractual litigation, formal inquiry, etc.

RIF COURSES OF ACTION



➤ **FY 23 & 24 COAs:**

- **Re-branding of the program awaiting DepSecDef approval**
- Funds are being reprogrammed for FY 23 & 24
 - A&S re-program dollars to cover the RIF funding requirements
- Support other small business programs that qualify for transitions

➤ **FY 25 COAs:**

- Ensure inclusion in the FY25 POM to ensure long-term resourcing.