

## **Executive Order 13329: Encouraging Innovation in Manufacturing**

### **Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report – U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)**

#### **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program**

**Background:** On February 26, 2004, Executive Order (EO) 13329 was signed by President George W. Bush requiring Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) agencies, to the extent permitted by law and in a manner consistent with the mission of the department or agency, to give high priority within the SBIR programs to manufacturing-related research and development (R&D). “Manufacturing-related is defined as “related to manufacturing processes, equipment and systems; or manufacturing workforce skills and protection.”

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) requires each agency with an SBIR program to develop a written policy on the implementation of E.O. 13329.

**U.S. DOT SBIR Program Implementation of EO 13329:** The U.S. DOT SBIR Program Implementation Plan for E.O. 13329 was submitted to SBA in June, 2004. Five specific areas are described: 1) Outreach to raise awareness; 2) Emphasizing new funding opportunities for manufacturing-related research; 3) Award selection; 4) Tracking of manufacturing-related SBIR awards; and 5) Reporting.

**FY 2012 Outreach:** The U.S. DOT SBIR Program Director promoted the manufacturing initiative during briefings and one-on-one meetings conducted at the National SBIR conferences and during state and regional SBIR conferences. Additionally, manufacturing-related conferences and events were posted on the DOT SBIR Program website under the “SBIR News” section periodically during the year. The SBIR Program Office also informs prospective DOT awardees of the assistance available through NIST’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program and the USA National Innovation Marketplace.

**FY 2012 Manufacturing-related research topics:** In FY 2012, the DOT SBIR Program Office distributed two (2) calls for topics memorandums to the DOT SBIR participating agencies for the 2012.1 and 2012.2 SBIR Solicitations. As part of the guidance, agencies were strongly encouraged to develop research topics that give a high priority to manufacturing-related research and development (R&D). In FY 2012 the Program Office received 8 manufacturing-related research topics.

**FY 2012 Award Selection:** In FY 2012, DOT awarded 11 manufacturing-related SBIR Phase I contracts.

**FY 2012 Tracking and Reporting of manufacturing-related SBIR awards:** In FY 2012 the DOT SBIR Program Office tracked all 11 manufacturing related SBIR Phase I awards and received 6 reports from 6 different firms.