

**Montana Innovation Partnership
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MSU TechLink Center
P3 to PIII Newsletter**

Welcome to the P3 to PIII newsletter: timely news from MTIP to help you leverage public-private partnership (P3) opportunities through the SBIR/STTR programs and prepare you for Phase III commercialization success.

UM to Lead Regional, Technology-Transfer Accelerator Hub

The University of Montana will co-lead a regional effort to help biomedicine researchers develop their entrepreneurial skills to speed commercialization of their inventions. The three-year, \$3.5 million Small Business Technology Transfer grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences identified the University of New Mexico and the University of Montana as co-academic leads for the project. UM's Center for Translational Medicine (CTM) will spearhead the effort in Montana and the surrounding region. [Read more.](#)

"The goal is to work across the Montana university system and western region to educate and assist university researchers in developing the clinical and commercial potential of their basic scientific discoveries."

Dr. Jay Evans, CTM Director

Visit [here](#) to learn more about the regional technology transfer accelerator hubs for IDEA states

Nine questions you must answer before writing your proposal

Part of building something that matters is assessing whether you should build it at all.

What risks are worth taking?

DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency, uses the Heilmeier Catechism to evaluate proposed research projects.

The Heilmeier Catechism is a set of nine questions developed by George Heilmeier. Dr. Heilmeier was the Director of DARPA from 1975 to 1977.



Courtesy Tom Fishburne, illustrator and marketoonist for [Talking to Humans](#)

Answering these questions will help you clearly identify the problem, the potential impact of your solution, and the costs required to succeed.

The Heilmeier Catechism:

What are you trying to do? Articulate your objectives using absolutely no jargon.

How is it done today, and what are the limits of current practice?

What is new in your approach and why do you think it will be successful?

Who, besides your research group, cares?

If you are successful, what difference will it make?

What are the risks?

How much will it cost?

How long will it take?

What are the mid-term and final “exams” to check for success?



Early 2019 SBIR/STTR Dates to Remember

The eleven different SBIR agencies and five STTR agencies have unique ways of managing their SBIR/STTR programs. Some have only one open solicitation or funding opportunity each year, while others have multiple. Here are a few of the upcoming SBIR release dates. Visit each agency's site to stay up to date on changes and due dates. Sign up to receive their email announcements as well.

- [NASA](#) SBIR phase I solicitation opens January 7, 2019.
- [DoD SBIR/STTR BAA 19.1/19.A](#) is in pre-release now and opens January 8, 2019.
- [Department of Energy Release 2 FOA](#) is open now. Letters of intent are due January 7, 2019.
- [Department of Education](#) solicitation is expected to be released mid-January 2019.
- The next [NSF](#) funding announcement is expected March 2019.
- [NIH](#) omnibus grant solicitation due dates are January 7, April 5, and September 5. Targeted SBIR/STTR FOAs vary.
- The [Department of Transportation](#) will be releasing their FY2019 solicitation in January 2019.
- The following agencies have not announced dates for their next SBIR funding opportunities: [DHS](#), [EPA](#), [NOAA](#), [NIST](#), [USDA](#).



Partner Spotlight:
Montana Manufacturing Extension Center



The Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (MMEC) is a statewide manufacturing outreach and assistance center that helps manufacturers succeed by assessing their operations and providing insight and solutions to help them grow, innovate and enhance their businesses. MMEC is staffed by full-time professionals with extensive experience in manufacturing and business across a variety of industries. MMEC can assess your business operations today and help you grow, innovate, and enhance profits for tomorrow. On January 17, MMEC will host a half-day **Business Transition and Succession Planning** workshop in partnership with SBDC, MSU, the City of Bozeman, and Rocky Mountain Bank. To register or to learn more about MMEC, visit <http://www.montana.edu/mmec/>.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Montana SBIR Innovation Summit last week with our special guest, Michelle Willis, from NAVSEA, and keynote-presenters, Dave Opitz and Trent Berg. Stay tuned for more innovation workshops across the state in 2019!




From the entire team at MTIP and TechLink Center:

Warmest wishes for a happy holiday season filled with family, friends, and laughter. It is a privilege to support your innovation journey. Here's to strong proposals and funding in 2019!

Cheers,

Ann Peterson
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A microscopic view of several snowflakes against a dark blue background. The snowflakes are intricate, six-pointed structures with varying degrees of detail and color, ranging from light blue to a pale yellow. They are scattered across the frame, with some appearing larger and more prominent than others.

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Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration with additional funding from the Montana Department of Commerce and Montana State University.

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