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# National Economic Impacts of the DoD SBIR/STTR Program 1995 - 2018

*And Additional Outcome Metrics*

NASEM Workshop on *Data and Metrics for the DoD SBIR and STTR Programs*

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# About TechLink

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- Est. 1996 at Montana State Univ. for regional (5 State) NASA Technology Transfer (T2)
- In 1999, became 1<sup>st</sup>, and primary, National Partnership Intermediary for DoD T2 (per 15 USC 3715)
- Primary Activity: DoD Patent License Agreements (PLAs)
  - Facilitate ~80% all DoD PLAs, also CRADAs, other T2 activities\*
- SBIR outreach & support for DoD since 2000\*
  - Regionally, then nationally: focus on Transition/Commercialization
  - Also in-state support for all agencies
- Economic Impact Studies (EIS) now a Key Activity
  - Over 20 EIS conducted for SBIR, T2 for DoD, DOE, NCI

*\* All support is provided at no cost to client companies*

# TechLink Economic Impact Studies (EIS)

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- Goal is typically ~95% response rates, achieved by:
  - Skilled, motivated team of trained professionals
  - Agency support with Letter of Authorization, responses as needed
  - Companies generally supportive – SBIR EIS used for Reauthorization
  - Financial data only reported in aggregate – no individual results to government agencies (except for voluntary Success Stories)
  - Consideration for companies' time, minimizing intrusion
  - In-depth background research includes data validation, current contacts, prior contacts, etc.
  - Best Practices approaches include e-mail, phone, social media
  - Team effort, esp. trading records for different approaches
  - Strong IT support with secure, versatile database

## 2018 DoD SBIR/STTR EIS\*

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- Followed two prior DoD SBIR/STTR EIS:
  - 2014 USAF SBIR/STTR Economic Impact Study\*
    - 4,524 Phase II awards to 1,750 companies, contracts ending FY2000-2013
    - Award value \$4B, 96% response rate, \$47.9B total U.S. economic impact
  - 2015 U.S. Navy SBIR/STTR Economic Impact Study\*
    - 2,734 Phase II awards to 1,199 companies, contracts ending FY2000-2013
    - Award value \$2.3B, 95% response rate, \$44.3B total U.S. economic impact
- Looked at all DoD Phase II awards initiated FY1995-2012
  - Start dates provided better timeline consistency
  - Total 16,959 Phase II contracts awarded to 4,412 companies\*\*
  - Award value \$14.4B, 96% response rate (97% total completion)
  - IMPLAN analysis by Leeds School of Business at UC Boulder

\* Available at <https://www.sbir.gov/impact>

\*\* Numbers vary due mergers & acquisitions

# 2018 DoD SBIR/STTR EIS Results Summary



*Note that these numbers were very conservative at the time of the study (2018), due to non-disclosures, classified contracts, inflation, etc. Total values would be much higher in 2023.*

## Other Economic Impacts

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- Outside investments in company \$9.5 B
  - ✓ 666 companies received VC/Angel funding
- Acquisitions of SBIR/STTR companies 496
  - ✓ Based primarily on DoD SBIR/STTR innovations
- Value of acquisitions \$35.6 B
  - ✓ Understates value: Majority couldn't disclose

## IMPLAN Outputs\*

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- Economic impacts derived from IMPLAN modeling:
  - ✓ Total economic output
  - ✓ Employment
  - ✓ Labor income (including average income per job created)
  - ✓ Tax revenues (federal and state)

# Key IMPLAN Terms

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- Direct Impact

*Initial economic activity* (e.g., sales of resulting products, follow-on R&D services, and initial SBIR R&D expenditures)

- Indirect Impact

*Inter-industry purchases* of machinery, components, and supplies needed to manufacture products

- Induced Impact

*Payroll spending* by workers, spending their earnings on goods and services in the economy



# Total Economic Impacts

## Total Economic Impacts from DoD SBIR/STTR Program, FY 1995-2018

Impact Type	Employment	Employment	Labor Income	Labor Income	Output	Tax Revenues
	(Job Years)	(Av. Per Year)	(\$ Billions)	(Per Job)	(\$ Billions)	(\$ Billions)
Direct	360,508	15,674	\$43.03	\$119,357	\$137.01	\$13.48
Indirect	453,365	19,712	\$32.15	\$70,904	\$96.96	\$11.22
Induced	694,422	30,192	\$35.63	\$51,302	\$113.31	\$14.72
TOTAL	1,508,295	65,578	\$110.80	\$73,461	\$347.28	\$39.42

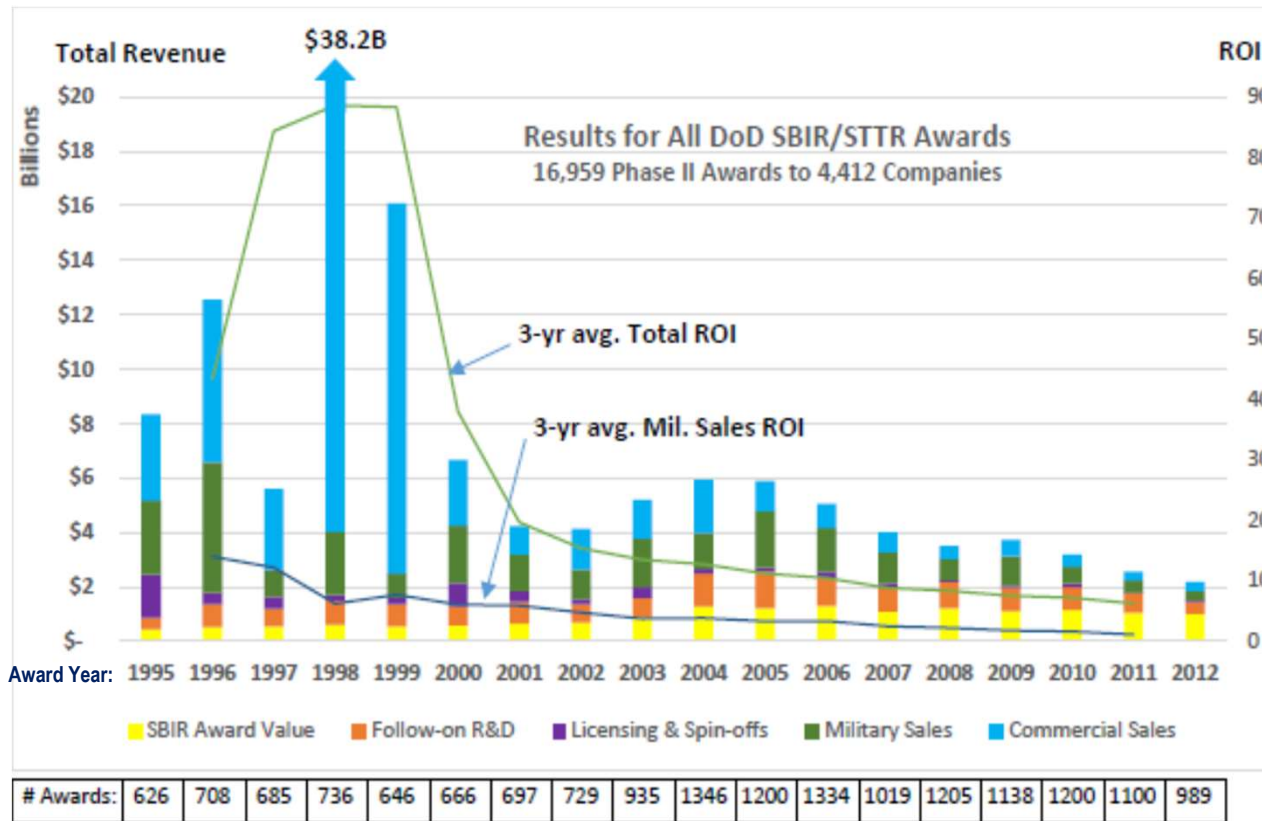
Source: IMPLAN National Model

# Analyses of Outcomes

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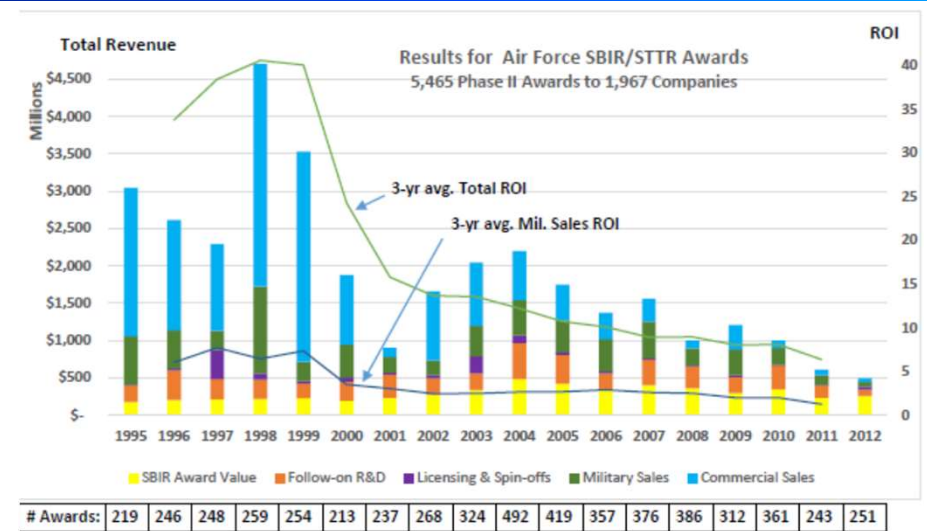
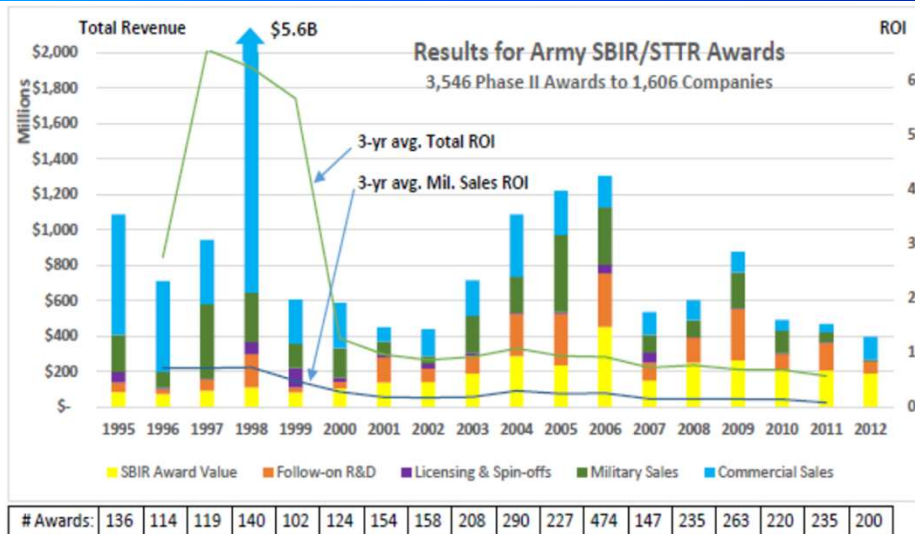
- Revenue by type and by year of award
- Return on Investment (ROI) by award year (Total Economic Impact divided by total SBIR award value)
- Comparing results for Army, Air Force and Navy
- Results for SBIR vs. STTR
- Example of SBIR First-timer Success
- Summary of Key Findings

# Overall Results by Year of Award



- Total ROI = (total economic impact)/(award value)
- Average total ROI is much larger for pre-2000 awards
- ROIs averaged over 3 years (+/- one year) to reduce excursions from “outliers”
- Most large “outliers” were pre-2000 awards
- Number and total value of SBIR/STTR awards grows rapidly after 2002
  - Increases total revenue, not ROI
- Military sales initially grow faster than commercial sales
- Long-term military sales growth eventually surpassed by commercial sales

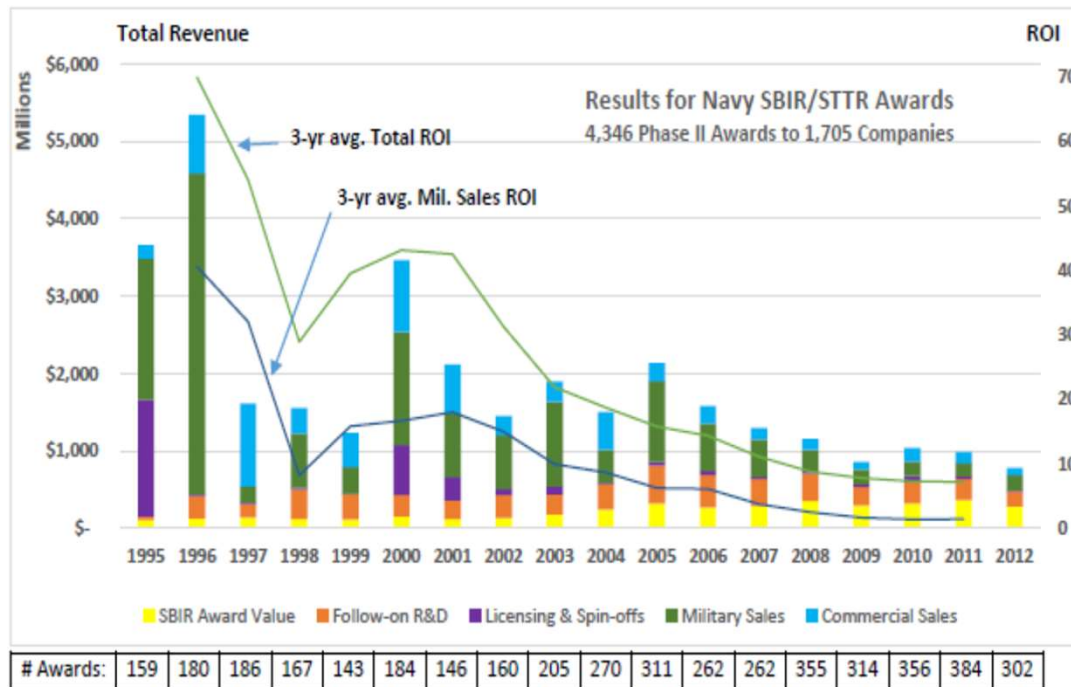
# Component Results: Army & Air Force



- Large outlier in 1998 shifts average ROI for Army
- Note discontinuities for Army awards, 2005 to 2008 (possible contracting issues?)
- Noticeable drop in revenues and ROI for 2001 and 2002 Army awards
  - Possible result of post-9/11 deployments, reassignments of Army TPOCs and PMs, where SBCs lost program contacts

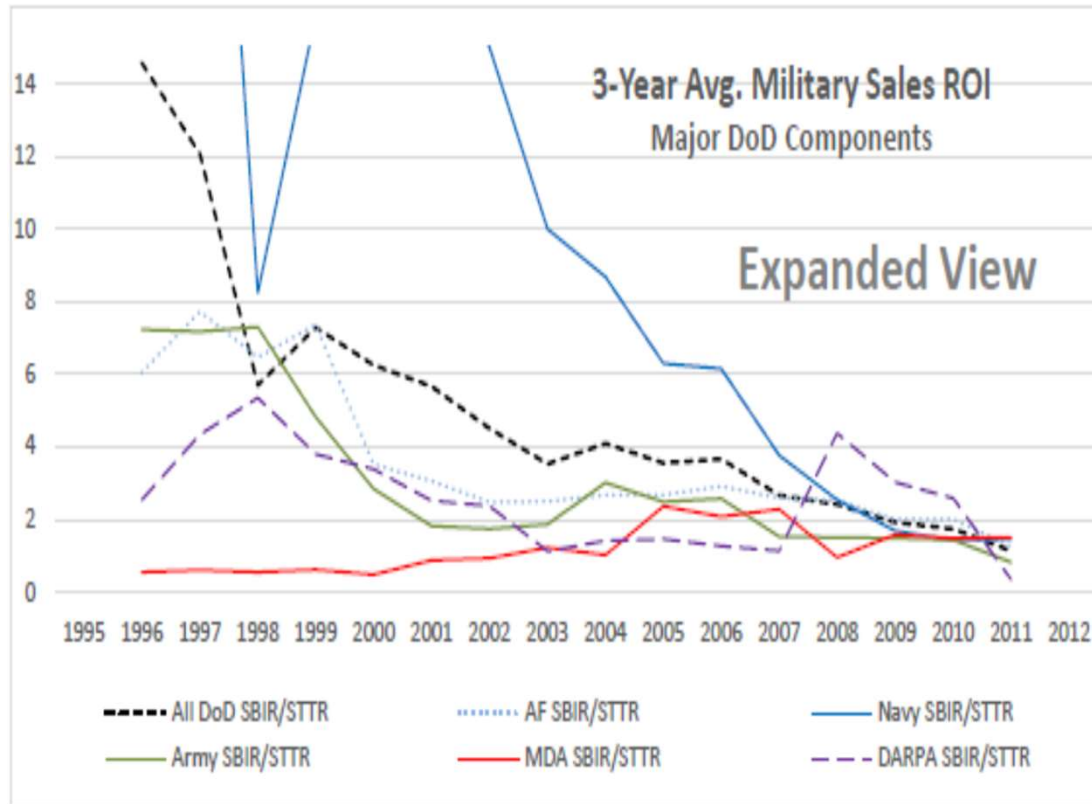
- Air Force revenue results generally larger, with larger ROI, than for Army (except for 1998). Note Total Revenue scale. Also note more AF awards.
- Large drop in revenue and ROI for 2001 awards
  - May reflect post-9/11 deployments and reassignments of TPOCs and other personnel, where less-experienced SBCs lost connections to DoD programs

# Component Results: Navy



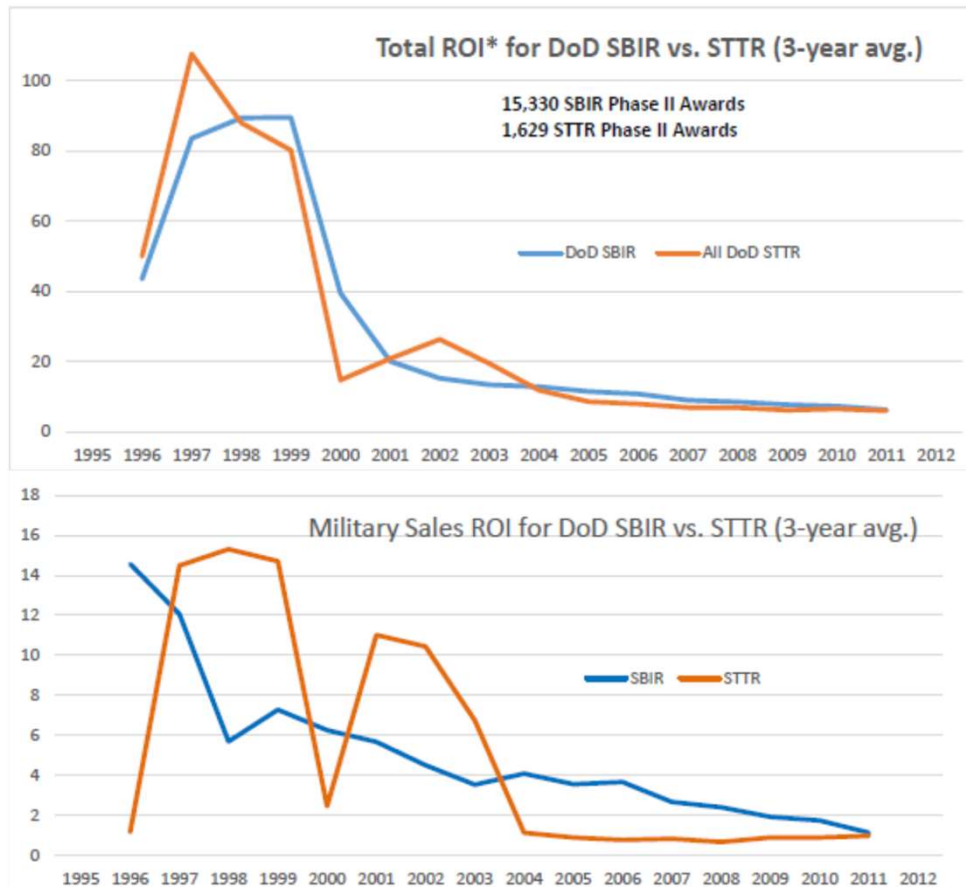
- Navy shows high proportion of military sales
  - Exceed commercial sales for 15 of 18 award years
- Navy program structure demonstrably focused on military transition
  - Phase I topics coordinated with PEO/PM/FNC needs
  - Phase II Options require Technology Transition Plans and signed Technology Transition Agreements
  - Foremost use of Phase III contracts

# Component Comparisons: Mil. Sales ROI



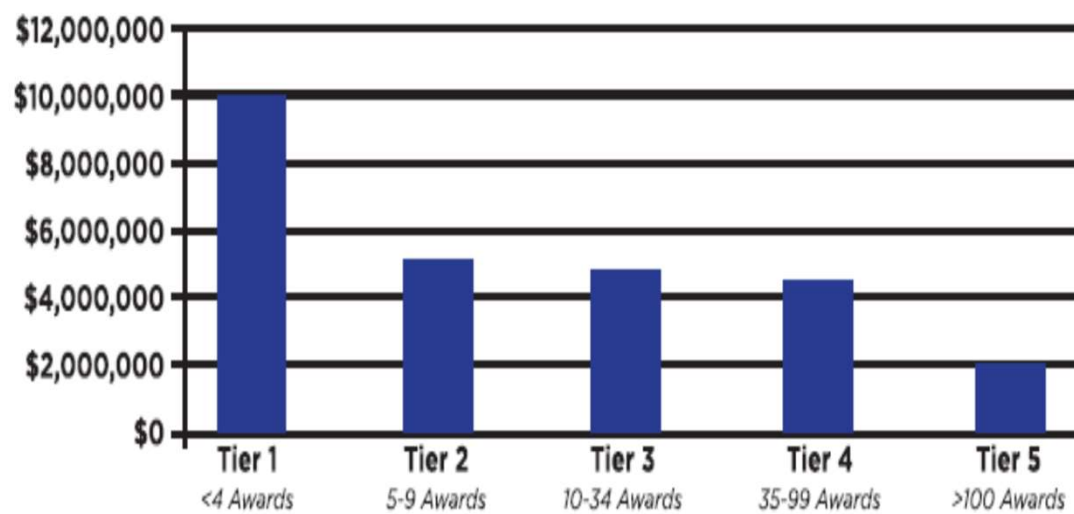
- Military sales ROI is just total military sales, times economic multiplier, divided by award values
- Military sales ROI dominated by Navy, whose military sales were generally largest part of total sales
- DARPA newer award results are increased by 2009 outlier, plus additional fast-transition results from software tech
  - Note that 3-year running average distorts peaks

# DoD STTR vs. SBIR ROI



- In general, STTR commercialization results comparable to those for SBIR.
- Fewer STTR awards lowers probability of large successes
- Overall military sales for STTR results generally comparable to SBIR
  - Except for relatively low military sales results for STTR after 2003

# Prior Air Force Study: Results by Company Experience

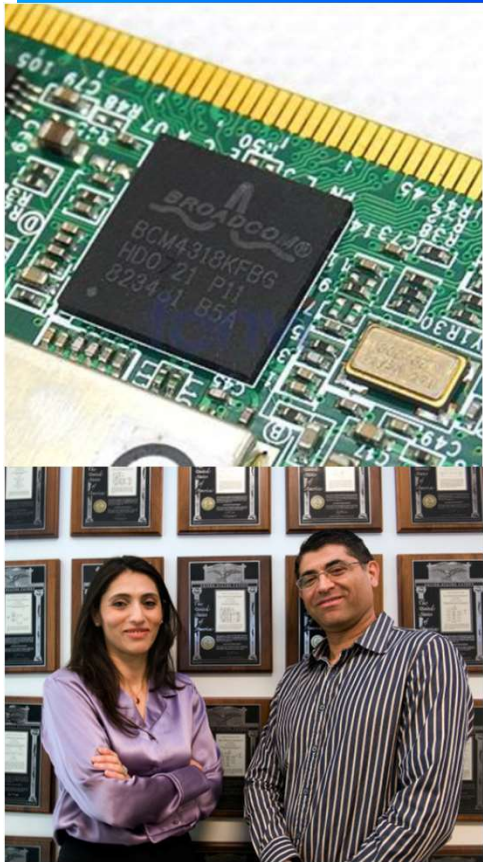


**Average Sales per Contract Achieving Sales  
Relative to Companies' Total Phase II Awards**

- In 2014 Air Force SBIR/STTR study, companies were grouped into 5 “Tiers” based upon the total number of Phase II awards they had ever received, at any time up until 2013, from any agency (not just DoD)
- Tiers were defined as per chart, with Tier 5 being most experienced, having won more than 100 Phase II awards (per SBA awards database)
- Tier 1 firms (least experienced) averaged 5X the average sales results of Tier 5 firms, for contracts achieving sales
- Tier 1 firms had 4 out of 5 of the most successful results
  - Fifth was from a Tier 4 firm



# Example of SBIR First-timer Success



## DoD Phase II led to Chips Powering Nearly All of Today's Wireless and Cellphone Technology

- 1998 DARPA Phase II for “GPS on a Chip” to Reza Rofougaran at Physical Research
- Founded Innovent Systems with sister Maryam in 2000, tech allowed GPS, Bluetooth and wireless on same chip
- 2002 Broadcom merger for \$440M stock
  - Broadcom founder Henry Samueli was Reza’s UCLA mentor
- Now at Movandi, both were named among “Top 5 Technology Innovators for 2017”

## Summary of Key Findings

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- DoD SBIR/STTR Phase II awards (1995-2012) resulted in 22:1 ROI by 2018 (much higher now)
- Over 1.5 million job years resulted by 2018
- Over \$121B in total sales of new products and services by 2018
- Over \$28B in military sales in same period
- Nearly 60% of Phase II awards resulted in sales
- Many major successes for military, civilian and “Dual-use” applications
- Tax Revenues of \$39.4B by 2018 was nearly triple initial Phase II investment of \$14.4B, and continue to grow
- High ROI (5X to 10X SBIR award value) may require 4 to 12+ years after Phase II award, depending on technology