South Dakota FAST Launch

The **South Dakota FAST Launch** program is designed to assist South Dakota entrepreneurs and small businesses with beginning and expanding their business through the Governor's Giant Vision Competition and SBIR/STTR funding.

1) Bootcamp

South Dakota FAST Launch will conduct a virtual boot camp training program on starting and growing businesses as well as developing and commercializing innovations. These will be held in November and December.

2) Customer Discovery

Participants of the boot camp are eligible to apply for up to $1,500 to support a customer validation process.

3) Business Plan

If customer interest is validated, a participant can apply for up to $10,000 to support further development and implementation of their business plan.

4) Giant Vision Competition

South Dakota FAST Launch encourages and supports entrepreneurs to participate in the Governor's Giant Vision Competition, which has a winning business award of $20,000.

5) SBIR/STTR Support

Participants should apply for SBIR/STTR funding to grow and advance their business.

Join Us!

Introductions to the program will be held at a series of regional meetings in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Madison, Brookings, Vermillion and Mission.

The details for these events as well as bootcamp and training dates and times are available online.

Register and stay updated at South Dakota Biotech's website, sdbio.org/fast.

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South Dakota Governor's

GIANT VISION

Competition

The South Dakota Governor's Giant Vision Competition allows participants to compete for cash awards, present to investors and connect with potential customers. Qualifiers attend the final competition in April, tentatively in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) Conference. Final presenters discuss their ideas with business leaders and finance experts. Separate competitions are held for student and business categories. The winner of the business competition receives $20,000, and the student winner gets $5,000.

Applications are due **Feb. 25** for the business competition and **March 4** for students. Final presentations from qualifiers are due in April.

See more information and updates at southdakotagiantvision.com.

South Dakota Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Seeing Success

Business Competition Winner, 2015
VRC Metal Systems
Box Elder, South Dakota
- $10.7 million SBIR/STTR funding
- 93 Employees

Student Competition Winner, 2017
Provender Technologies, LLC
Henry Wegehaupt, SDSMT
- $5,000 Giant Vision 2017
- $50,000 GOED Proof of Concept in 2019 and 2020
- $100,000 USDA SBIR Phase 1 award in 2020

SBIR/STTR

The **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)** programs, coordinated by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), are known as America's Seed Fund. SBIR is the largest source of early-stage funding for American small businesses to advance promising technologies that address national problems in the fields of advanced manufacturing, health care, food production and safety, cybersecurity and more. The 11 participating SBIR federal agencies will award over $4 billion in 2022 to small businesses and startup companies.

Last year, South Dakota companies won 18 SBIR awards totaling nearly $6 million. Isn't it time your company learned how and when to use SBIR funding, the only source of non-dilutive funding, to develop next generation products?

Additional information can be found at the South Dakota Small Business Development Center (SD SBDC): sdbusinesshelp.com/small-business-innovation-research.

SD Biotech

South Dakota Biotech is the state affiliate of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO). This nonprofit organization, formed in 2006, is dedicated to developing biotechnology through expanding research, advocacy, funding, education, infrastructure development and promotion. Members include businesses, universities, service providers and economic development entities.

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