TECH WARRIOR ENTERPRISE

The Air Force Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Program's Operational Experimentation and Demonstration Pilot (Tech Warrior Enterprise), originally launched in December 2017, became part of a permanent, year-round program management office endeavor in FY2019.

Tech Warrior Enterprise is comprised of two types of events, Tech Warrior CONNECT and Tech Warrior OPS. Designed to accelerate critical tools and solutions developed by small businesses to the warfighter, these events provide an arena for collaboration between small business and government customers and end-users. Additionally, they provide a proving ground for technologies and systems and foster long-term relationships that better posture technology for broader socialization, additional investment, commercialization, and transition.

Scope

Tech Warrior Enterprise explores the art of the possible by allowing business to demonstrate, integrate and test in a relevant setting. These events also offer the opportunity for Air Force stakeholders, supporting organizations and partners to see technology in action and to hear first-hand operator feedback. Technology evaluation resulting from Tech Warrior Enterprise events is used by Air Force SBIR/STTR Program Management Office personnel, as well as partners from Air Force Program Element Offices, other government agencies, industry partners, etc., in aligning emerging developments and products with appropriate investment opportunities and customer communities, and plan for strategic funding and investment where a "technology pull" or opportunity for "disruption" is present.

Because event participation includes non-SBIR/STTR businesses, the opportunity to increase stewardship of the SBIR/STTR process/opportunity via tri-annual Broad Agency Announcements/topics exists. That stewardship extends to customer communities within the government who are introduced to small business capabilities that can fill gaps and meet requirements with agility and innovation.

The goals of Tech Warrior Enterprise activities include:

- Provide opportunities for small business to test, experiment, conduct data collection, collect feedback, insert, showcase, and demonstrate state-of-the-art technology in a realistic operational environment. Allow technologists the opportunity to fail, iterate, and evaluate technical risk associated with their efforts.

- Provide opportunities for small business, procurement and acquisition communities, and end-user groups to collide, allowing them to evaluate, in partnership, the financial risk associated with continued technology research and development efforts.

- Encourage failure as an opportunity to collect critical feedback, advance technology readiness, iterate, etc.

- Identify small businesses that are deft and disruptive or have mission critical technologies with alignment to warfighter needs, requirements, and technology gaps. Plan next steps with regards to alignment to future collaboration, partnership and investment opportunities.

- Provide situational awareness, socialization of opportunities for small business to solicit undiluted, seed funding for research, development, testing and evaluation, and capture feedback from military market customer communities, and evaluate market risk associated with their efforts.

- Facilitate strategic introductions between small business and supporting organizations, stakeholders, users, customers, advocates, investors, etc.

POINTS OF CONTACT

TWENTERPRISE.ORG

twenterprise@parallaxresearch.org

f techwarriorenterprise T_W_Enterprise techwarriorenterprise techwarriorenterprise