

Opening Statement
Ranking Member Phil Gingrey (R-GA)
“SBIR and STTR – How are the Programs Managed Today?”
June 26, 2007

Good Afternoon and thank you Chairman Wu for holding this second hearing on the Small Business Innovation Research program (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer program (STTR).

Under the SBIR program, departments and agencies with R&D budgets of \$100 million or more are required to set aside 2.5% of these budgets to sponsor research at small companies. Overall, this is a two billion dollar program. These awards are highly competitive with only the most pioneering and innovative companies receiving these federal monies. This is the some of most ground-breaking and inventive science research in the country and Mr. Chairman, this is really some of the biggest bang for our buck.

The SBIR program began in 1982 under President Ronald Reagan when our government saw a need to increase our national investment in research and development to specifically seek technological innovations in emerging areas. A capstone of this program is to position US companies vis-à-vis foreign competitors.

The ultimate goal of the SBIR program is to bring new products and technologies to commercialization in order to stimulate international competitiveness. This program is an important stepping stone in the overall goal to keep America’s competitive advantage in the worldwide marketplace.

The STTR program was established in 1992 and funds R&D cooperatively by small businesses and research institutions such as universities, federally funded R&D centers, or domestic research organizations.

Currently, 11 departments and agencies sponsor SBIR programs and today we will hear from the program manager’s who oversee the five largest programs. I am looking forward to hearing from these men and women who handle the SBIR and STTR program and ensure that our best science goes forward towards commercialization and keeps this country competitive on a global level.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and I look forward to hearing from all of our witnesses.