

General

How is Orbital Prime different from Space Prime?

Space Prime is the overarching SpaceWERX program that seeks to prime the pump and drive investment into a nascent space market sector. Orbital Prime is the first initiative under this program, focused on accelerating capabilities related On-orbit Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing (OSAM).

How does Orbital Prime address Space Sustainability?

Orbital Prime will use Active Debris Remediation (ADR) as a use case for the foundational technologies. As congestion and debris threaten the long-term sustainability of the space domain, Orbital Prime will transition agile, affordable, and accelerated OSAM space capabilities to build the foundation for space logistics while preserving the global commons.

What is the physical objective of Orbital Prime?

Orbital Prime will complete an OSAM-related on-orbit demonstration in an accelerated timeline of 2-4 years. This will lay a foundation for future space logistics.

What is the initial opportunity to participate in Orbital Prime?

Interest areas are announced as part of an out-of-cycle Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) to target the small businesses and university collaboration, spurring interest and workforce talent.

Will there be additional opportunities to participate in Orbital Prime outside of the STTR?

Yes, the out-of-cycle STTR is just the initial funding opportunity for Orbital Prime. Orbital Prime will utilize various investment mechanisms including, but not limited to, the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR), Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR), and Strategic Funding Increase (STRATFI) processes to invest and drive technology maturation in areas of interest. Future opportunities will direct additional investment starting in 2022.

Can companies that are not eligible for SBIR participate in Orbital Prime?

The Orbital Prime team is investigating ways to involve the larger space community, including non-small business and international entities. Be on the lookout for additional information in the future through SpaceWERX.

Can international companies participate in Orbital Prime?

The Orbital Prime team is investigating ways to involve the larger space community, including non-small business and international entities. Be on the lookout for additional information in the future through SpaceWERX.

For more information regarding international involvement in the STTR solicitation, please see:

<https://www.sbir.gov/tutorials/program-basics/tutorial-2#>

What resources do companies have access to under Orbital Prime?

Orbital Prime will offer funded opportunities as well as non-monetary resources such as access to testing facilities and mentoring on regulatory and contracting processes.

How does commercialization factor into the evaluations for Orbital Prime?

The mission of Prime is to accelerate the commercial market and stimulate industry investment. As such, Orbital Prime seeks to support capabilities and solutions that can transition to the commercial market sector.

Are you working with interagency partners (DARPA, NASA, etc.)?

Yes, Orbital Prime is working with interagency partners to address this challenge.

Who falls under ITAR controls?

For purposes of export control regulations (EAR and ITAR), US citizens, green card holders and asylee/refugees are US persons not subject to controls. However, if the technology is classified as well as controlled, permanent residents are deemed foreign nationals and are subject to controls.

How does dual citizenship affect ITAR?

For dual nationals as a general principle, the last citizenship obtained governs. EAR and ITAR generally considers the last place of permanent residence or the last place of citizenship that was obtained to be the nationality for purposes of determining the country coverage under the deemed export rules. The exception to this rule is when access to the technology is classified.

Where can I find more information about Orbital Prime?

Information about Orbital Prime will be available at SpaceWERX.us on the [Space Prime webpage](#).

How do I stay up to date on Orbital Prime?

You may join our [SpaceWERX mailing list](#) and/or follow us @SpaceWERXDOD on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Tech Tracks**What are the tech tracks?**

The tech tracks are the focus areas that Orbital Prime will address. They include 1) Resident Space Object (RSO) approach through Rendezvous Proximity Operations (RPO); 2) RSO acquisition and docking; and 3) RSO servicing, to include repairing, repositioning, refueling, deorbiting, reusing or recycling, etc.

What if my technology applies to multiple tech tracks?

It is anticipated that some solutions may fall under multiple Orbital Prime technology tracks. You may be asked to identify what technology track(s) your solution most closely matches.

Is Orbital Prime interested in partial solutions (components, SW, etc.)?

Yes, Orbital Prime is interested in supporting a variety of solutions (full system or partial).

What Technology Readiness Level (TRL) is Orbital Prime looking for?

Orbital Prime is open to technology at any stage/TRL.

STTR**When will the Orbital Prime STTR solicitation be released?**

The initial Orbital Prime STTR solicitation (Notice ID: [AF21S-TCSO1](#)) was released on November 17th.

How many STTR awards will Orbital Prime make?

Orbital Prime anticipates awarding multiple dozens of STTR Phase I contracts for this initial offering.

What is the award amount for the Orbital Prime STTR Phase I contracts?

The projected award amount for an Orbital Prime STTR Phase I contract is \$250K.

What is the timeline for the Orbital Prime STTR awards?

The initial Orbital Prime STTR solicitation is projected to be released November 17th with a closing date in late January/early February. Phase I contracts are projected to be awarded Spring/Summer 2022 with a 4 month period of performance (3 months of technical performance, 1 months of reporting).

What will the Orbital Prime STTR focus on?

The Orbital Prime STTR will focus on the three tech tracks. During Phase I, teams will address the feasibility of their proposed solution. Phase II will be focused on prototyping.

Can I submit multiple proposals to the STTR solicitation?

A Small Business Concern (SBC) can submit multiple proposals but the proposed technical approach and teaming arrangements must be different. A Principal Investigator (PI) may only serve as PI for one proposal.

How is the STTR Program different from the SBIR program?

The STTR program is similar to the SBIR program, however, the STTR program requires one qualifying research partner to perform 30 – 60% of the award work. (e.g. university, non-profit, or FFRDC)

For an STTR proposal, can the PI be from the Research Institute (RI) Partner?

For STTR, the Principal Investigator (PI) can be from the Research Institute (RI) partner, assuming that at least 40% of the work effort is being performed by the Small Business, and at least 30% by the RI (subcontractor).

If the RI Partner professor moves to another university, could the subcontract be transferred to the new university?

Any changes of research team after the contract award, such as a professor involved in the SBIR/STTR moving to another university, would require notifying the Contracting Officer in writing with a request for concurrence.

Can a STTR Phase I be changed to SBIR in Phase II and vice versa?

A technology effort that starts as a Phase I STTR can change to a SBIR in Phase II, or vice versa. The decision on the type of topic (SBIR or STTR) is a government decision and happens before contracts are awarded. SBIR and STTR are two different funding streams and involve different prime-sub contract percentages for accomplishment of the work. Firms can provide input to the government about changing the type of program (STTR or SBIR) being used if the firm believes the change of research team (and thus the prime and sub relationship) warrants that change and as applies to follow-on Phase II work. Those types of decisions need to be made before any follow-on funding and contract action are taken by the government.

Regarding ITAR, what are the appropriate steps to follow to meet federal guidance?

To clarify if applicable ITAR must be addressed. Questions on applicability should be directed to the U.S. Department of State , Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC).

https://www.pmddtc.state.gov/ddtc_public?id=ddtc_public_portal_homepage

What level of ITAR compliance is required?

Questions on compliance should be directed to contact the U.S. Department of State, DDTC. Who Must Register-

https://www.pmddtc.state.gov/ddtc_public?id=ddtc_kb_article_page&sys_id=7110b98edbb8d30044f9ff621f96192d

Does all collaboration need to be over ITAR compliant networks?

Any company that handles, manufactures, designs, sells, or distributes items on the USML must be ITAR compliant. The State Department's DDTC manages the list of companies who can deal in USML goods and services, and it is up to each company to establish policies to comply with ITAR regulations.

I have been looking through the proposals and do not see any "deliverables" stated. If so, can you point them out?

Deliverables will be determined upon contract selection and stated in your contract at award. For Phase I solicitations, typical deliverables are a Final Report.

