

## (November 8, 2005) Congressman Lipinski Addresses House Committee on Small Business

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Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs

Hearing on Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Congressman Lipinski made the following statement before the House Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs. Congressman Lipinski is the Ranking Member of this Subcommittee.

Statement of the Honorable Daniel Lipinski

Subcommittee Hearing on "The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program - Opening Doors to New Technology"

House Committee on Small Business

Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs

November 8, 2005

Thank you Madam Chairman.

I am glad to be here today to discuss the Small Business Innovation Research - SBIR - program and the role it plays in keeping our nation on the forefront of technological advancements.

In today's fast-paced and highly-competitive global marketplace - the United States continues to be a leader when it comes to technology. In no small part, this success is driven by the efforts of our nation's small businesses. Entrepreneurs continue to be dominant players in keeping the U.S. ahead, with small firms producing 55 percent of all new technological advances.

In order to ensure that our country keeps moving forward in science, engineering, and other high-tech fields, we need to continue investing in small firms. The SBIR program is one of the leading tools that empowers small businesses to contribute to the nation's technology sector.

SBIR enables entrepreneurs with bright, ground-breaking ideas to receive the valuable seed funding they need in order to start and grow their businesses. By opening a door for small firms to participate in federal research and development, this program is responsible for enabling thousands of small businesses to move their ideas from laboratories to the marketplace.

The SBIR program has played a significant role in turning a wide variety of innovative dreams into reality -- from quick-frozen foods to personal computers.

By harnessing the imagination and spirit of small, high-tech innovators, we strengthen our ability to meet national research priorities, while laying the groundwork for the next generation of small technology firms in the United States.

The SBIR program is not merely helpful, but it is a critical program for spawning research and development in the early, pre-commercial stages. Without the resources offered through SBIR, many small businesses will lack what they need to spur high tech innovation and development in order to move this nation forward for generations to come.

I look forward to hearing the testimony of today's witnesses including any ideas for improvement that will make the SBIR more equitable, efficient, and productive.

Thank you.