

NAVSEA SBIR/STTR Outreach Attended the 38th National Surface Navy Symposium

ARLINGTON, VA – The NAVSEA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs made some serious waves at the Surface Navy Association's (SNA) 38th National Symposium. Held from January 13–15, 2026, the high-energy event saw the NAVSEA SBIR/STTR Programs Team turn a surprise opportunity into a major win for small business engagement.

Representing the programs was Amelia Moore, from NAVSEA SBIR/STTR Outreach & Communications, who was asked to come up to discuss the SBIR/STTR program. During the Small Business Showcase, Moore was invited to speak on behalf of the NAVSEA SBIR/STTR Programs Team, she was able to deliver an overview of the programs and answering questions for small businesses to get involved and ensure everyone left with key materials in hand. The move instantly amplified the programs' presence among the industry's key players.

The symposium, themed "Surface Warfare: Combat Ready Warfighters for 250 Years," was the place to be drawing a top-tier crowd of Navy and Coast Guard leaders to the Hyatt Regency Crystal City. For Moore, the three days were a whirlwind of high-value networking. She held around 30 to 35 impactful conversations, connecting with innovators, fellow NAVSEA SBIR/STTR personnel, and tech experts to spark new ideas and line up future collaborations.

Navigating the exhibit hall, Moore's mission was to bridge the gap between naval needs and small business ingenuity. Her discussions cut straight to the chase, focusing on aligning technology with program goals and pinpointing how emerging tech can solve critical capability gaps identified by the Navy's O5T technology community.

While the "extremely crowded venue" made finding a quiet corner a challenge, the incredible energy and high attendance confirmed the event's importance. The intense interest from small businesses eager to partner with the Navy was palpable.

Riding this wave of success, the team is already charting a course for 2027, recommending a larger role in future showcases and bringing in more partners from other commands. The experience at SNA 38th National Symposium proved that even in the busiest of settings, a proactive and engaging approach is the key to driving the mission to surface warfare.