

## **NAVSEA SBIR/STTR Program Supports Small Businesses at Rochester Technology Summit**

Rochester, N.Y., August 12–13, 2025, The NAVSEA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program participated in a two-day technology and small business summit in Rochester, New York. The event convened defense leaders, industry representatives, and academic partners to advance innovation, foster collaboration, and strengthen the technology workforce pipeline.

### **Day 1: Plenary Sessions and Industry Insights**

The summit opened with remarks from senior leaders, including Matt Coleman, Atlantic Regional Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration, and Mr. Kareem Sykes, Project Spectrum, who delivered a session on data rights and best practices for protecting proprietary information.

Industry perspectives were provided by Kimberly Ricker (L3Harris Technologies) and Abby Lilly (Lockheed Martin), who discussed procurement strategies and expectations for small business partners. Academic leaders from the National Center for Intelligent Imaging and the STELLAR Program at the University of Rochester highlighted opportunities for collaboration in emerging technology fields.

A defense innovation panel featuring representatives from Army, NAVWAR, OSD, and AFRL shared insights on SBIR/STTR updates, transition strategies, non-traditional funding mechanisms, and upcoming solicitations. The day concluded with lightning pitches from small businesses presenting innovative capabilities.

### **Day 2: Workforce Development and Matchmaking**

The second day focused on workforce initiatives and matchmaking opportunities. Hosted by Just Solutions, Inc. and the Rochester Technology & Manufacturing Association, discussions highlighted STEM education pipelines, laser technologies, and partnerships to support the future engineering workforce.

NAVSEA SBIR/STTR representatives engaged with approximately 40 companies, including SBIR awardees, AI and cybersecurity firms, and other innovators. Conversations focused on capabilities, transition pathways, and future opportunities for engagement within the Navy's SBIR/STTR ecosystem.

### **Advancing Navy Innovation**

Participation in the Rochester summit strengthened NAVSEA SBIR/STTR's visibility within the defense innovation community and reinforced the Navy's commitment to supporting small businesses. Key outcomes included:

- Increased awareness of cross-agency SBIR/STTR strategies and commercialization tools
- Direct engagement with small businesses preparing for upcoming solicitations

- Insight into regional workforce development initiatives
- Valuable feedback from awardees on transition challenges and opportunities

The NAVSEA SBIR/STTR Program remains dedicated to advancing small business partnerships that deliver innovative solutions for the Navy and the nation's warfighters.