

Abstract for the 10th INSME Annual Meeting Session IV

“How challenges drive innovation”

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Stimulating innovation, especially driven by science and technology, requires a broad understanding of commercialization and of market-based outcomes (broadly defined). In the U.S., the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, which operates across multiple federal agencies, stimulates “applied research” through competitive grants to private companies (who meet the definition of “small business”) in STI-focused areas. The SBIR program’s phased approach to funding starts with the testing of a hypothesis/development of a concept with potential commercial/end-user benefits. It then proceeds to a pre-commercial phase of funding that is designed to enable a focus on targeted users, collaborators, buyers and funders outside of government support.

Brief presentation of the SBIR program’s across STI areas including life sciences and health care, food and agriculture, energy, materials and defense-derived technologies:

- Data framework to consider results of the program (National Academies etc.)
- Formal commercialization efforts, including Larta Institute’s CAPstone programs
- Lessons learned and application to ongoing cycles of funding & support.