



U.S. Small Business
Administration

NEWS RELEASE

Release Date: January 20, 2021

Release Number: ME21-09

Contact: Keith.Lind@sba.gov

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Blogs](#) & [Instagram](#)

SBA Announces RockStep Solutions, Inc., of Portland as Recipient of Tibbetts Awards for Demonstrating Significant Economic and Social Impact from R&D Funding

WASHINGTON – Today, the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) announced 38 companies, seven organizations and 14 individuals as the winners of the prestigious Tibbetts Award for their accomplishments in creating cutting-edge technologies. Among these recipients was RockStep Solutions, Inc., a Portland based company focused on data solutions for the medical industry.

The Tibbetts Awards, named after Roland Tibbetts, the founder of the SBIR Program, honors these awardees for the exceptional successes they achieved through SBA's [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) and Small Business Technology Transfer \(STTR\) programs](#).

“For nearly four decades, the SBIR and STTR programs have been assisting small businesses with launching ideas from conception to market. The Tibbetts Awards highlight our nation’s next generation of competitive creators who help push the U.S. economy into the future,” said SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza. “SBA continues to play a key role in administering these research and technology funding programs, providing ‘seed money’ to help our nation’s greatest and most innovative research entrepreneurs start, grow and transition into high-growth companies. The companies and the technologies they create played a unique role in job creation, the building of new industries and communities and addressing the nation’s most pressing challenges.”

“The selection of RockStep Solutions, Inc. for this award recognizes what we in Maine have always known, that our state is home to a community of innovators and creative entrepreneurs,” said Diane Sturgeon, Deputy District Director of the SBA Maine District Office. “This year especially, to highlight a business like RockStep, which builds technology to improve collaboration in medical technology, is really meaningful.”

[Space for quote from RockStep Solutions]

“RockStep Solutions is grateful for the support of the U.S. SBA and the SBIR program which, along with the Maine Technology Institute, have made this all possible. Our goal is to create good jobs in Maine and our mission is to help get cures to market faster. We are now very honored to enter Tibbetts Hall of Fame.”

The Tibbetts awards also recognize the creative and impactful way organizations and individuals have supported the rising tech entrepreneur, especially in creating success with underrepresented communities. Details on each of the winners can be found on www.tibbettsawards.com.

The products and services developed across various industries include: artificial intelligence, genetics, nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, clean energy, sensors, aerospace and telecommunications. These stories demonstrate the substantial economic and social benefit of the SBIR and STTR programs and their impact on our economy. Past Tibbetts awardees include: Qualcomm, 23andMe, Symantec and Broadcom.

The SBIR/STTR programs are a key pillar in the federal government’s strategy for a strong national economy, providing seed capital to innovative entrepreneurs in science, technology and engineering. The program, known as America’s Seed Fund, focuses on funding critical technology areas that are too high risk or early-stage for traditional venture capital.

Since its inception in 1982, the program has awarded over 170,000 awards with over \$50 billion in funding to small businesses through the 11 participating federal agencies. It boasts one of the highest returns on taxpayer investment when measuring federal funding and economic impact.

###

About the SBIR and STTR Programs

The SBIR/STTR programs represent the nation’s largest source of early stage research and development funding for small businesses. The programs are administered by the SBA in collaboration with 11 federal agencies, who collectively supported more than \$4 billion a year in federal research and development funding. www.sbir.gov.

About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a

declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more visit www.sba.gov.