

Senator Lautenberg Looks to give SBIR Funding a Boost

Following a recent tour of F3 Engineering in Paterson, U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) urged his colleagues in the Senate to immediately approve legislation that would extend the federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program through 2019. The program is set to expire on May 31. F3 Engineering is a technology manufacturing company that has benefited from the program and has since been able to grow and create local jobs.

"This critical federal program creates jobs and supports companies in New Jersey. We must ensure that small businesses in New Jersey and across the country have a place at the table when the government invests in research and development," Lautenberg stated. "Allowing this successful program to expire would put jobs in jeopardy and threaten small business development. Congress must act quickly to renew this program and help small businesses create jobs and boost the economy."

"Since its enactment in 1982, as part of the Small Business



Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (right) stands in front of a wing of an F-18 fighter airplane at F3 Engineering in Paterson as he talks about renewing funding for SBA's SBIR program. He is joined by SBA's Region II Regional Administrator Jorge Silva-Puras.

Innovation Development Act, SBIR has helped thousands of small businesses to compete for federal research and development awards," said U.S. Small Business Administration Regional Administrator Jorge Silva-Puras, who joined Senator Lautenberg on the tour. "It is exciting to see small businesses like F3 Engineering creating jobs and developing cutting edge technology that is finding its way into commercial applications. The future funding of the SBIR program will allow small business owners to continue to research and develop new innovations that not only transform America, but are vital to the interests of our national economy."

The SBIR program was created by Congress in 1982 to help stimulate technological innovation and increase the participation of small

businesses across the nation in federally funded projects. The program requires federal agencies with research and development budgets of \$100 million or more to designate a portion of their budgets for small firms to fund early-stage research that advances the agency's mission.

F3 Engineering is a small business that specializes in the development, design and manufacture of technology used to create safer and smoother landings for military aircraft. Since 2007, the F3 Engineering staff has grown from seven people to 44 and in September the company announced plans to hire 100 more employees for manufacturing, engineering and administrative jobs over the next five years. F3 Engineering credits the SBIR program and other federal small business programs for its success.

Small business firms that have received SBIR funding produce 38 percent of America's patents and employ 40 percent of America's scientists and engineers. Small firms in New Jersey receive approximately \$40 million per year through the SBIR program.

New Jersey's 200,000 small businesses account for 98.4 percent of the state's employers and 50.8 percent of the state's private sector employment, according to the Small Business Administration.



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