

# Innovation Fund (IF) Awards

- Initiated in 2007 by Project Director, Judith Van Houten after hearing many reviewers state “if this works, it would change the field, but the risk is too high”
- Proposals for important, but low-risk research will not be considered
- Rather, searching for ideas that, if they work, would revolutionize a Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) field
- Ideas in the proposals must be deemed “transformative”
- Preliminary data not expected
- Intended to stimulate innovation in research and technology in Vermont
- Principle Investigator does not have to be a faculty member or small business owner
- Awards up to \$12,000 each to support proof-of-concept work
- Funding Period from October to June
- A panel of entrepreneurs, who have solid engineering and science backgrounds, serve as reviewers
- Full RFP and electronic submission site available on the web at [www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR](http://www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR) (check web for funding cycle submission deadlines)

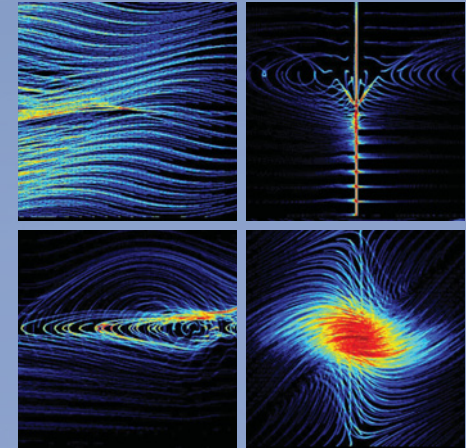


Experimental Program to  
Stimulate Competitive Research

University of Vermont  
Cook Building, 82 University Place  
Burlington, VT 05405

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Cover images provided by Dr. Joshua Bongard, UVM and represent four models of a mechanical pendulum, generated by an algorithm that automatically synthesizes models of complex systems.

**The Vermont Experimental  
Program to Stimulate  
Competitive Research  
(VT EPSCoR)  
program offers three  
funding opportunities  
to Vermont small businesses  
to compete for grants**

**SBIR Phase (0)**

**Innovation Fund (IF)**

**Use of Facilities  
for Private Sector**

“MicroStrain, Inc. has leveraged EPSCoR Phase (0)’s into significant Federal R&D: 8 Phase (0)’s amounting to about \$60,000 has resulted in 11 Phase I, 5 Phase II and 3 Phase III awards totaling about \$8.2M”

Steve Arms, President, MicroStrain, Inc.

## Small Business Innovation Research SBIR Phase (0)

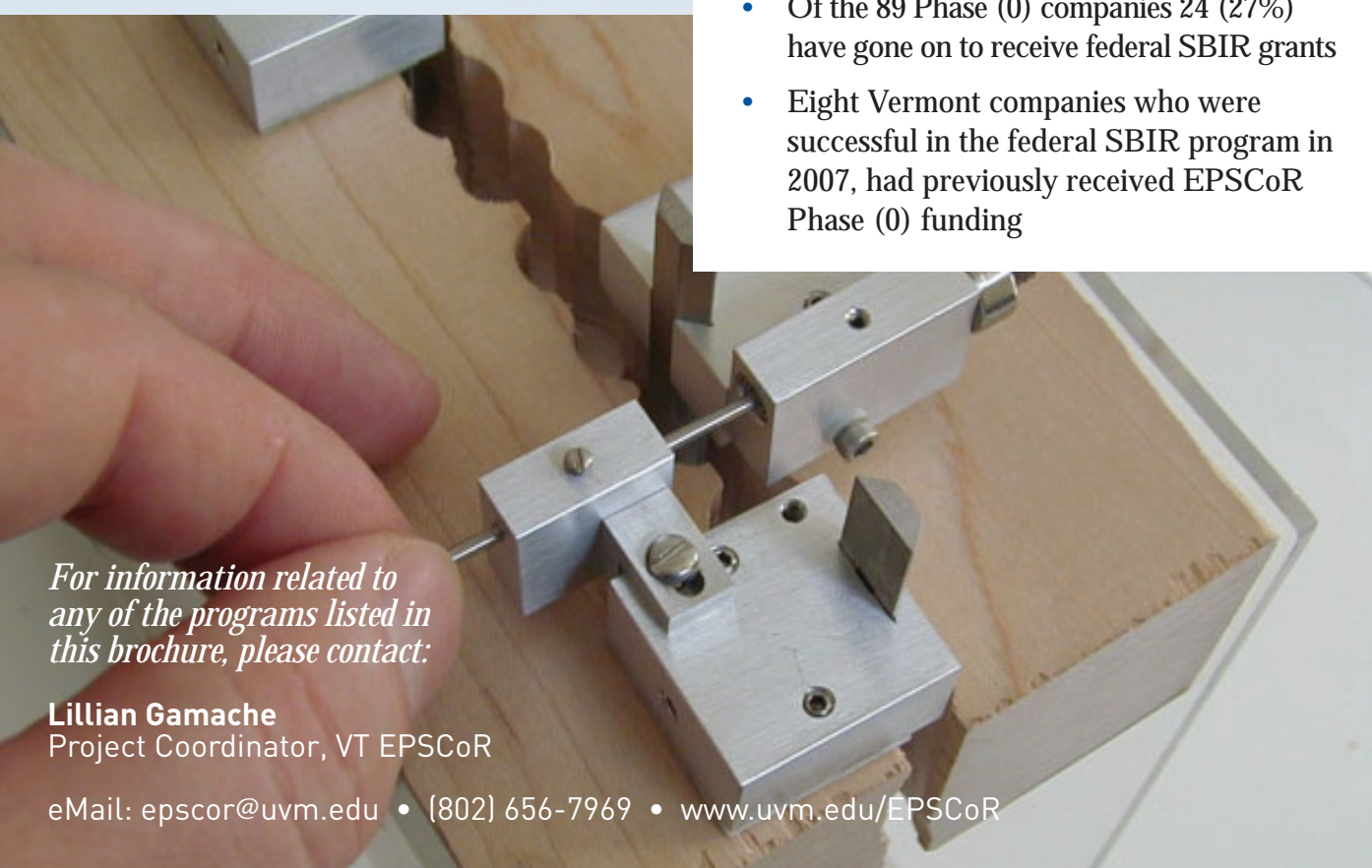
- Invented in 1992 by Project Director, Judith Van Houten and Josh Van Houten, Leavy Family Professor of Chemistry at St. Michael’s College
- Provides opportunity for Vermont small businesses to compete for grants to foster research and development projects leading to application to federal SBIR programs
- 148 awards have been made to 89 companies since 1992
- Of the 89 Phase (0) companies 24 (27%) have gone on to receive federal SBIR grants
- Eight Vermont companies who were successful in the federal SBIR program in 2007, had previously received EPSCoR Phase (0) funding

- Award Amounts are up to \$12,000
- Period of Support is October to June
- Program is intended to a preliminary proof-of-concept feasibility study – not a full-blown project
- Proposals peer reviewed by experts in business and academia
- Full RFP and electronic submission site available on the web at [www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR](http://www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR) (check web for funding cycle submission deadlines)



## Use of Facilities at the University of Vermont (UVM)

- Initiated in 2007
- Provides opportunity for Vermont small businesses to compete for grants to use facilities at UVM to collect the data necessary for the submission of Phase (I) and (II) federal grants
- A federal SBIR program to which the work is eventually targeted is required
- Awards range from \$1,000 - \$5,000
- Funding Period from October to June
- Full RFP and electronic submission site available on the web at [www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR](http://www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR) (check web for funding cycle submission deadlines)



*For information related to any of the programs listed in this brochure, please contact:*

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