**FAQs – Technical And Business Assistance (TABA) Vendor (Commercialization services)**

**Q1.** Do I have to have a TABA vendor?

**A1.** Yes, you will have a TABA vendor. But there are two options:

1. The default condition is you will be assigned the current DOE TABA vendor (LARTA.org) upon notice of award. LARTA is primarily assigned to assist you with your commercialization plan for a Phase II application, along with other useful services. There is no formal notification on your part for selecting this option and there is no budget impact. LARTA is paid directly by the DOE so it’s up to you to engage with LARTA to the extent required.
2. You may choose your own third-party TABA vendor. If you do, the DOE will allow you to budget up to $6,500 for those services. You are also allowed to increase your grant limit by $6,500.

**Q2.** Where would I reflect the TABA vendor in the budget?

**A2.** Your TABA vendor will be considered a consultant.

**Q3.** Can I submit $6,500 as a placeholder in my budget if I can’t identify a third-party TABA vendor?

**A3.** No. Since all consultants must have a Letter of Commitment, you’ll need to select and identify your TABA consultant with your application.

**Q4.** Are there restrictions on what the TABA funds can be used for?

**A4.** Yes. Those questions can be answered in the FOA, search term “TABA”.

**Q5.** How is the TABA vendor scored as far as an applicant’s SBIR/STTR Level-of-Effort?

**A5.** Since TABA vendors are considered consultants in the budget, they do not contribute to the small business’s workshare. Care should be taken, especially when budgeting for other consultants and subawards, that the small business still meets its workshare requirements.

**Q6.** For TABA vendor selection, is there a stated preference in DOE’s evaluation and selection process for award?

**A6.** There is not.

**Q7.** Can TABA funds subsidize IP attorney fees, and are those fees limited to $150/hour?

**A7.** Yes, TABA funds can be used to pay for an IP attorney for those items articulated in the FOA. Fees are not limited to $150/hour. Additional documentation may be require after notification of award to justify hourly rates over $150/hour.