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Nota di contenuto	Summary -- Introduction -- Program management -- DoE initiatives -- SBIR and STTR awards at DoE -- Quantitative outcomes -- Participation of women and minorities -- Insights from case studies and survey responses -- Findings and recommendations -- Appendixes -- Appendix A: Overview of methodological approaches, data sources, and survey tools -- Appendix B: Major changes to the SBIR and STTR programs resulting from the 2011 SBIR Reauthorization Act, P.L. 112-81, December 2011 -- Appendix C: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2014 SBIR/STTR survey -- Appendix D: List of research institutions involved in surveyed DoE SBIR/STTR awards -- Appendix E: Case studies -- Appendix F: Annex to Chapter 5: extended 2014 survey data -- Appendix G: Glossary -- Appendix H: Bibliography.
Sommario/riassunto	"The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program is one of the largest examples of U.S. public-private partnerships, and was established in 1982 to encourage small businesses to develop new processes and products and to provide quality research in support of the U.S. government's many missions. The Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program was created in 1992 by the Small Business

Research and Development Enhancement Act to expand joint venture opportunities for small businesses and nonprofit research institutions by requiring small business recipients to collaborate formally with a research institution. The U.S. Congress tasked the National Research Council with undertaking a comprehensive study of how the SBIR and STTR programs have stimulated technological innovation and used small businesses to meet federal research and development needs, and with recommending further improvements to the programs. In the first round of this study, an ad hoc committee prepared a series of reports from 2004 to 2009 on the SBIR and STTR programs at the five agencies responsible for 96 percent of the programs' operations -- including the Department of Energy (DoE). Building on the outcomes from the first round, this second round presents the committee's second review of the DoE SBIR program's operations. Public-private partnerships like SBIR and STTR are particularly important since today's knowledge economy is driven in large part by the nation's capacity to innovate. One of the defining features of the U.S. economy is a high level of entrepreneurial activity. Entrepreneurs in the United States see opportunities and are willing and able to assume risk to bring new welfare-enhancing, wealth-generating technologies to the market. Yet, although discoveries in areas such as genomics, bioinformatics, and nanotechnology present new opportunities, converting these discoveries into innovations for the market involves substantial challenges. The American capacity for innovation can be strengthened by addressing the challenges faced by entrepreneurs"--Publisher's description.
