

Grupo Guayaca, Inc - SBA Grant for SBIR Training

Location: San Juan, Puerto Rico

Status of Country: Distressed

Project Timeframe: October 2017 - June 2018

Type of Assistance: Technical Assistance



By The Eloquent Peasant (highlighting) - Own work based on: Puerto Rico municipios locator map.svg by The Eloquent Peasant, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=95432898>



Source: <https://guayacan.org/contact-us/>

In May of 2018, Grupo Guayacan, Inc. (GGI), a non-profit entrepreneurial support organization in Puerto Rico, implemented Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) training and coaching. SBIR and STTR programs work with domestic small businesses to participate in Federal Research and Development to investigate commercialization possibility.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration University Centers (EDA UC) provided support in the development of the grant and in providing connections to the trainer, Ripple Management. This grant was an important supplement to I-Corps Puerto Rico program which was initially funded by the EDA in 2015. The first ICPR was funded by EDA as a pilot in 2015, spawning an incredibly effective and sustainable program which is partially funded by the National Science Foundation.

The training program is geared towards aspiring community, academic, and student

entrepreneurs located in Puerto Rico. The program itself is a local program modelled after Georgia Tech's Startup Gauntlet, which was built to follow the training program offered from the National Science Foundation's Innovation Corps (NSF I-Corps). The intention of the NSF I-Corps program and Georgia Tech's Startup Gauntlet is to help potential SBIR proposing companies better define the commercialization pathway for their research.

The training program was comprised of 18 teams from the I-Corps Puerto Rico IV cohort, with each team consisting of 2 – 4 people. The training completed by the 18 teams was funded by the Small Business Administration's Growth Accelerator Fund competition.