NSF's Convergence Accelerator

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

NSF Convergence Accelerator 2022 Joint NSF/DOD Phases 1 and 2 for Track G: Securely Operating Through 5G Infrastructure

The NSF Convergence Accelerator has issued a new funding opportunity for a new research track topic: Securely Operating Through 5G Infrastructure. Partnering with the Department of Defense's Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, OUSD(RE), the NSF Convergence Accelerator has published a Solicitation, NSF 22-538 and Broad Agency Announcement (BAA), NSFBAA-CA22-01, to provide two submission pathways for researchers and innovators to submit their proposal.

TRACK G: SECURELY OPERATING THROUGH 5G INFRASTRUCTURE

5G wireless networks are crucial components of modern communication systems and have become essential to national security. The goal of this track is to seek enhancements to end devices and/or augmentations to 5G infrastructure to enable military, government, and critical infrastructure operators to have the capability to operate through public 5G networks, while meeting security and resilience requirements.

CONVERGENCE RESEARCH APPROACH

The Convergence Accelerator speeds use-inspired research into practice through a two-phase approach.

Phase 1: Planning and development of a proof-of-concept

Selected teams begin in phase 1, participating in an accelerated 12 month planning effort, with funding up to $750,000. During phase 1, teams learn and apply the program's fundamentals through a hands-on innovation curriculum, which includes human-centered design, team science, communications, storytelling and pitching, designed to accelerate their identified idea toward phase 2.

Phase 2: Prototyping and Sustainability planning

Phase 2 teams continue solution development with a cooperative agreement and funding up to $5 million for 24 months. During phase 2, teams continue to apply phase 1 fundamentals and participate in an entrepreneurial curriculum that includes product development, intellectual property, financial resources, sustainability planning, and communications and outreach. By the end of phase 2, teams are expected to provide deliverables that impact societal needs at scale and are sustainable beyond NSF support.

LEARN MORE:

Who Can Apply:
Researchers and innovators from academia, industry, nonprofits, and other organizations are encouraged to submit a letter of intent (required) and full proposal.

Funding Opportunity:
Submit your proposal to one of the submission pathways

Solicitation, NSF 22-538: bit.ly/CA_Solicitation_NSF-22-538

NSFBAA-CA22-01: bit.ly/CA_BAA_5G_NSFBAA-CA22-01

Solicitation Key Dates:
Letter of Intent Deadline: February 16, 2022 (required)

Full Proposal Deadline: April 12, 2022
Full proposals are due 5 p.m. submitters local time.

Informational Webinars:
January 27, 2022
3:30 – 5 p.m. ET

February 1, 2022
1:30 – 3 p.m. ET

February 3, 2022
3:30– 5 p.m. ET

Webinar Registration:
eventbrite.com/o/nsf-convergence-accelerator

Questions:
Convergence-Accelerator@nsf.gov

ABOUT THE CONVERGENCE ACCELERATOR

Research is often driven by a compelling societal or scientific challenge; however, it may take the researcher community years to develop a solution. To deliver tangible solutions that have a nation-wide societal impact and at a more accelerated pace, the NSF Convergence Accelerator brings together multiple disciplines, expertise, and cross- cutting partnerships to develop solutions through a convergence research approach and innovation processes.

beta.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/convergence-accelerator