NSF BY THE NUMBERS

ADVANCING SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD

- NSF was created by Congress in 1950 to continue the U.S. science and technology enterprise begun during World War II.
- NSF allocates 93 percent of its approximately $8.3 billion budget for grants and awards to support research projects, facilities and STEM education.
- NSF funds research in all 50 states and U.S. territories.
- NSF fosters international scientific collaboration on all 7 continents around the globe.
- About 2,000 academic and other private and public institutions across the U.S. conduct NSF-funded research.
- NSF supports 25 percent of all federally funded academic fundamental research at U.S. colleges and universities.
- In 2018, NSF received approximately 48,000 research proposals from scientists and engineers and funded about 12,000.
- 242 NSF-funded researchers have received Nobel Prizes.

SUPPORTING WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- NSF supports almost 60 centers focused on interdisciplinary research in areas such as chemistry, engineering, materials, nanotechnology, energy and biology.
- NSF has 4 oceanographic research vessels and provides support to all 18 ships and 3 submersibles in the U.S. Academic Research Fleet.
- NSF owns 2 aircraft that provide unique research capabilities to probe the Earth’s atmosphere.
- NSF supports 19 ground-based telescopes or observatories in the U.S. and around the world.
- NSF funds 7 of the world’s supercomputers.
- NSF supports 8 facilities to study and mitigate powerful natural forces including a shake table for earthquakes, a large wave basin for tsunamis, and wind facilities for hurricanes and tornados.

25% of all federally funded academic fundamental research comes from NSF

19 NSF-supported, ground-based telescopes and observatories around the world
• NSF supports **50 biological field stations and marine laboratories** across the U.S. and overseas.
• NSF funds **28 Long-Term Ecological Research sites** to achieve an understanding of how components of ecosystems interact.
• NSF’s **National Ecological Observatory Network comprises 81 sites across the United States** and provides open data to researchers to understand how our ecosystems are changing.
• NSF manages all U.S. logistics and research for **3 permanent stations in Antarctica**: McMurdo, Amundsen-Scott South Pole and Palmer.

**EXPANDING THE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WORKFORCE**

• Annually, NSF funding **directly impacts 386,000 researchers,** technical professionals, post-doctoral students, graduate students, undergraduates, K-12 teachers and students.
• **Since 1952,** NSF has supported **more than 57,000 students** through its flagship Graduate Research Fellowship Program.
• In FY 2018, approximately **42,000 graduate students** received funding through NSF programs as part of research and education grants.
• NSF Advanced Technological Education program supports **35 centers across the U.S.**, preparing students for jobs in high-tech industries.
• The **NSF INCLUDES national network** broadens participation in STEM by creating access and opportunities for all U.S. residents through public, private and academic partnerships.

**ACCELERATING THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN LAB AND MARKET**

• NSF created the **Small Business Innovation Research program** in 1977, which has expanded across government and spends approximately **$3 billion annually** on research and development.
• NSF established the **Small Business Technology Transfer Program** in 1992 to encourage the translation of research from lab to marketplace; through small business and technology transfer programs, the federal government sets aside **$2.5 billion annually** and produces about **10 patents per day.**
• In FY 2018, NSF awarded more than **$200 million** in R&D funding through its small business programs.
• Each year, NSF funds about **400 companies** across nearly all technology and market sectors.
• NSF established Innovation Corps, or I-Corps™, which offers entrepreneurship training to scientists and engineers; the program has resulted in **645 startup companies.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Since 1992, NSF’s **Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation** program has helped more than **650,000 students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM** – African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Native Pacific Islanders – attain a bachelor’s degree in a science or engineering discipline.