

A Message from the Director of the National Science Foundation

Last month's Consumer Electronics Show highlighted many exciting new technologies that will change our daily lives, but the show also demonstrated the powerful impact federal funding of basic science and engineering (S&E) can have on the nation's innovation ecosystem. One of the companies featured at the Eureka Park marketplace was Tactical Haptics, a young company that provides touch feedback for a range of applications including virtual and augmented reality systems, navigation aids for the blind and limb rehabilitation. The company's founder, William Provancher, received an NSF Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) award in 2008 to study haptic guidance systems. Five years later, he launched his company with the help of NSF small business funding.

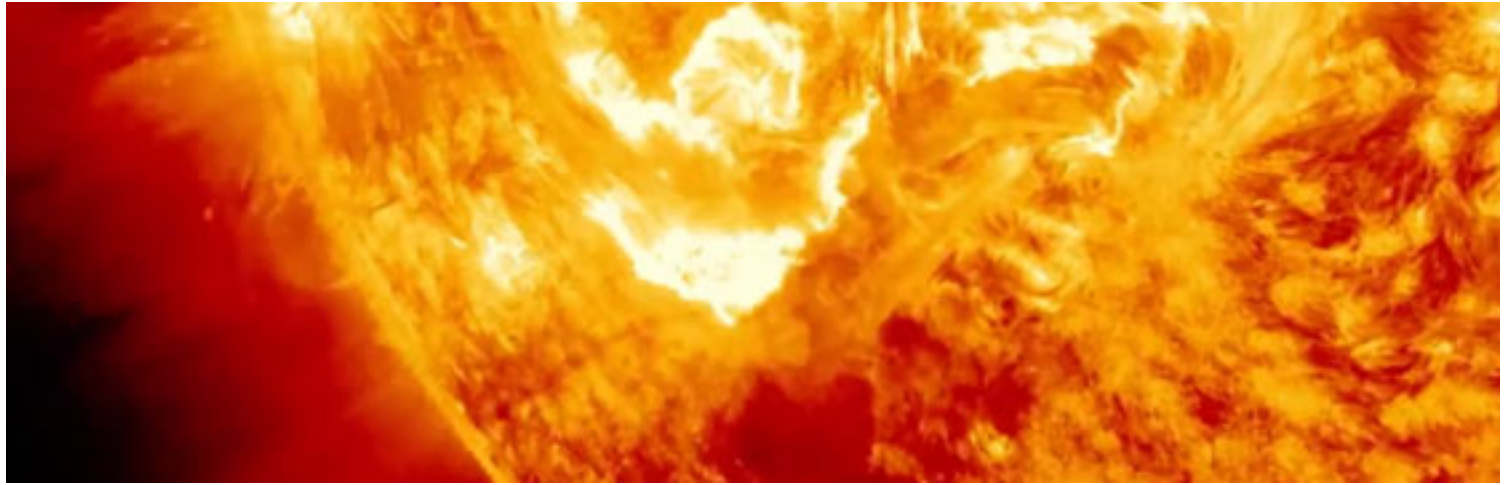


At NSF we are privileged to assist scientists, engineers and educators as they pursue curiosity-driven lines of inquiry. Their efforts often lead to remarkable knowledge creation and, in turn, technological progress. Such support ensures the U.S. remains competitive globally.

The recently released [Science & Engineering Indicators 2018 report](#), the National Science Board's biennial report to Congress, shows the U.S. continues to lead in many areas including overall research and development (R&D) spending, but other nations are rapidly catching up. The U.S. remains the world leader in overall R&D spending, accelerating an average of 4 percent per year between 2000 and 2015. However, the more rapid growth of Asian S&E economies suggests that the U.S. must continue to take advantage of new opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

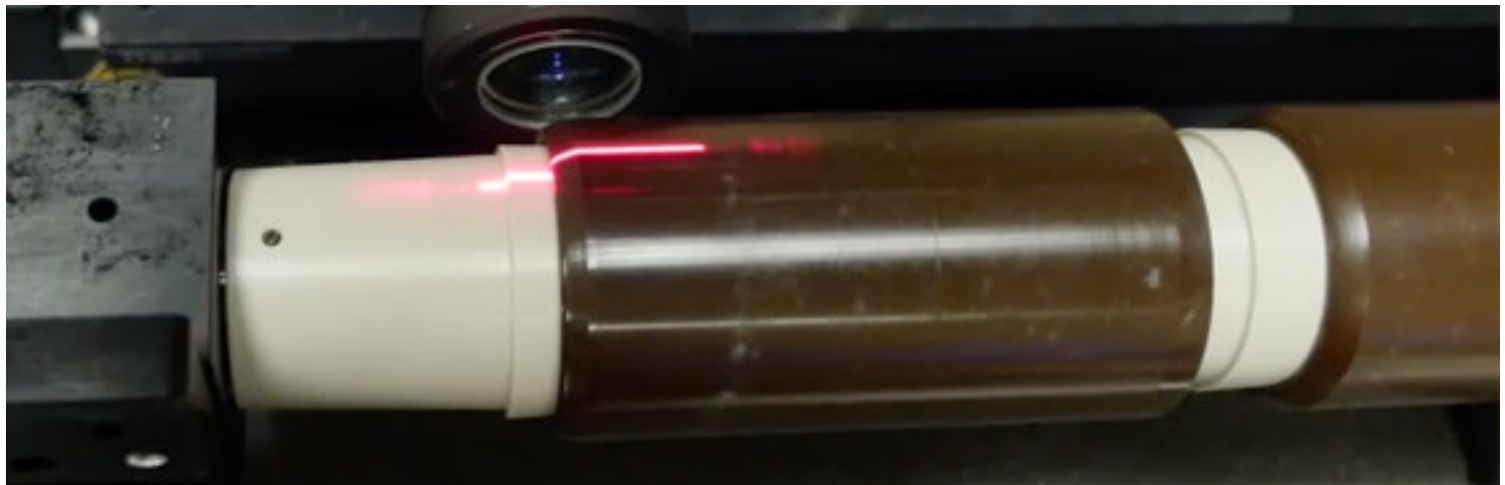
As a primary source of federal funding for academic basic S&E research and the second largest federal source (after Health and Human Services) of R&D funds for universities and colleges, NSF will continue to support research, education and workforce training to strengthen the U.S. S&E enterprise. Working together we can shape the future so that it far exceeds anything our minds can imagine.

Where Discoveries Begin...



[Improving space weather predictions](#)

Multidisciplinary approach focuses on developing five-day forecast capability.



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NSF-funded researchers are restoring century-old audio recorded on wax cylinders.



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Small business creates "smart" markets to lease water rights.

What's Next?

Feb. 16, 2018: [AAAS Annual Meeting](#) - Dr. France Córdova - Importance of Engagement and Openness with the Public and Policymakers.

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