

## Limited Submissions Announcement

A limited submission opportunity is available from the National Science Foundation and has been posted to the [UTSA Limited Submission Opportunities webpage](#).

### NSF Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) Program Overview:

The NSF Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) Program within the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP) offers researchers the opportunity to transform new knowledge into societal benefits through translational research and technology development efforts which catalyze partnerships to accelerate innovations that address significant societal needs.

PFI has six broad goals: (1) identifying and supporting Foundation-sponsored research and technologies that have the potential for accelerated commercialization; (2) supporting prior or current Foundation-sponsored researchers, institutions of higher education, and non-profit organizations that partner with an institution of higher education to undertake proof-of-concept work, including the development of technology prototypes that are derived from NSF-funded research and have potential market value; (3) promoting sustainable partnerships between Foundation-funded institutions, industry, and other organizations within academia and the private sector with the purpose of accelerating the transfer of technology; (4) developing multi-disciplinary innovation ecosystems which involve and are responsive to the specific needs of academia and industry; (5) catalyzing professional development activities, mentoring, and best practices in entrepreneurship and technology translation for faculty, students and researchers; and (6) expanding the participation of women and individuals from underrepresented groups in innovation, technology translation, and entrepreneurship.

This solicitation offers two broad tracks for proposals in pursuit of the six aforementioned goals.

The **Technology Translation (PFI-TT) track** offers an NSF-funded researcher the opportunity to advance his or her prior NSF-funded research results towards developing technological innovations with promising commercial potential and societal impact. Projects are supported to demonstrate proof-of-concept, prototype, or technology development and scale-up while exposing faculty and students (and engaging them in) in innovation and entrepreneurially-focused activities that could possibly lead to partnership opportunities, the creation of new intellectual property and technologically-driven commercialization outcomes that address societal needs. Potential pathways forward within the PFI-TT track could be broader collaborative activities and partnerships, technology licensing, technology spin-outs, and expanded entrepreneurial activity.

The **Research Partnerships (PFI-RP) track** provides an opportunity to support technology development activities through a multi-organization collaboration. NSF recognizes that interdisciplinary collaboration is often needed to achieve successful technology development. This proposal track supports a research consortium ecosystem focused on a clear project thrust. It allows for partnerships between academic researchers and a variety of third-party organizations (such as industry, non-academic research organizations, federal laboratories, public or non-profit technology transfer organizations, and/or other universities) to conduct applied research in highly

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collaborative, multidisciplinary teams, on problems typically beyond the reach of a single researcher. NSF currently supports numerous research consortia (e.g., Engineering Research Centers, Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers, Science and Technology Centers, Nanoscale Science and Engineering Centers, Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers, Centers for Chemical Innovation, and others). Such consortia could participate in PFI-RP proposals. The goal of the RP track is to catalyze robust and synergistic partnerships and collaborations between government, academia, and other public and private entities to drive and accelerate the translation of federally-funded fundamental research results into innovations that, through technology development and commercialization, will have a significant economic and societal impact.

### **Eligibility:**

- As an Academic / Research US institution accredited in, and having a campus located in the US, UTSA is eligible to submit to this program.
- PI Eligibility (*See Eligibility Information section of the solicitation for complete requirements*):
  - The **PFI-TT proposal track** has a lineage requirement under one or two of the following paths: (1) through NSF-supported research results, or (2) NSF-supported (National I-Corps™ Teams) customer discovery results. (*See solicitation for full descriptions*)
  - The **PFI-Research Partnerships (PFI-RP) proposal track** does NOT have a lineage requirement.

### **Application Limit:**

An organization may submit no more than two (2) proposals to this solicitation. In the event that an organization exceeds this limit, the first two proposals received will be accepted, and the remainder will be returned without review. An organization will not receive more than one (1) award from this solicitation.

### **Award Amount:**

PFI-TT projects will be funded for up to \$200,000 for 18 months per award.

PFI-RP projects will be funded for up to \$750,000 for 36 months.

### **Timeline:**

[Limited Submission Application Due](#): November 20, 2017

Selection Notification: December 8, 2017

Proposal Due to Funder: February 1, 2018

Questions? Please reference the [UTSA Limited Submissions website](#) or contact [LimitedSubmissions@utsa.edu](mailto:LimitedSubmissions@utsa.edu)