

# NSF 2026 Idea Machine

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“If you want to have good ideas, you must have many ideas; ... and what you have to learn is which ones to throw away.” – Linus Pauling

What makes a good Big Idea?	How will we recognize one?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Has a worthwhile objective(s)</li><li>• Ambitious &amp; challenging; may require a paradigm shift in our thinking</li><li>• Progress would have significant impact</li><li>• Requires the talents of the research community</li><li>• Will attract creative contributions from many researchers</li><li>• Will benefit many stakeholders, both inside and outside of the research community</li></ul>	<p>2000 &gt;&gt; 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the same theme emerge in multiple entries?</li><li>• Is NSF staff exceptionally enthused?</li><li>• Is this an idea that has already prompted some excitement?</li></ul> <p>30 &gt;&gt; 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Did it resonate in the public comments?</li><li>• Is the Blue-Ribbon panel excited?</li><li>• Does it make sense for NSF?</li></ul>



**COMING SOON**

# THE NSF 2026 IDEA MACHINE

Finding "Big Ideas 2.0": Identifying new directions for research.

Home [Toolkit](#)

## The NSF 2026 Idea Machine!

The NSF 2026 Idea Machine is a competition to help set the U.S. agenda for fundamental research in science and engineering. Participants can earn prizes and receive public recognition by suggesting the pressing research questions that need to be answered in the coming decade, the next set of "Big Ideas" for future investment by the National Science Foundation (NSF). It's an opportunity for researchers, the public and other interested stakeholders to contribute to NSF's mission to support basic research and enable new discoveries that drive the U.S. economy, enhance national security and advance knowledge to sustain the country's global leadership in science and engineering.

## What's Next?

We plan to launch the Idea Machine competition in late August 2018.

Bookmark this page and check back for updates. Additional information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

Entrants suggest new "Big Ideas" for future investment

Open to all

Public comments; blue-ribbon panel

Best ideas receive public recognition, cash prizes, and other awards

# Idea Machine Competition Website

- Entrants suggest "grand challenge" questions for future research
- Video pitches & public comments
- A blue-ribbon panel advises NSF
- Best ideas receive public recognition, cash prizes
- Launches August 31, 2018
- <https://www.nsf.gov/ideamachine>



# We need your help to

- Spread the word
- Encourage idea submission
- Nominate blue ribbon panelists





# Backup slides



# Idea Machine Challenge Timeline

