

Webinar Housekeeping

- The webinar is being recorded and the recording will be posted online
- Send any questions not addressed in the webinar to TRAILBLAZER@nsf.gov

The webinar slides will be posted online

The Chat Function has been disabled

Questions will be addressed using the Q&A function

For more TRAILBLAZER details, please read the solicitation NSF 23-629

Webinar Agenda

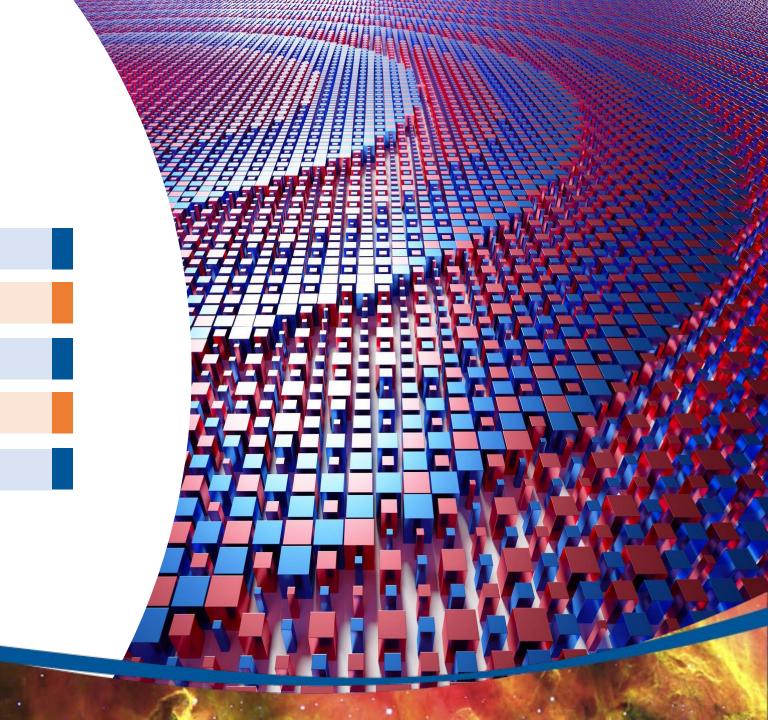
Welcome - Dr. Susan Margulies

TRAILBLAZER Synopsis

Preparing a TRAILBLAZER Proposal

Review Process

Q&A





TRAILBLAZER Synopsis (cont'd)

 The TRAILBLAZER program will support individual engineers and scientists that demonstrate a capacity for research excellence and creativity

 TRAILBLAZER is intended to support individual engineering researchers to undertake projects that have the potential to address new areas of fundamental research

• Proposed projects must be a new research direction for the PI

Engineering-wide program

Preparing a TRAILBLAZER Proposal (NSF 23-629)

Eligibility

- Institutions:
 - Institutions of Higher Education
 - Non-profits, non-academic organizations
- PI:
 - Must hold a tenured or tenure-eligible faculty appointment at the Associate or Full Professor rank
 - Appointment in an Engineering School/College and/or
 - Hold an Engineering Doctoral degree
 - Single PI

Concept Outline – Due November 9, 2023

- Each prospective PI interested in submitting a TRAILBLAZER proposal must submit a Concept Outline to the EFMA office using the Program Suitability and Proposal Concept Tool (ProSPCT) webform at https://suitability.nsf.gov/s/
- Concept Outline Narrative (6,000-character limit):
 - PI eligibility
 - Evidence of research excellence
 - Summary of proposed project
 - Suitability to the TRAILBLAZER program

Concept Outline – Due November 9, 2023

- Concept Outlines will be evaluated internally by NSF Program Directors for programmatic responsiveness and suitability to the TRAILBLAZER program
- Prospective PIs will receive an email from the cognizant NSF program officer that specifies whether a full proposal may be submitted. Full proposals submitted without the PO concurrence email will be Returned Without Review
- The email confirming approval to submit a TRAILBLAZER proposal must be uploaded by the prospective PI as a Supplementary Document as a component of proposal submission



Full Proposals – Due February 15, 2024

- The title for the proposed TRAILBLAZER project must begin with "TRAILBLAZER"
- Project Summary (1-page limit):
 - In the intellectual merit section include a summary of evidence of investigator-led innovative activities, the nature of the proposed research, and the significant leap or paradigm shift in fundamental engineering knowledge; and
 - In the broader impacts section, include the potential long-term impact on a grand challenge. Include a summary of the Broadening Participation Plan.



Full Proposals – Project Description (15-page limit)

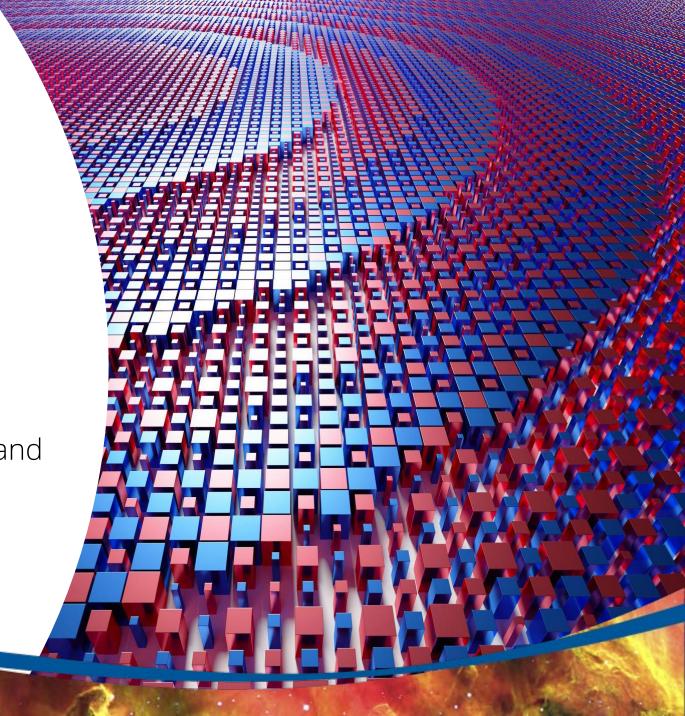
Intellectual Merit

- Evidence of Research Excellence and Innovation
- Research Approach and Research Plan
- TRAILBLAZER Suitability
- Distinction from Current and Previous Research
- Management Plan

Full Proposals – Project Description (15-page limit)

Broader Impacts

- Significant shift in fundamental engineering knowledge
- Integration of education, outreach, and community engagement
- Broadening Participation Plan



Full Proposals- Budget

- A Budget and Budget Justification are required
 - Up to \$3 mil over 3 years
- Funds may be requested for:
 - Personnel
 - Supplies
 - Equipment
- Because a significant commitment of PI time is expected, PIs may request up to six months of salary support annually.
- 5 awards





Review Process

- Concept Outlines Due November 9, 2023
 - Reviewed by NSF Program Directors
 - Pls receive email specifying whether a full proposal may be submitted
- Full Proposals Due February 15, 2023
 - Based on ad hoc and panel review, selected PIs will be invited for an interview
- Interview Anticipated to be conducted in April/May 2024
 - Review criteria for the Interview Panel will be identical to those applied to the written proposal

Review Process

- During full proposal review and interview stages of the Merit Review Process, Reviewers will be asked to evaluate proposals using the two National Science Board-approved merit review criteria - Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts
- Additional Program-Specific Criteria will also be considered
 - Investigator
 - Leadership
 - Transformative
 - National Need or Grand Challenge
 - Broadening Participation Plan
 - Management Plan

