Partnerships for Innovation (PFI)
Solicitation
NSF 19-506

January 13 Submission Deadline
Important Resources for Applicants

- Read the solicitation NSF 19-506


- Read the PFI FAQs (NSF 19-046) at:

- Contact Program Directors Jesus Soriano or Katie Bratlie— [pfi@nsf.gov](mailto:pfi@nsf.gov)
NSF Innovation Programs

GOALI – Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry
INTERN – Graduate Student non-Academic Internships
IUCRC – Industry University Cooperative Research Center
PFI – Partnerships for Innovation
I-Corps – Innovation Corps
SBIR/STTR – Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer

Resources Invested

Basic Research
Proof-of-Concept
Early Stage Prototype
Product Development
Commercialization

Private funds

Public funds

Programs Support Science and Engineering Across all of NSF

Bridging the Gap

Division of Industrial Innovation & Partnerships https://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=IIP
Which risks does IIP address?

- Accelerate (Market)
- Demonstrate (Technical)
- Educate (Skills)
- Translate (Financial)

https://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/about.jsp
Intended Program Outcomes

• Commercialization of IP derived from NSF-funded research.

• Licensing of NSF-funded research outputs to third-party corporations or start-up companies funded by PFI teams.

• Foster collaborations with industry.

• Training future innovation and entrepreneurship leaders.

• Increased participation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in innovation & entrepreneurship.
Both PFI-TT & PFI-RP must meet at least one of these criteria:

- **NSF-funded research award**
  - Technology development from PI or co-PI’s prior NSF funded research completed within last 7 years

- **NSF I-Corps™ Teams award** (supported customer discovery).
  - The product to be developed informed by an NSF I-Corps Teams award completed within last 4 years

Exception: Resubmission of PFI-RPs submitted but not awarded under previous solicitation NSF 18-511
What PFI Does Not Fund

• Basic research with no technology development.

• Pre-clinical / clinical efficacy or safety studies, drug development, regulatory work.

• **Non-R&D work**: Market research, corporate or business development, sales, fundraising, intellectual property.

• Commercial development of existing products or proven concepts.

• **Low-risk, straightforward engineering design, incremental improvements** of existing product or process.
PFI-TT: Technology Translation Track

• Up to $250,000 for 1.5-2 years.

• Commercial potential demonstration projects for NSF-funded research outputs in any science and engineering discipline.

• Proof-of-concept, prototyping or scale-up work.

• An active Co-PI or Sr. Personnel is a Technology Commercialization Expert in the targeted field of application or industry sector.

• At least 1 letter of support to validate market potential/broader impact.
PFI-RP: Research Partnerships Track

• Up to $550,000 for 3 years.

• Same goals as the PFI-TT track.

• Complex projects
  • Require a multi-organizational, interdisciplinary collaboration.

• Requires at least 1 Industrial Partner.
  • Project must be industry-relevant.
  • An employee of Industrial Partner serves as co-PI (Tech. Commercialization Expert).
  • May support the educational objectives.

• Research Partners encouraged
The Industrial Partner

- Mandatory in PFI-RP track, encouraged in PFI-TT.
- U.S.-based.
  - Foreign Public Entities (2 CFR § 200.46) or Foreign Organizations (2 CFR § 200.47) do not qualify.
- Established record of commercial revenue.
  - From sales or licensing.
  - Majority of revenues cannot be from grants and government contracts.
- For-profit or not-for-profit.
  - Non-profit, technology transfer organizations must meet revenues requirement.
- Proven experience in bringing products or services to the proposed target market sector.
Questions? Send your executive summary

After you visit [https://www.nsf.gov/PFI](https://www.nsf.gov/PFI) and read the solicitation, email Katie Bratlie ([pfi@nsf.gov](mailto:pfi@nsf.gov)) a short summary with:

- The NSF Lineage
- The societal need/market opportunity to be addressed.
- The proposed innovation.
- Key technological hurdles you must overcome to translate the technology into a product or service.
- The envisioned pathway to commercialization.
- The team and partners you would bring to the PFI project.
Thank you!

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https://www.nsf.gov/PFI