



A Message from the Director of the National Science Foundation

Inspired by the momentum and impact of NSF's 10 Big Ideas, we have been considering what kinds of initiatives could be launched today to set the stage for breakthrough discoveries and innovations in 2026 and beyond. Why 2026? It's the 250th anniversary of our nation's birth, an event – we think -- to be widely celebrated with momentous discoveries.

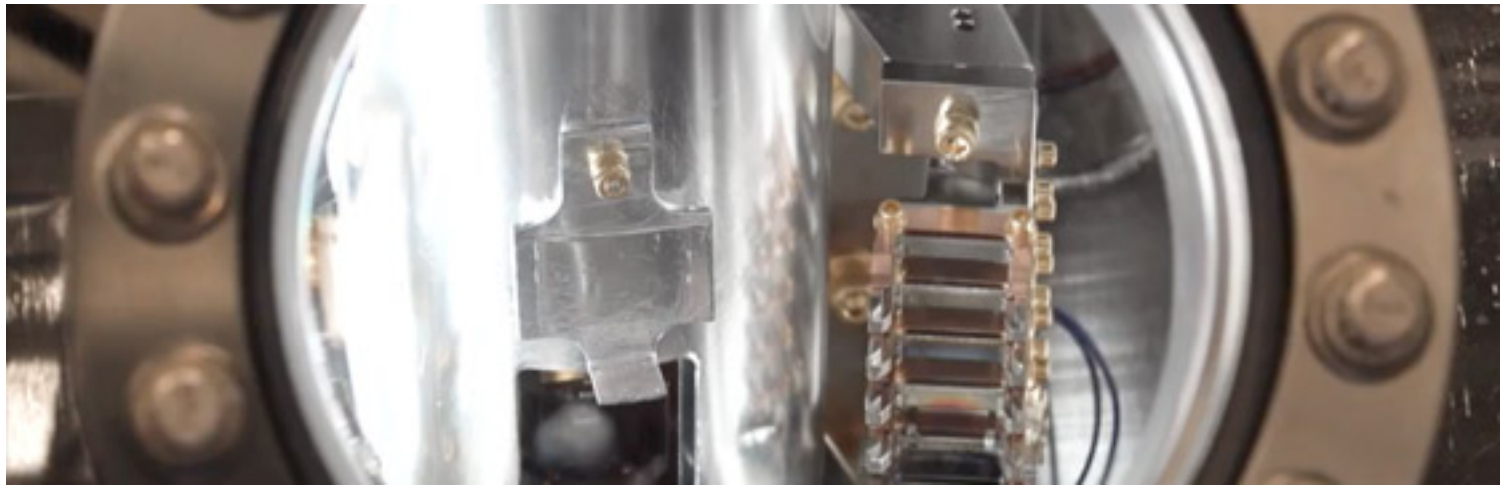
Our external stakeholders are critical to our planning process for 2026. To gather input from researchers, the public and other interested groups, NSF recently launched the [NSF 2026 Idea Machine](#) competition. Participants – those who do not work for NSF -- can earn prizes and receive public recognition by suggesting the pressing research questions that will require answers in the coming decade. In other words, the public has the opportunity to formulate the next set of Big Ideas for future investment. This is an opportunity to help set the U.S. agenda for fundamental research in science and engineering (S&E). It's an invitation to contribute to NSF's mission to support basic research that drives the economy, enhances its security and helps sustain U.S. global leadership in S&E. Entries will be accepted through Oct. 26, 2018. NSF plans to announce the winners in August 2019.



Please visit the Idea Machine website for additional information about eligibility, rules, judging and submission instructions. We encourage the public, including high school classrooms, to submit entries. Help us spread the word about the competition. By enlarging the pool of ideas, we hope to uncover new sparks that will ignite future areas of discovery. Could one of the next [10 Big Ideas](#) be on your laptop?

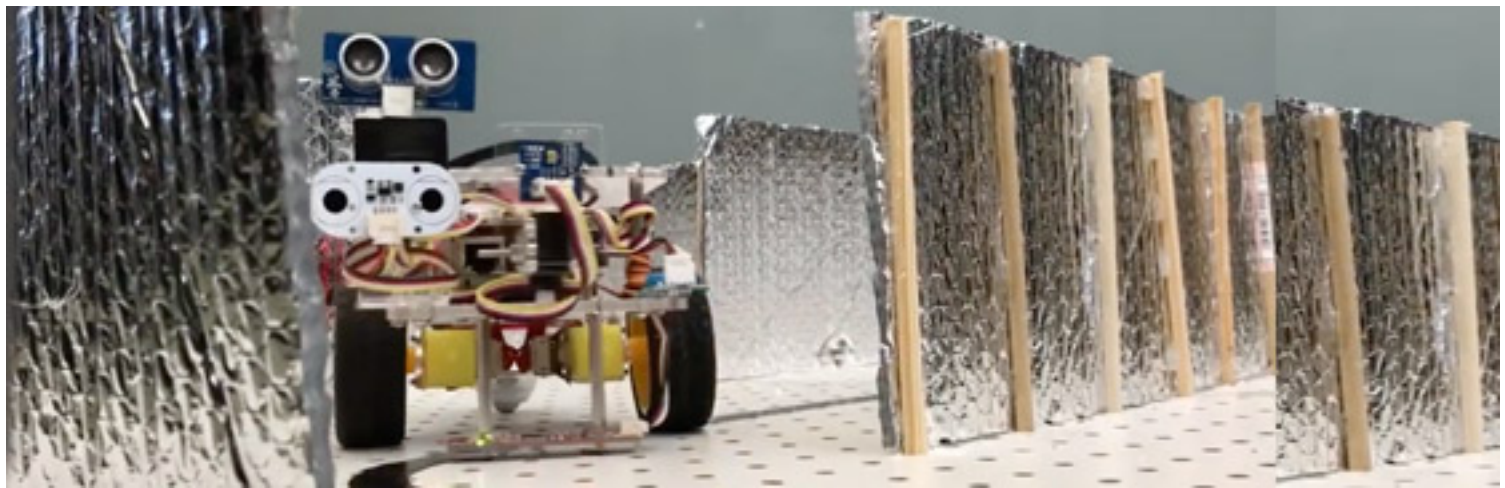
Dr. France A. Córdoba
Director, National Science Foundation
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What's Next

Sept. 27 – Dr. France Córdoba will discuss NSF's artificial intelligence efforts at Politico's [AI Summit: Innovation and Governance](#) in Washington, D.C.

Oct. 7 – Dr. France Córdova will be a speaker on the “Lights and Shadows of Science and Technology” panel at the [Science and Technology in Society forum 2018](#) in Kyoto, Japan.

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