



National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22230



## Factsheet: I-Corps™ Sites

**NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps™)** is a public-private partnership that helps develop scientific and engineering discoveries into useful technologies. The program connects academic researchers and students with the technological, entrepreneurial, and business communities at the local level through the work of I-Corps™ Sites.

I-Corps™ Sites nurture and support multiple, local teams that are transitioning their ideas, devices, processes or other intellectual activities into the marketplace. The goals of the program are to spur translation of research, to encourage collaboration between academia and industry, and to train students to understand innovation and entrepreneurship.

The I-Corps™ Sites strengthen innovation locally and contribute to the National Innovation Network of mentors, researchers, entrepreneurs and investors.

For more information, visit [www.nsf.gov/i-corps](http://www.nsf.gov/i-corps).

### **Participating Directorates/Offices:**

- CISE and ENG

### **Eligibility:**

- A competitive proposal for an I-Corps™ Site will be led by an academic institution having an existing innovation center, technology incubator, or other entrepreneurial center whose goal is to assist faculty, students and other academic personnel to engage in entrepreneurial activities and transition scientific and technological innovations. The I-Corps™ Site will provide resources to individuals and teams in the form of space, seed funding, entrepreneurial mentoring, curriculum, or other assets needed to transition technology into the marketplace.

### **Award Size and Duration:**

- Up to \$100,000 annually for up to 3 years

### **Cognizant I-Corps™ Sites Program Director:**

- Anita LaSalle (CISE)

### **What I-Corps™ Sites Do:**

- The I-Corps™ Sites Program funds an institution's entrepreneurial unit that, in turn, provides resources for the creation, development, and nurturing of entrepreneurial teams. Teams formed under the auspices of the site should include an entrepreneurial lead, an academic lead, and a mentor.
- Site team ideas or projects can originate from student work, research (funded or unfunded), institutional, or industrial projects. The topical focus of a project must be in an area(s) of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) normally supported by the National Science Foundation.
- I-Corps™ Site funding to teams may support: acquisition of modest amounts of equipment or materials needed to fabricate prototypes; travel expenses to consult with potential clients or experts; training or education related to entrepreneurial immersion; or, other resources needed to directly advance the goals of transitioning a team's project into the marketplace.
- The I-Corps™ Site contributes \$1,000 to \$3,000 total to individual teams for a duration typically ranging from 1 to 3 months.

### **Submission and Review Process:**

- Submission through NSF FastLane and Grants.gov
- Standard NSF peer review mechanism and evaluation criteria

### **Expected Outcomes:**

- NSF seeks to develop formal, active, local innovation ecosystems that contribute to a larger, national network of mentors, researchers, entrepreneurs and investors.
- Possible outcomes from an I-Corps™ Site's team mentorship and guidance include:
  - Direct commercialization of team projects
  - Applications submitted by Site Teams to NSF's I-Corp Program
  - New start-up businesses
  - Licensing agreements
  - Creation of business plans suitable for review by third-party investors

In addition, all I-Corps™ Site-supported teams will make "go/no-go" decisions about commercialization within six months of receiving support from the site.

### **I-Corps™ Sites:**

Begun at four locations in 2013, the number of active NSF I-Corps™ Sites has grown to more than 50 across the nation.

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