

# Directorate for Engineering Report

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DAWN TILBURY, NSF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR ENGINEERING  
NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD MEETING  
NOVEMBER 8, 2017

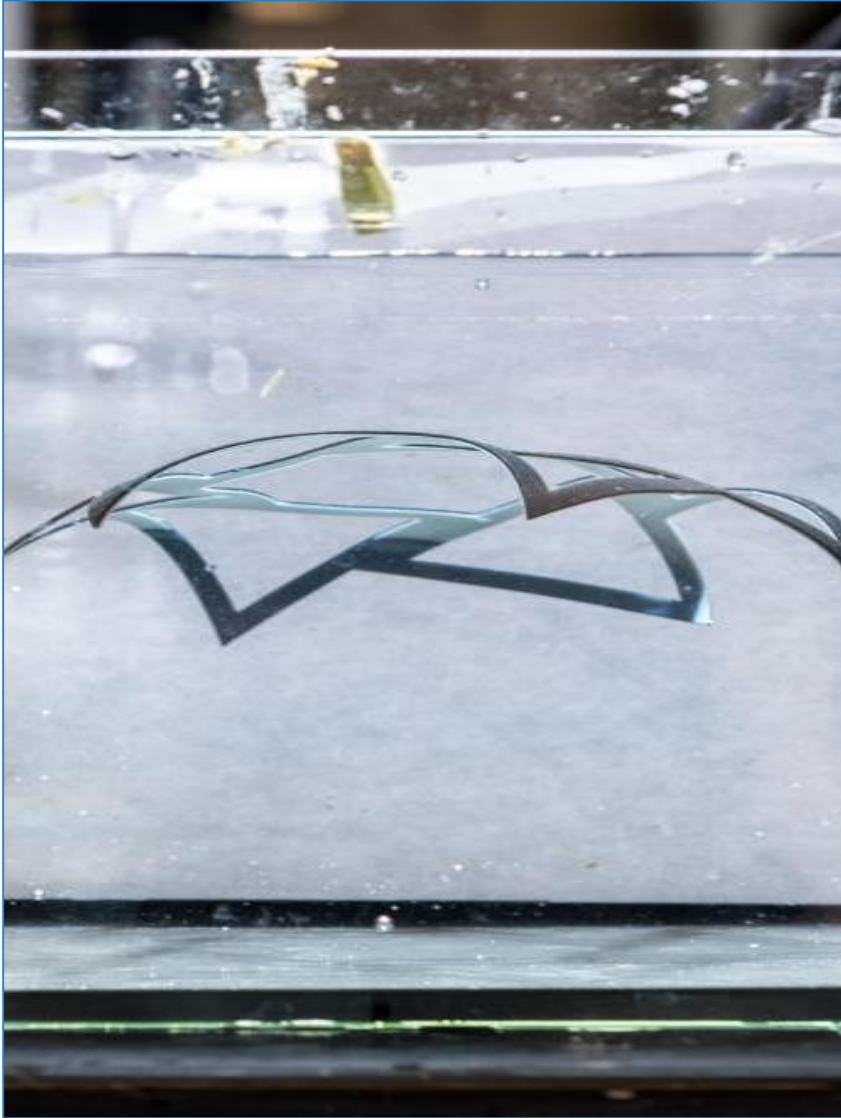


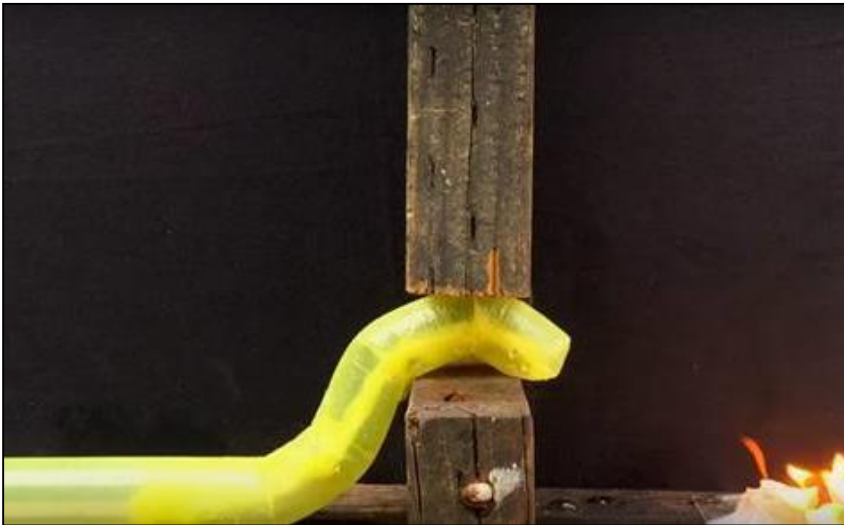
Image credit: Rob Felt

# Create the future

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NSF supports engineering discovery and education to create a future where people thrive.

Engineers are making this future a reality through research in areas such as advanced manufacturing, health care, sustainability, infrastructure and more.



# Innovate for prosperity

NSF-funded engineering researchers create new knowledge, concepts and designs that become technological breakthroughs and solve real-world problems. They create innovations for clean water, the electric grid, agriculture and other national challenges.

To speed innovations to the market, NSF also spurs entrepreneurship, small business growth and industry collaboration.

Image credits: *Jonathan Coe, Prescient Surgical, Inc.; Kurt Hickman and Aaron Kehoe*



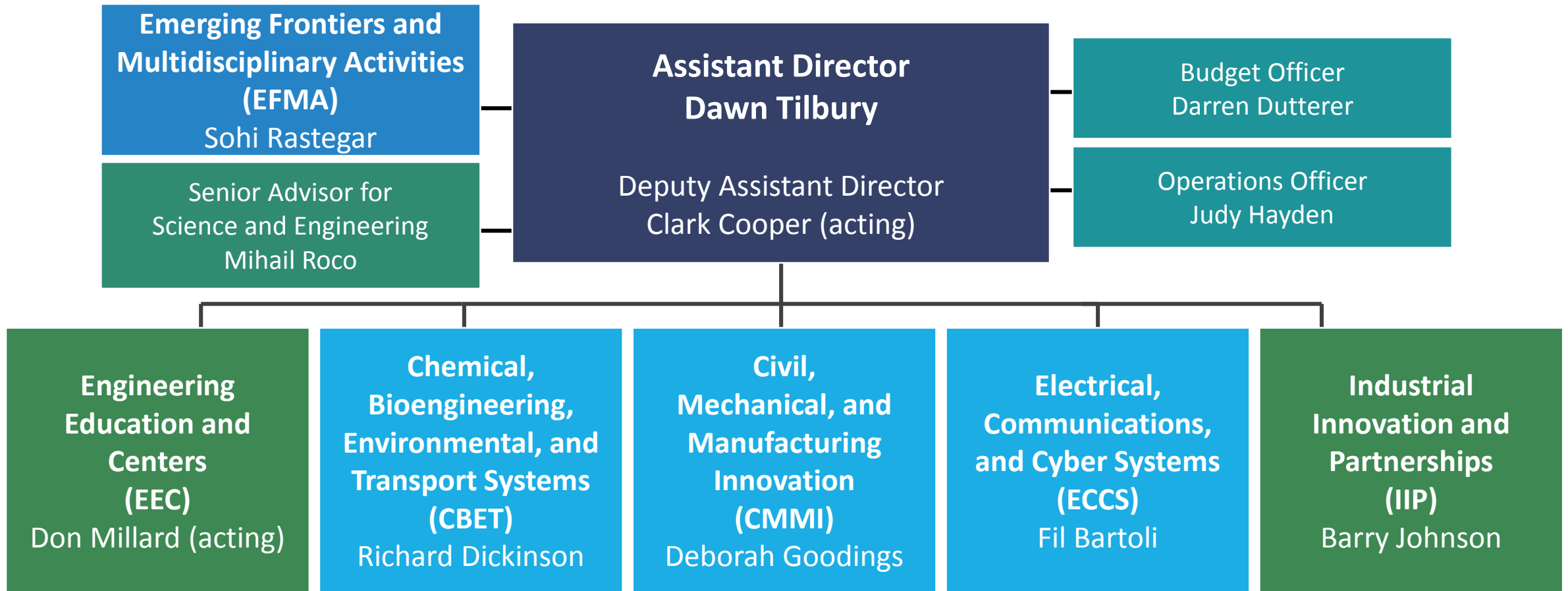
# Educate the future workforce

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To prepare an inclusive, innovative engineering workforce that can meet the changing needs of the American economy, NSF supports advances in engineering education and introduces the exciting possibilities of engineering to the next generation.

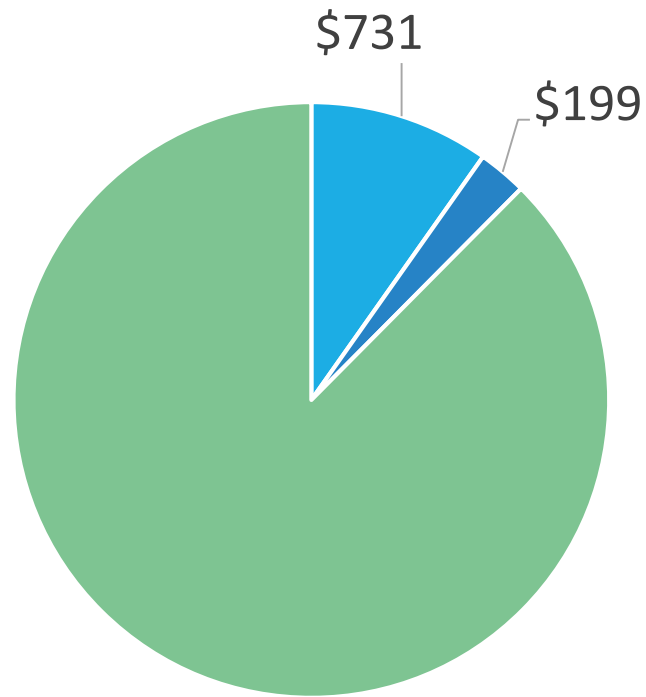
Image credit: *University of San Diego*

# NSF Directorate for Engineering



# NSF FY 2017 Current Plan (\$M)

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**NSF Total \$7,472**  
**ENG Total \$930**

- ENG - other than SBIR
- ENG - SBIR
- NSF - other than ENG



# NSF Big Ideas for Future NSF Investments

## RESEARCH IDEAS



**Harnessing Data for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science and Engineering**

**Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Shaping the Future**



**Windows on the Universe: The Era of Multi-messenger Astrophysics**



**The Quantum Leap: Leading the Next Quantum Revolution**

**Understanding the Rules of Life: Predicting Phenotype**



**Navigating the New Arctic**

## PROCESS IDEAS

**Mid-scale Research Infrastructure**



**NSF 2026**



**Growing Convergent Research at NSF**



**NSF INCLUDES: Enhancing STEM through Diversity and Inclusion**

# NSF INCLUDES



SEPT. 2016

Awards for 37 Design and Development Launch Pilots

SEPT. 2017

Awards for 27 Design and Development Launch Pilots

DCL for NSF INCLUDES EAGERs, supplements and conferences

JULY 2017

Workshop for NSF INCLUDES grantees and NSF centers

JAN. 2018



# ENG strengthens the future engineering workforce

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Diversity and inclusion

Research on the formation of engineers

Research experiences for undergraduates, teachers, veterans

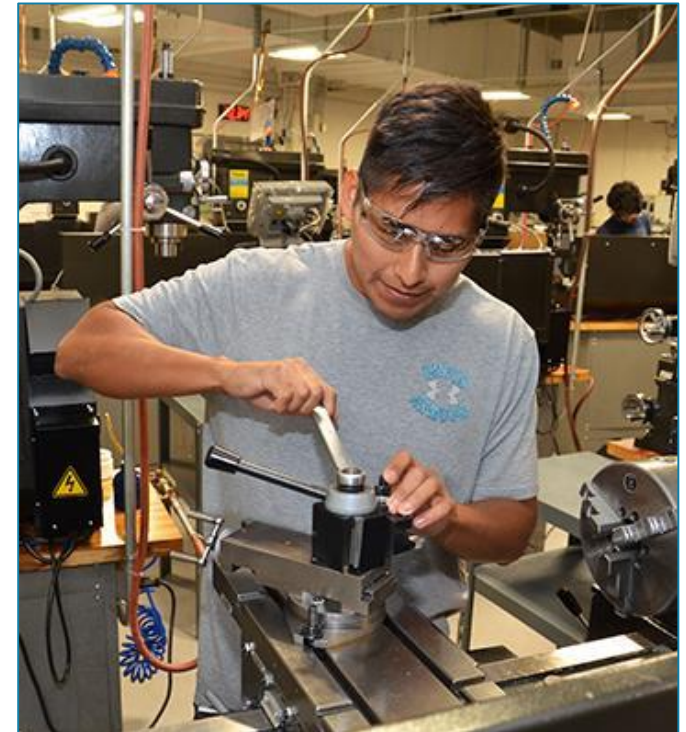
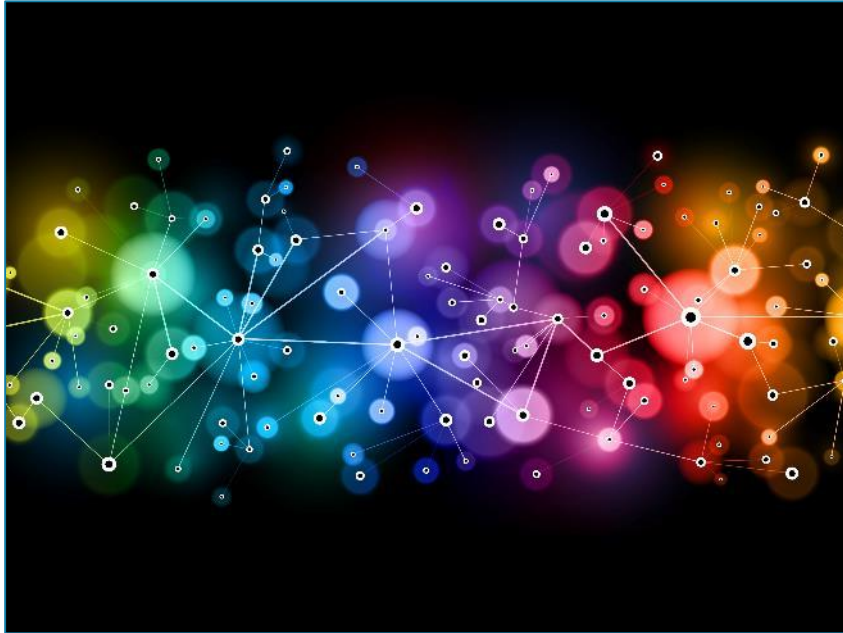


Image credit: *UNC Charlotte*



# Engineering Research Centers take on complex research challenges

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ERCs focus cutting-edge researchers from multiple fields to discover and launch ubiquitous future technologies

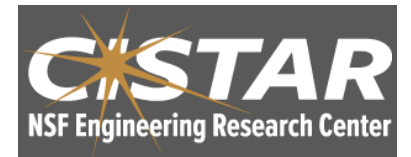
- Translate discoveries into innovations
- Strengthen U.S. competitiveness
- Prepare next generation of technological leaders

# 14 Generation-3 ERCs in FY 2018

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4 new ERCs awarded in FY17

- Innovative and Strategic Transformation of Alkane Resources, *Purdue University*
- Cell Manufacturing Technologies, *Georgia Tech*
- Cellular Metamaterials, *Boston University*
- Precise Advanced Technologies and Health Systems for Underserved Populations, *Texas A&M University*





# A New Vision for Center-Based Engineering Research

May 2017: National Academies report

Summer 2017: Working group

October 2017: ENG AdCom discussion

November 3, 2017: Workshop

Spring 2018: Solicitation for GEN-4 ERC

Image: National Academies Press, Copyright 2017, National Academy of Sciences

# Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET) Division

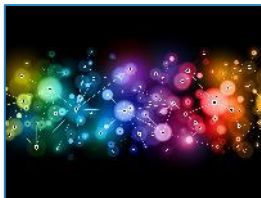
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Synthetic biosystems for advanced biomanufacturing



Computation and data-enabled science and engineering to understand and control chemical, bioengineering, environmental, and transport systems



Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems (INFEWS)



# Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation (CMMI)

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Advanced manufacturing and new materials for improved productivity



Robotics, sensing, and behavioral sciences to improve human-technology interaction



Resilient infrastructures in changing environments

# Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems (ECCS)

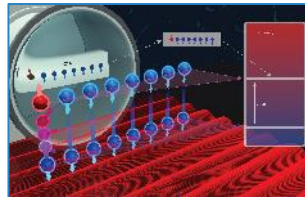
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Dynamic data-enabled engineered systems



Networked mobile processors in connected engineering systems



Quantum information, memory, sensing and communication

# Partnerships catalyze innovations

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NSF supports industry-relevant research and knowledge transfer

- Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI)
- Industry–University Cooperative Research Centers (IUCRC)
- Partnerships for Innovation (PFI)

**76 active IUCRCs**  
**876 unique members**  
**7:1 match of NSF \$**

# Innovation Corps spurs entrepreneurship



Trains teams of faculty,  
students/postdocs, and business  
mentors

Translates NSF discoveries into  
new technologies

Involves people across NSF

**1000+ teams**

**50+ cohorts**

**300+ startups**

# Small business programs transform discoveries into societal benefits

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**Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) + Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)** support high-tech small businesses in almost all areas of science and technology

- stimulate technological innovation in the private sector
- strengthen the role of small business in meeting federal R&D needs
- increase commercial applications of research results
- foster and encourage participation by socially and economically disadvantaged and women-owned small businesses

Congressionally mandated





## After scrapping Monsanto deal, Deere agrees to buy precision farming startup Blue River for \$305M

BY CATHERINE SHU

Sep 6, 2017



FORTUNE

MENU

FASTCOMPANY



TECH • CYBERSECURITY

## Google Capital Leads \$75 Million Invest



10.03.17 | WORLD CHANGING IDEAS

## The Shirt Of The Future Will Be Made By Methane-Eating Bacteria

By using a greenhouse gas as the basis for a new material, Mango Materials wants to create a new model of garment production that cleans up the atmosphere as it makes us new clothes.





# Low-cost mechanical device for minimally invasive surgery

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A new type of mechanical instrument allows surgeons to perform complex, minimally invasive procedures and reduce patient recovery times.

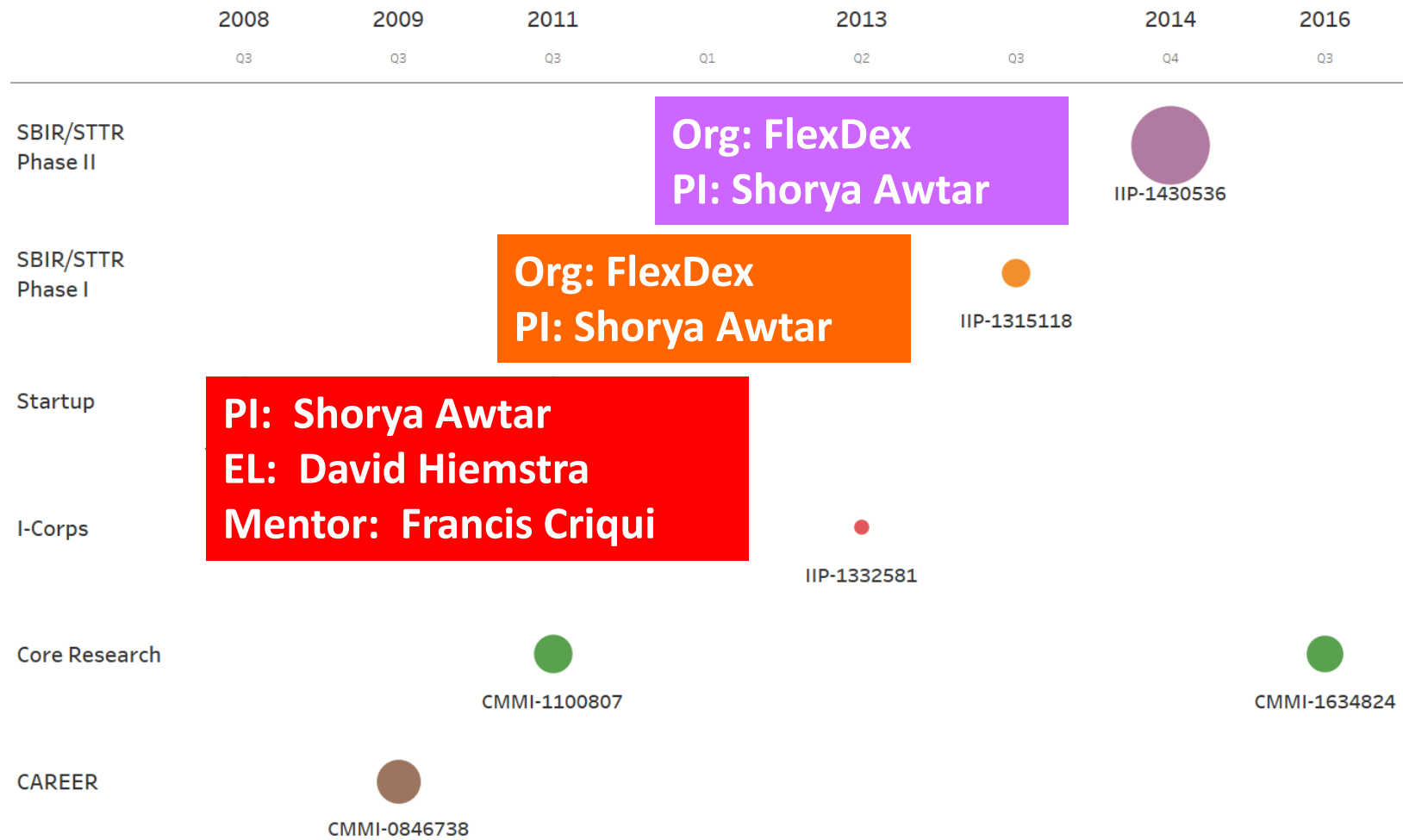
The handheld instrument provides many of the benefits of robot-assisted surgery at a much lower cost.

The technology, based on NSF-funded research, is being commercialized by small business FlexDex Surgical.

# NSF Lineage: Basic research to commercialization



Dr. Shorya Awtar  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor





# NSF Responds to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria

- Deadline extensions
- Mobilization of Geotechnical Extreme Events Reconnaissance (GEER) Association and Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure (NHERI) teams
- Funding of Rapid Response Research (RAPID), Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) and supplements
- <https://nsf.gov/naturaldisasters/>



# ENG Challenges and Opportunities

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# Strategic Challenges and Opportunities

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Struggling with diversity and inclusion despite increasing enrollment; uneven distribution across engineering disciplines

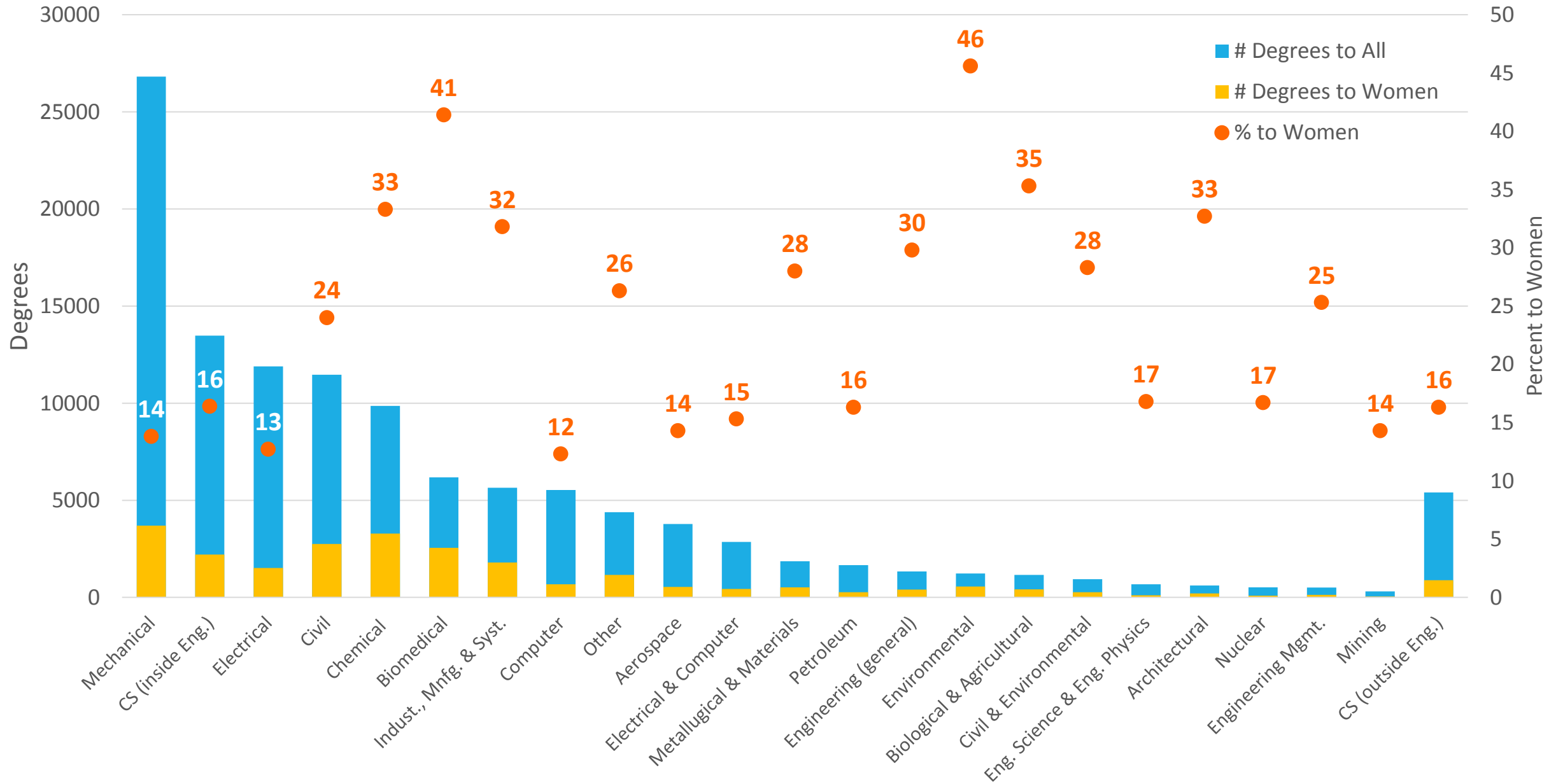
- AP Engineering pilot
- NSF INCLUDES

Flat or decreasing budgets

# US Undergraduate Enrollment in Engineering



# Bachelor's Degrees by Engineering Discipline, 2015-2016



# AP in Engineering

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Prepare students for four-year undergraduate engineering programs and two-year Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs

Promote inclusion, help level the 'playing field,' and increase diversity

Respond to support from deans, teachers, and students

Act on College Board commitment

Integrate with K-12 standards

Support National priorities

"It is clearly a good idea if for no other reason than to give engineering a place among other serious academic subjects at the secondary school level that is not at the technician standard... It positions engineering to be fundamental to all highly educated people."

*Dan Mote, National Academy of Engineering president, October 2013*

# Strategic Challenges and Opportunities

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Struggling with diversity and inclusion despite increasing enrollment; uneven distribution across engineering disciplines

Flat or decreasing budgets

- Leading Engineering for America's Prosperity, Health and Infrastructure (LEAP HI)
- Partnerships
  - Industry (SRC, IUCRC and other IIP programs)
  - Government (INFEWS USDA/NIFA, AFOSR, I-Corps)
  - International (Ireland, UK, China, Israel; CASIS)