





# Accelerating Research through International Network-to-Network Collaborations (AccelNet)

**Welcome!** Thank you for sending questions and joining in the webinar.

- It provides an overview of the 2021 AccelNet competition:
  - Highlights on revisions included in this solicitation
  - Full proposal submission guidance
  - Frequently asked questions
- To ask a question: type in Q&A anytime



# 2021 Competition

## Accelerating Research through International Network-to-Network Collaborations (AccelNet)

### PROGRAM SOLICITATION

NSF 21-511

### REPLACES DOCUMENT(S):

NSF 19-501



National Science Foundation

Office of International Science and Engineering

Directorate for Biological Sciences

Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering

Directorate for Education and Human Resources

Directorate for Engineering

Directorate for Geosciences

Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

Office of Integrative Activities

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):

January 04, 2021

FY 2021 Competition

October 10, 2022

Second Monday in October, Annually Thereafter

- Full Proposals Due Jan. 4, 2021
- Estimate 10-14 awards
- Proposals accepted under 2 Tracks:  
(1) Design; (2) Implementation
- An individual may appear as PI or Co-PI in no more than one proposal submitted, whether Design or Implementation



# Revisions to this solicitation include

- Letters of Intent no longer required
- Collaborative proposals from multiple organizations no longer accepted (lead institution with subawards accepted)
- Revised project types and guidance for submission of each - clarifications of expectations, definitions, allowable costs
- Revised program specific review criteria





# AccelNet Program Goals (NSF 21-511)

- Accelerate the process of scientific discovery
- Prepare U.S. science and engineering students, postdoctoral scholars, and early-career researchers for success in conducting and leading multiteam international collaborations

It supports **strategic linkages among U.S. research networks and complementary networks abroad** that will leverage resources to tackle grand research challenges that require significant coordinated international efforts.



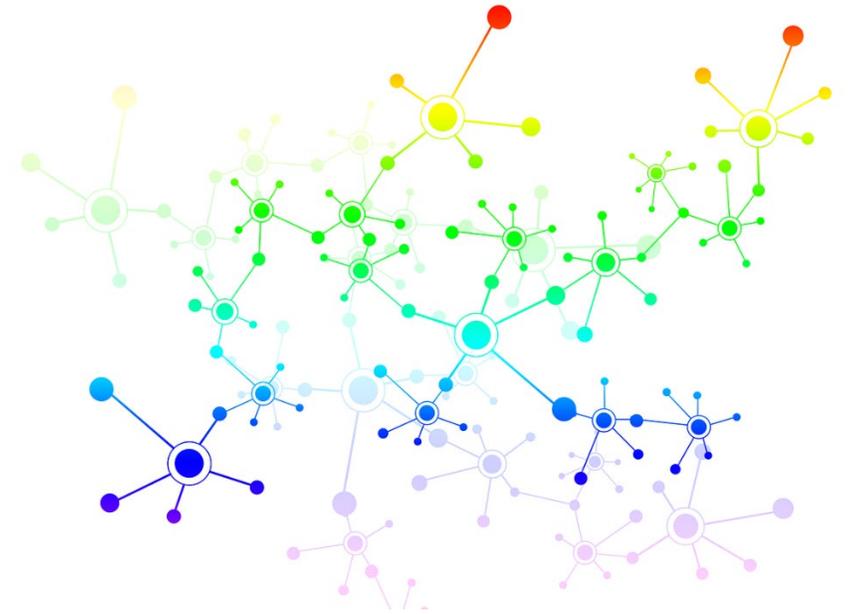


# Designed to foster networks of networks

AccelNet awards support the **connections among research networks**, rather than supporting fundamental research as the primary activity.

Linkages (**at least 3 networks**) to cooperatively identify and coordinate efforts to address **knowledge gaps and research needs**.

The program is **not** designed to create a single new network or to scale up dissemination.





# Design Track Full Proposal - Jan. 4, 2021

Duration up to 2 years: up to \$250K	Solicitation Specific Review Criteria:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To enable networks to develop operational links among networks and design collaborative approaches that would address knowledge gaps</li><li>• For early stage of design (e.g., identifying research and professional development needs, priorities, goals, developing partnerships)</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How well does the proposal incorporate activities and network representatives likely to lay the foundation for a viable network of networks in a scientific grand challenge area?  Are the plans to engage students, postdoctoral scholars, and early-career researchers in the identification of knowledge gaps central to the project theme and identification of professional skills central to participation in international networks of networks well conceived?</li></ol>





# Implementation Full Proposal - Jan. 4, 2021

Duration 3-5 years; for up to \$2M	Solicitation Specific Review Criteria:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For more established networks of networks to implement coordination across networks on a roadmap to advance theory, methods, tools, and/or integration across fields</li><li>• For networks that have (a) understanding of knowledge gaps, (b) vision of synergies, (c) developed scalable team science, (d) organizational structure for collaborative leadership and broad participation</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Coordination and Management: optimally configured, structure and roles clear</li><li>2. Data Management: best practices, anticipates scale and scope, expertise</li><li>3. Potential to Prepare Next Generation: professional development outcomes clear</li><li>4. Investments and Resource Leverage: mutual benefits and compelling novel synergies</li></ol>





# Proposal Instructions Specific to Tracks

## Design

## Implementation

### Project Description-15 pages

3 sections

5 sections, each with page limits

Professional Development Plan

NA

Estimate no. individuals involved

Evaluation Plan

NA

Assessment metrics, milestones

### Supplemental Documents

Coord. & Management Plan

NA

Up to 4 pages

Letters

NA

Up to 10 Letters of Collaboration

Data Management Plan

Yes

Yes

### Budget for research

NA

Up to 15% of total budget





# Tips for Preparing Successful Proposals

## Read solicitation carefully

- A. Program goals
- B. Characteristics proposed networks of networks should have/develop
- C. Two funding tracks
- D. Research themes supported
- E. Hallmarks of successful proposals
- Solicitation Specific Review Criteria
- Supplementary Documentation

Budget to reflect that the network of networks must be open and designed to be in **service to the research community** broadly defined.





# Network of Network Characteristics

- Roadmap of the research needs of the community to foster research innovation and scientific discovery
- International engagement that is integral to the success
- Leveraged substantial resources across partners for mutual benefit
- Professional development and global research perspectives for students, particularly graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and/or early-career researchers that enhance skills and leadership in international collaboration
- Protocols for communication, collaboration, decision-making, data management, intellectual property, shared-use infrastructure, and other network activities, facilities, or products that reduce barriers





# Question: Covid

- *How do you suggest we address the current pandemic in the planned activities and budget?*

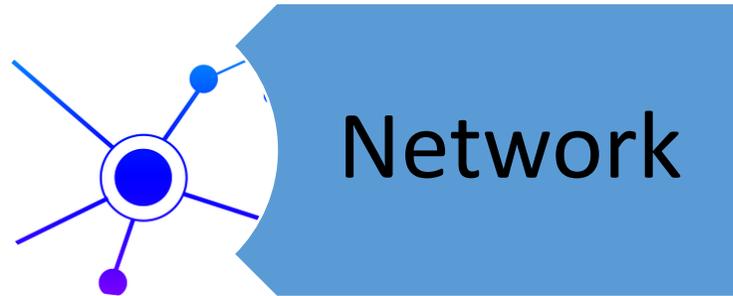
“Proposers are encouraged to outline virtual, hybrid, or other alternative approaches to international collaboration that would enhance travel or substitute in the event travel is not undertaken.”





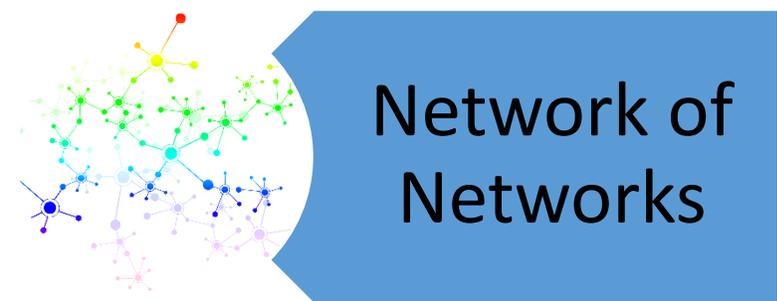


# AccelNet definitions: distribution of researchers, function of collaboration, scope of contribution



= formed of **geographically distributed teams of researchers who cooperate** with or across fields to collect and **share resources, knowledge, and expertise**

**≠ NOT:** 1-2 formal research groups; a set of faculty in a university department; national lab; National Park Service (or similar entity)



= federation of individual, component networks.

Must include **multiple independent groups of distributed researchers** who cooperate on a broad research theme.







# Questions: Proposal mechanics

- *Are projects limited to a maximum of 1 PI and 4 Co-PIs?* NSF cover sheet
- *Can international partners be PI or Co-PIs?* No. List foreign collaborators as “Unfunded collaborators”
- *What “Type of Proposal” should we select on the Cover Sheet?* Research
- *What documentation is required for PI, Co-PIs, Sr. Personnel?* See NSF PAPPG







# Questions: Documentation

- *What is needed in the Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources about the participating networks and collaborating institutions?* Include appropriate information about partnering networks, domestic and foreign
- *Are Results of Prior NSF Support required from the PI and Co-PIs?* No
- *Can we include letters that provide information beyond the statement included in PAPPG?* Yes, up to 10 maximum – if Implementation Track





# Where can I go for resources?

## NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide

[https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg20\\_1/index.jsp](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg20_1/index.jsp)

## NSF/OISE/AccelNet Program Webpage

[https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=505584&org=OISE&from=home](https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505584&org=OISE&from=home)

### Other Resources:

[NSF 19-034, Frequently Asked Questions for NSF 19-501, Accelerating Research through Network to Network Collaborations](#)

[Accelerating Research Through International Network-to-Network Collaborations](#)

[SESYNC Networks-of-Networks Workshop Resources](#)

[What Has Been Funded \(Recent Awards Made Through This Program, with Abstracts\)](#)





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