It is strongly recommended that prospective PIs contact the AccelNet Program Officer(s) to ascertain that the focus and budget of their proposed activities are appropriate for this solicitation.

Claire Hemingway, Office of International Science and Engineering, chemingw@nsf.gov
Representatives from NSF Directorates and their contact details are available online.
Full Proposals Due: October 11, 2021

Estimate 10-14 awards

Proposals accepted under 2 Tracks:

1. Design – Up to 2 years, $250K
2. Implementation – Up to 5 years, $2M

Revisions in NSF 21-511 include:

1. Letters of Intent no longer required
2. Collaborative proposals must be submitted by lead institutions with subawards to other institutions
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.
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration up to 2 years: up to $250K</th>
<th>Solicitation Specific Review Criteria:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • To enable networks to develop operational links among networks and design collaborative approaches that would address knowledge gaps  
• For early stage of design (e.g., identifying research and professional development needs, priorities, goals, developing partnerships) | 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? |

Design Track Full Proposal – Oct. 11, 2022
### Implementation Full Proposal - Oct. 11, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration 3-5 years; for up to $2M</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• For more established networks of networks to implement coordination across networks on a roadmap to advance theory, methods, tools, and/or integration across fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 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</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solicitation Specific Review Criteria:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Coordination and Management: optimally configured, structure and roles clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Data Management: best practices, anticipates scale and scope, expertise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Potential to Prepare Next Generation: professional development outcomes clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Investments and Resource Leverage: mutual benefits and compelling novel synergies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Proposal Instructions Specific to Tracks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description-15 pages</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development Plan</td>
<td>3 sections</td>
<td>5 sections, each with page limits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation Plan</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Estimate no. individuals involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Assessment metrics, milestones</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 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 – student-early career collaborative international projects |
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
Questions: Network of Networks

• What do you mean by a network? By a network of networks? See next slides

• Can you provide guidance on the stakeholders who may be included in a network of networks? See next slides

• What do you mean by network of networks structure and activities being open and designed to be in service to the research community? See next slides

• Do the research networks have to be formalized, with official structures and websites? No
AccelNet definitions: distribution of researchers, function of collaboration, scope of contribution

Network = 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)

Network of Networks = federation of individual, component networks.

Must include **multiple independent groups of distributed researchers** who cooperate on a broad research theme.
Network of networks participants and benefits

Open research networks and stakeholders
• An entity such as national laboratory, governmental or non-governmental organization, private industry can be a stakeholder participant
• Open membership based on shared research efforts (not organizational affiliation)
• Evolves overtime, with potential to expand network participants

Benefits in service to the community
• Key roles held by members of multiple networks
• Benefits to all networks
• Participation in activities not limited to the institutions of PI & Co-PIs
• Funds not limited to the institutions of PI & Co-PIs
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: Funds

• Do we need to budget for travel to the AccelNet awardee meeting? For only the lead PI or others? Budget for up to 4 project personnel

• Can travel funds for international partners cover travel from their home country to the US? Yes to a country other than the US? No

• How might exchanges of domestic and foreign students/postdoctoral researchers or other professional development activities be budgeted?

F. Participant Support Costs

• Can I fund a project coordinator? Yes
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

• Are Design Track projects limited to 10 networks? No, the list requested in the Project Description is limited to no more than 10 to help manage conflicts of interest in the review process
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.”

**Please see all Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for NSF 21-511**

Other Valuable Resources:

NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)

AccelNet Additional Program Resources
• SESYNC Networks-of-Networks Workshop Resources

AccelNet Award Abstracts
• What Has Been Funded (Recent Awards Made Through This Program, with Abstracts)