

**NSF's Convergence Accelerator** tackles national-scale complex challenges by merging innovative ideas, approaches, and technologies from a diverse range of disciplines, expertise and sectors. The program funds multidisciplinary teams to solve national-scale challenges through convergence research and innovation.

## A UNIQUE INNOVATION PROGRAM

Convergence Accelerator's unique program structure offers researchers and innovators the opportunity to accelerate their research toward tangible solutions that make a difference.



### Multidisciplinary approach

Funded teams are composed of diverse disciplines, expertise and organizations.



### Cross-cutting partnerships

Catalyzed partnerships strengthen funded efforts by providing end-user insights, resources, services, infrastructure and transition-to-practice pathways.



### Hands-on journey

Researchers gain skills and knowledge to move an idea to a proof of concept, to prototype and then solution.



### Societal impact

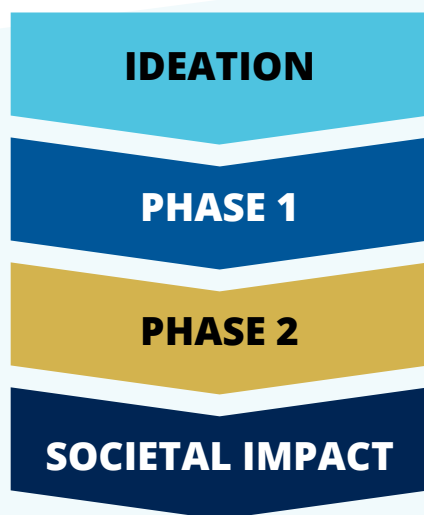
At the end of the fixed three-year term, teams are expected to provide high-impact deliverables that address complex challenges.



### Cooperation environment

Funded teams compete and share expertise and resources to assist solutions in advancing to the next phase.

## PROGRAM MODEL



- Ideas are gathered from the community.
- Selected ideas are funded by NSF into community workshops.
- The workshop findings assist NSF in developing the final convergence research track topics to be funded for future years.
- An accelerated nine-month planning effort, funding up to \$750,000.
- Teams develop an initial idea into a proof of concept and identify new team members and partners.
- Teams engage in a hands-on innovation curriculum, which includes human-centered design, team science, communications, storytelling and pitching.
- At the end of Phase 1, teams participate in a formal pitch and proposal evaluation process. Selected teams advance to Phase 2.
- Selected teams continue solution development through a two-year effort, with funding up to \$5 million.
- Teams participate in an entrepreneurial curriculum that includes product development, intellectual property, financial resources, sustainability planning and more.

## ENGAGING THE CONVERGENCE ACCELERATOR

There are several opportunities to engage with the Convergence Accelerator.

- Submit an idea during the ideation process
- Further an idea through a NSF-funded workshop
- Form a team and apply to a convergence research solicitation
- Contribute to a currently funded team and solution
- Be a reviewer and assist NSF in funding the best research ideas and solutions



# PROGRAM PORTFOLIO

**2019**  
COHORT  
Complete



**TRACK A:**  
OPEN KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS  
Phase 1: 21 teams | Phase 2: 5 teams



**TRACK B:**  
AI AND THE FUTURE OF WORK  
Phase 1: 22 teams | Phase 2: 2 teams

**2020**  
COHORT  
Phase 2



**TRACK C:**  
QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY  
Phase 1: 11 teams | Phase 2: 4 teams



**TRACK D:**  
AI-DRIVEN DATA SHARING AND MODELING  
Phase 1: 18 teams | Phase 2: 6 teams

**2021**  
COHORT  
Phase 2



**TRACK E:**  
NETWORKED BLUE ECONOMY  
Phase 1: 16 teams | Phase 2: 6 teams



**TRACK F:**  
TRUST AND AUTHENTICITY IN  
COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS  
Phase 1: 12 teams | Phase 2: 6 teams

**2022**  
COHORT  
Phase 1



**TRACK G:**  
SECURELY OPERATING THROUGH  
5G INFRASTRUCTURE  
*in partnership with the Department  
of Defense*  
Phase 1: 16 teams



**TRACK H:**  
ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
Phase 1: 16 teams



**TRACK I:**  
SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS FOR GLOBAL  
CHALLENGES  
*in partnership with Australia's  
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial  
Research Organisation*  
Phase 1: 16 teams



**TRACK J:**  
FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY  
Phase 1: 16 teams

**2023**  
COHORT  
Phase 1



**TRACK K:**  
EQUITABLE WATER SOLUTIONS  
Phase 1: 16 teams



**TRACK M:**  
BIO-INSPIRED DESIGN INNOVATIONS  
Phase 1: 15 teams



**TRACK L:**  
REAL WORLD CHEMICAL SENSING  
APPLICATIONS  
*in partnership with the  
Swedish Research Council and Vinnova*  
Phase 1: 16 teams

