



The U.S. National Science Foundation Convergence Accelerator tackles complex challenges by merging innovative ideas, approaches and technologies from a wide range of disciplines, expertise and sectors. The program funds multidisciplinary teams to solve national-scale challenges through convergence research and innovation.

ACCELERATING INNOVATION



18

Entities formed



600+

Partnerships formed



\$67M+

Follow-on funding



100+

Patents/patents pending

A UNIQUE INNOVATION PROGRAM

The NSF 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 varied disciplines, expertise and organizations.



Hands-on journey

Researchers gain skills and knowledge through the program's innovation curriculum to move an idea from a proof of concept to a tangible solution.



Coopetition environment

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



Cross-cutting partnerships

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



National-scale impact

At the end of the program, teams are expected to provide high-impact deliverables, technologies and solutions that address complex challenges and enhance the nation's competitiveness and security.

ENGAGING THE CONVERGENCE ACCELERATOR

There are several opportunities to engage with the Convergence Accelerator:

- Submit an idea during the ideation process.
- Participate in an NSF-funded workshop to further develop an idea.
- Form a team and apply to a convergence research solicitation.
- Contribute expertise or resources to a currently funded team and solution.
- Be a reviewer and assist NSF in funding the best research ideas and solutions.



PROGRAM GROWTH



\$450M+

NSF research and
development investment



13

Convergence
Accelerator tracks



7

Federal and
international partners



4,400+

Phase 1 and 2
curriculum participants

RESEARCH PORTFOLIO: ACTIVE TRACKS

The Convergence Accelerator is composed of a variety of convergence research track topics designed to accelerate technologies and solutions toward real-world impact. Since 2019, the program has completed six convergence research tracks. Currently the program is actively funding seven research tracks.



Bio-Inspired Design Innovations



**Enhancing Opportunities for Persons
with Disabilities**



Food & Nutrition Security



Future Water Systems



Real-World Chemical Sensing Applications

*in partnership with the Swedish Research Council
and Vinnova*



Securely Operating Through 5G Infrastructure

in partnership with the Department of Defense



Sustainable Materials for Global Challenges

*in partnership with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific
and Industrial Research Organisation*

PROGRAM MODEL

Ideation

- Ideas are gathered from the community.
- Selected ideas are funded by NSF into community workshops to assist in developing the final convergence research topics to be funded for future years.

Convergence Research Focus

Phase 1

- Phase 1 is an accelerated nine-month planning effort, with funding up to \$750,000.
- Teams identify new team members and partners, develop an initial idea into a proof of concept and 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.

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.

Impact

- By the end of Phase 2, teams are expected to provide deliverables that impact societal needs at scale and are successful beyond NSF support.

The NSF Convergence Accelerator is an NSF Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships program.
[nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/convergence-accelerator](https://www.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/convergence-accelerator)