

Yes. It is important to involve both public and private sector entities in INFEWS-RCNs. There may be many possible ways of doing this, and it is up to the PIs to determine the most appropriate mechanisms for involving the private sector in their FEW Systems domain. If the private sector is involved, the proposal should clearly specify their roles and how their participation might contribute to broader impacts of the INFEWS-RCN.

5.3. Is it possible to create an INFEWS-RCN that involves researchers in other countries?

Yes. Researchers in other countries can be involved when their participation contributes to the development of science and engineering convergence across disciplines and it contributes to our national interests. In general, NSF funding can facilitate travel by US-based personnel and limited travel by non-US persons whose participation is essential to the success of a meeting or other effort. NSF funding should not be used for travel by non-US-based personnel merely engaging as participants. Therefore, in order to engage with international networks, it is generally best to have US-based personnel travel to international meetings/events.

5.4. Do we need to include all three components (food and energy and water) in an INFEWS-RCN proposal?

Yes. The INFEWS-RCN must address FEW Systems that include all three components and their interactions. In contrast to research proposals in Tracks 1 and 2, however, the INFEWS-RCN will not conduct research, but instead have objectives and activities that lead to greater cooperation among researchers across all three components.

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