Factsheet: I-Corps Teams

NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps) is a program to broaden the impact of select, NSF-funded, basic-research projects by preparing scientists and engineers to focus beyond the laboratory. Leveraging experience and guidance from established entrepreneurs and a targeted curriculum, I-Corps grantees learn to identify valuable product opportunities that can emerge from NSF-supported academic research. The I-Corps program, a public-private partnership, will help create a stronger national ecosystem for innovation that couples scientific discovery with technology development to address societal needs.

I-Corps Teams are an essential component of the I-Corps program. Over a period of six months, each I-Corps Team learns what it will take to achieve an economic impact with their particular innovation.

For more information, visit www.nsf.gov/i-corps.
Participating Directorates:
• ENG, CISE, BIO, EHR, GEO, MPS, and SBE

Eligibility: Must have an active NSF award or one that has been active within the previous five years.

Award Size and Duration:
• $50,000 (F&A limited to $5,000) for six months

Cognizant I-Corps PDs:
Serve as contact points and provide policy implementation and overall management of the review and award selection process.
• Rathindra (Babu) DasGupta (ENG/OAD)
• Anita LaSalle (CISE/CNS)

Topic-specific PDs:
Serve as contact points and discuss prior research result and its readiness for I-Corps.
• BIO – Steve Ellis
• CISE – Anita La Salle
• EHR – Don Millard
• ENG – Rathindra (Babu) DasGupta
• GEO – Raffaella Montelli
• MPS – Linda Sapochak
• SBE – Erik Herron

Proposal Content:
• Team background and history
• Project plan
  o Lineage of the proposed innovation
  o Product/service concept and demo
  o Potential commercial impact

Submission and Review Process:
• Submission through NSF FastLane and Grants.gov after written invitation from Cognizant Program Officer
• RAPID internal review mechanism
• 45 days from submission to decision
• Additional I-Corps review criteria:
  o Potential market impact
  o Time horizon to impact

Monitoring and Evaluation:
NSF hosts online content regarding the process and tracks progress throughout the effort. Project progress will be tracked through a closed Wiki environment accessible only by NSF and the project teams. More information will be provided to teams on use of the Wiki.

Expected outcomes:
• New start-up businesses
• Licenses
• SBIR proposals
• Business model description suitable for review by third-party investors
• Students with entrepreneurial skills
• New or enhanced curricula