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
  - Lineage of the proposed innovation
  - Product/service concept and demo
  - 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:
  - Potential market impact
  - 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