



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

Friends and Colleagues of the National Science Foundation:

***** NOTE: This e-mail explains two opportunities with NSF: a Program Solicitation and a Dear Colleague Letter: RFI and Call for Conference Proposals. *****

The NSF Convergence Accelerator is excited to announce the release of the 2020 NSF Convergence Accelerator Phase I and II Program Solicitation ([NSF 20-565](#)).

The 2020 NSF Convergence Accelerator consists of two tracks as follows: **Quantum Technology** (Track C) and **AI-Driven Innovation via Data and Model Sharing** (Track D). [NSF 20-565](#) contains detailed descriptions of these two tracks and NSF's expectations of your submissions.

- The submission of a Preliminary Proposal (PP) is required. There is no limit to the number of PPs you can submit. The PPs are due May 11, 2020.
- Based on the review of the Preliminary Proposal (PP), Phase I proposals will be invited and submission is by invitation only and will be due July 10, 2020. Phase I awards are expected to occur in September 2020 and awardees will participate in Cohort activities for nine months.
- Phase I teams will participate in the Convergence Accelerator curriculum, which pushes them to identify and expand partnerships with end-users, other stakeholders, and other teams, allowing them to refine their plans for Phase II. All Phase II proposals must be built upon a foundation developed by one or more Phase I awards. Phase II proposals will occur in Spring 2021.

The NSF Convergence Accelerator is also pleased to announce the recent release of a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL): Request for Information (RFI) on Future Topics for the NSF Convergence Accelerator and Call for Future Topics Conference Proposals ([DCL 20-061](#)).

The purpose of the DCL 20-061 RFI and Call for Future Topics Conference Proposals is to seek input from global industry, institutions of higher education (IHEs), non-profits, government entities, and other interested parties on potential NSF Convergence Accelerator tracks for FY 2021. Potential NSF Convergence Accelerator tracks for FY 2021 can be related to [Industries of the Future \(IoT\)](#), [NSF's Big Ideas](#), or other topics, that may not relate directly to an IoT or Big Idea, but nonetheless have the potential for significant national impact. Ideas suggested in response to this RFI should be similar in breadth to [NSF 19-050](#) tracks, which are broad enough to each support a set of related research teams working together as a cohort.

We invite you to submit your ideas for future NSF Convergence Accelerator tracks via

SurveyMonkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021RFI> no later than April 30, 2020. NSF strongly encourages the submission of conference proposals whose aim would be to better understand the scientific and community needs, opportunities, and significant challenges associated with the submitted RFI topic. Conference proposals may be submitted at any time, but only those that are received by May 18, 2020, and having a budget under \$100,000 will be considered for support with FY 2020 funds.

For those of you that have connections with larger audiences, **we're asking that you spread the word and make them aware of these excellent opportunities** to respond to the NSF Convergence Accelerator Phase I and II Program Solicitation and also influence future Convergence Accelerator topics in partnership with the National Science Foundation.

Want to know more about the NSF Convergence Accelerator? Check out our [website](#) for more information and a great, informative video.

Regards,

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