

From: Faculty Research Development Office
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: NSF: Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) NSF 23-538 (Research Partnerships track only)

Date: Sept. 14, 2023

The Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) Program offers researchers from all science and engineering disciplines funded by NSF the opportunity to perform translational research and technology development, catalyze partnerships and accelerate the transition of discoveries from the laboratory to the marketplace for societal benefit.

PFI-Research Partnerships (**PFI-RP**) proposals are limited to 1 per institution. Full program details can be found at: <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2023/nsf23538/nsf23538.htm>. The NSF deadline for submissions is 5:00pm (MST) **Tuesday, January 2, 2024**. Webinars will be held to answer questions about the solicitation. Registration will be available on the NSF Partnerships for Innovation website (<https://www.nsf.gov/PFI>).

The **PFI-RP** track offers the opportunity to translate prior NSF-funded research results in any field of science or engineering into *technological innovations* with promising commercial potential and societal impact by supporting complex, multi-faceted technology development projects that are typically beyond the scope of a single researcher or institution, and require a multi-organizational, interdisciplinary, synergistic collaboration. A PFI-RP project requires the creation of partnerships between academic researchers and third-party organizations, such as industry, non-academic research organizations, federal laboratories, public or non-profit technology transfer organizations, or other universities. Awards will be up to \$1,000,000 for 36 months.

Lineage Requirement: NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps™) Teams awards no longer convey the lineage required to submit a PFI proposal.

The Limited Competitions Management Team is holding a **two-part internal competition process**:

1) If you are interested in submitting a PFI-RP proposal, please submit a 200-word Statement of Interest indicating the innovation or technology you are proposing no later than NOON on Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023 via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). Note: The Statement of Interest is required in order for the preliminary proposal to be reviewed by the limited competitions committee.

2) Please submit a 3-page pre-proposal addressing the review criteria below (plus budget overview, and abbreviated PI and Co-PI(s) CV(s); all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11-point font, 1-inch margins) no later than noon on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023. No late submissions will be considered.

Pre-proposals should include a project title, names, organization, and contact information of all PIs, as well as the identification of external collaborators. **Project descriptions should include the following sections:**

1. Executive Summary

- What is the potential societal value of your innovation? What are the benefits to the customer of your proposed innovation? What is the key differentiator of your organization or technology?
- Describe the key features of the proposed innovation. What aspects are original, unusual, novel, disruptive or transformative compared to the current state of the art?

2. From NSF Basic Research to Addressing a Market Opportunity

- NSF Lineage: Describe the relevant data/results from prior fundamental research results or customer discovery and how they derived from prior NSF research funding. These results should provide the reviewers with evidence that the technology is ready to move beyond the fundamental research/ discovery

phase and that the translational research proposed has potential to be developed into technology and commercialized. Document the NSF Lineage by including the NSF number(s) and title(s) of your NSF awards that meet the NSF Lineage Requirement *described in the solicitation*.

3. Technical Challenges and Use-Inspired Research Plan

- Describe the knowledge gaps and technical barriers that must be overcome to translate your technology into a product, process, or service.
- Describe the envisioned next steps for successful development of the technology toward *commercialization and societal use*.
- Describe the research plan to address the knowledge gaps and technical barriers that must be overcome.

4. Achieving Societal Impact through the Realization of Commercial Potential

- Describe the overall future commercialization strategy and plans envisioned beyond the duration of the proposed project.

5. Project Team

- Describe the team members and the qualifications they bring to the project.
- Describe the role of the Co-PI who is a member or employee of the Industrial Partner. (PFI-RP proposals require a minimum of one (1) Industrial Partner)

6. Partnerships

- Describe the partnership that is being assembled to pursue the applied research project. Discuss the capabilities of each of the partners and their roles in the project.
- How will the proposed partnership achieve the PFI goals to: 1) catalyze and accelerate technology development toward commercialization; and 2) contribute to the educational goals of the program?

7. Training Future Leaders in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- How will the proposed project activities enhance the knowledge/readiness of the student/postdoctoral researcher for innovation and technology commercialization beyond the usual research experience?

To read through *Frequently Asked Questions* and watch a recorded application webinar, please visit: <https://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/pfi/resources.jsp>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu for more information.