



To: Distribution List

From: Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: NSF National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Institutes: Accelerating Research, Transforming Society, and Growing the American Workforce NSF 20-604

Date: August 27, 2020

UNM Researchers,

The NSF National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Institutes: Accelerating Research, Transforming Society, and Growing the American Workforce program is a joint government effort between the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate, and the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. New to the program this year are contributions from partners in U.S. industry who share in the government's goal to advance national competitiveness through National AI Research Institutes. This year's industry partners are Accenture, Amazon, Google, and Intel Corporation.

This program solicitation invites proposals for full AI Institutes with a principal focus in one or more of the following themes:

- Theme 1: Human-AI Interaction and Collaboration
- Theme 2: AI Institute for Advances in Optimization
- Theme 3: AI and Advanced Cyberinfrastructure
- Theme 4: Advances in AI and Computer and Network Systems
- Theme 5: AI Institute in Dynamic Systems
- Theme 6: AI-Augmented Learning
- Theme 7: AI to Advance Biology
- Theme 8: AI-Driven Innovation in Agriculture and the Food System

*NSF and USDA announced this month seven new nationwide AI Institutes, which are listed here:*  
[https://www.nsf.gov/news/special\\_reports/announcements/082620.jsp](https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/announcements/082620.jsp)

This solicitation will support cooperative agreements of between \$16,000,000 and \$20,000,000 for between four and five years (\$4,000,000 per year on average).

Full proposals are due to the NSF on December 4, 2020. Complete program details can found at:  
[https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20604/nsf20604.htm?WT.mc\\_id=USNSF\\_25&WT.mc\\_ev=click](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20604/nsf20604.htm?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click).

*NSF will hold an informational webinar in September 2020. Date and registration information will be posted on the Program Web page.*

**This is a limited competition. An organization may submit no more than two proposals to this solicitation as lead institution.** If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please send a statement of interest with a tentative project title and a brief description (250 words max) by **noon, Thursday, September 17, 2020** via e-mail to [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu) with the subject line: **NSF AI Institutes – your name**. Based on the e-mail responses received, the Limited Competition Management Team may announce a call for pre-proposals. Please distribute this notice to departments and individuals whom you believe would be interested.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu).

*If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford ([CFord@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CFord@salud.unm.edu)) or Cassandra Misenaar ([CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu)) for more information.*