RESEARCH

FACULTY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Advance at UNM

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NSF Translation to Practice (NSF TTP 25-540)

Agenda

- Overview of the funding opportunity

- Q&A

- Strategies for alignment

- Q&A

Opportunity Overview

NSF TTP focuses on:

Real-world applications within all areas of STEM that solve problems for **consumers, industries, and/or governments**.

Successful outcomes may include, but are not limited to:
* accelerated product, process, or service maturation
* open-source projects
* standards setting
* patents
* the realization of pre-commercial or commercial products, processes, or services
* and startup or small business formation

TTP Goals:

- Identify and support the initiation of ==use-inspired research== and initial translational activities enabling a continuum from foundational research to practice.

- Develop ==partnerships and collaborations that include traditional (academic) and non-traditional entities==. These sustainable partnerships will accelerate the transfer of technology by ensuring needs and opportunities are appropriately addressed.

- ==Promote and advance the education and training== of students and postdoctoral researchers, avoiding undue geographic concentration of funding and encouraging the participation of all Americans.

- ==Identify future customer needs and opportunities== and bring these to the forefront in the conduct of use-inspired research and translational activities.

What's New?

Lessons learned from [NSF Partnerships for Innovation (PFI)](#) (archived)

3 New Tracks: Explore, Translate, Partner

TTP Track Overviews

Feature	TTP-Explore	TTP-Translate	TTP-Partner
Purpose	• Initiate use-inspired, high-risk research	• Mature ideas, iterate & improve solutions	• Strategic partnerships for broader impact with a focus on community/ market needs
Stage of Research	• Early translational activities	• Intermediate development	• Advanced translation and scaling
Eligibility/ Requirements	• Active NSF award (<1 year remaining) • EAGER, RAPID, RAISE <u>not</u> eligible	• No prior NSF funding required • NSF I-Corps participation	• No prior NSF funding required • NSF I-Corps participation • NSF-catalyzed partnership with a non-academic entity

TTP-T & TTP-P: I-Corps Training Req.

National NSF I-Corps Team Training:

- 7-week experiential program

- $50K supplement provided by NSF

- Accelerates research from demonstration→ validation

*Having completed I-Corps training **within the last 2 years for the technology in the proposed project** may allow you to **waive** this requirement.

Two Types of Partnerships

NSF-Direct Partnerships

- Keep any eye out for Dear Colleague Letters

- Examples: DoD, NASA, FFRDCs

NSF-Catalyzed Partnerships

- PI initiated

- May include IHEs, industry partners, government entities, philanthropies, international organizations, or other groups associated with large scale productization and distribution

- Required for TTP-P track and strongly prioritizes a non-academic partner

Review Criteria

Intellectual Merit – Should/Can this be done?

- Advance knowledge & understanding (within field & across fields)
- Creativity, originality, transformative potential
- Significance of contributions
- Soundness & feasibility of approach
- Team qualifications
- Data management plan & mentoring plan
- Adequate resources (equipment, facilities, etc.)
- Appropriate budget

Broader Impacts

Considerations:

- Benefit society or advance societal outcomes
- Explore creative, original, transformative concepts
- Well-reasoned, organized plan with success metrics
- Qualifications of team/institution to conduct activities
- Adequate resources & collaborations available

Additional TTP Solicitation Specific Criteria

Research Motivation:

- Must compellingly link the project to societal/economic impact
- Identify unmet needs and relevant stakeholders
- Show potential value of innovation, define knowledge gaps/barriers
- State clear end goals (prototype, policy change, startup, etc.)
- Present a credible plan and assess benefits & stakeholder interest

Additional TTP Solicitation Specific Criteria

Development of Solutions:

- Detail technical barriers (safety, scalability, cost, IP, compliance)
- Risk assessment and mitigation strategies required
- Show testing, refinement, validation plan; address unintended consequences
- Include milestones and success metrics for tracking progress
- Consider market integration (supply chain, costs, competitive timelines)
- Present an appropriate IP strategy if relevant

Additional TTP Solicitation Specific Criteria

Project Team:

- Must demonstrate necessary expertise with no gaps or redundancies
- Provide strong learning opportunities for students and postdocs
- Support both technical and professional development

Partnerships:

- Must describe strategic NSF-Catalyzed Partnerships
- Clearly define roles and complementary expertise
- Show how the collaboration enhances and accelerates translation

	TTP-Explore	TTP-Translate	TTP-Partner
Due Date	Anytime, starting October 2025	3rd Tuesday in January, May, and September annually **Upcoming:** January 20, May 19, and Sept. 15, 2026	3rd Tuesday in January, May, and September annually **Upcoming:** January 20, May 19, and Sept. 15, 2026
Maximum Funding Amount	$600,000	$1,200,000	$2,000,000
Maximum Project Duration	24 months	36 months	48 months
Proposal Length	3-5 pages	15 pages	15 pages
Initial Submission Method	Email to NSF program officer	Research.gov	Research.gov

Award & Submission Details

Submission Limits

A PI (or Co-PI) may submit only one NSF TTP proposal at a time, regardless of track

You must wait for determination on your current proposal before submitting another
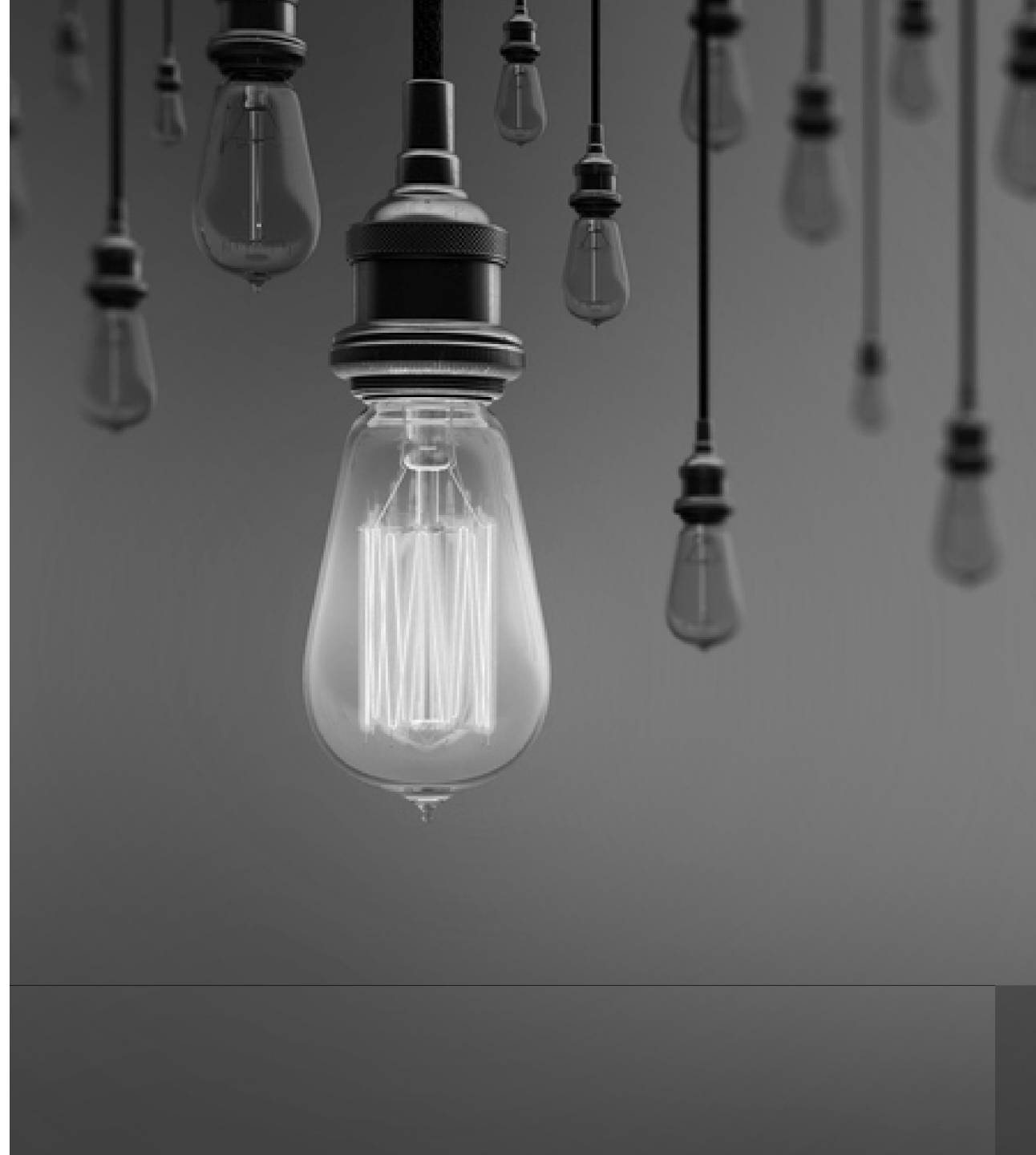
Eligibility

UNM is the applicant

A PI must hold either:

- A tenured or tenure-track position, or
- A primary, full-time, paid appointment in a research or teaching position

Other Key Points

You don't have to move through the 3 tracks in sequence

Follow the detailed project description instructions

Questions about the opportunity

Strategies for aligning your proposal with the solicitation

1. Align with Real-World Needs

Clearly describe how your work addresses <u>real-world problems</u> faced by consumers, industries, governments, or communities:

- Why is the translation of the innovation **needed**?

- What are the currently **unmet needs** your innovation will address?

- Who are the **stakeholders**?

- What is the **societal** and/or **market value** of the innovation?

- How is this use/solution **unique**?

2. Define the Translation Path

Explain how your research will move from theory or lab-based discovery to practical application. Include steps like:

- Proof-of-concept (TTP-E only)
- Prototyping
- Validation
- Pilot testing
- Standards development
- Open-source implementation/IP protection strategy
- Commercialization pathways: startup formation, licensing

3. Identify Barriers & Solutions

Identify technical, regulatory, or market barriers and how your project will overcome them:

- Safety
- Scalability
- Integration / Compatibility
- Compliance
- Cost
- Timeline & Sustainability
- IP Protection

4. Include Stakeholder Engagement

Describe how you will engage with key stakeholders to ensure relevance and adoption:

- End users
- Industry
- Government & Policymakers
- Graduate Students and Postdocs
- Other partners
- Public

5. Highlight Broader Impacts

Emphasize how your work contributes to public benefit:

- Economic development
- Public health
- Sustainability
- National security
- STEM education

Reach out early for support!

Data Management Plan: University Libraries

Intellectual Property Protection/Commercialization Process: Rainforest Innovations

Finding a non-academic partner: Office of Research Translation, Innovation, and Partnerships (ORTIP)

Brainstorming your project and/or submission assistance: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)

Thank you!

Contact us directly:

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