



# Partnerships For Innovation: Accelerating Innovation Research

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Program Director  
Industrial Innovation and Partnerships Division  
National Science Foundation  
September 30, 2014



# NSF Established in 1950

- ▶ Mission: From the NSF Act of 1950: "...To promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense..."
- ▶ Vision: "A nation that creates and exploits new concepts in science and engineering and provides global leadership in research and education."





# NSF Goals

| Strategic Goals | Transform the Frontiers of Science and Engineering  | Stimulate Innovation and Address Societal Needs   | Excel as a Federal Science Agency  |
|-----------------|---|---|--|
| Objectives      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Invest in fundamental research to ensure significant continuing advances across science, engineering, and education.</li><li>• Integrate education and research to support development of a diverse STEM workforce with cutting-edge capabilities.</li><li>• Provide world-class research infrastructure to enable major scientific advances.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Strengthen the links between fundamental research and societal needs through investments and partnerships.</b></li><li>• Build the capacity of the Nation to address societal challenges using a suite of formal, informal, and broadly available STEM educational mechanisms.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Build an increasingly diverse, engaged, and high-performing workforce by fostering excellence in recruitment, training, leadership, and management of human capital.</li><li>• Use effective methods and innovative solutions to achieve excellence in accomplishing the agency's mission.</li></ul> |



# National Science Foundation





# Directorate of Engineering

**Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation (EFRI)**  
Sohi Rastegar

Assistant Director for ENG  
Pramod Khargonekar  
Deputy Assistant Director  
Grace Wang

**Senior Advisor for Nanotechnology**  
Mihail Roco

**Engineering Education and Centers (EEC)**  
Theresa Maldonado

**Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET)**  
JoAnn Lighty

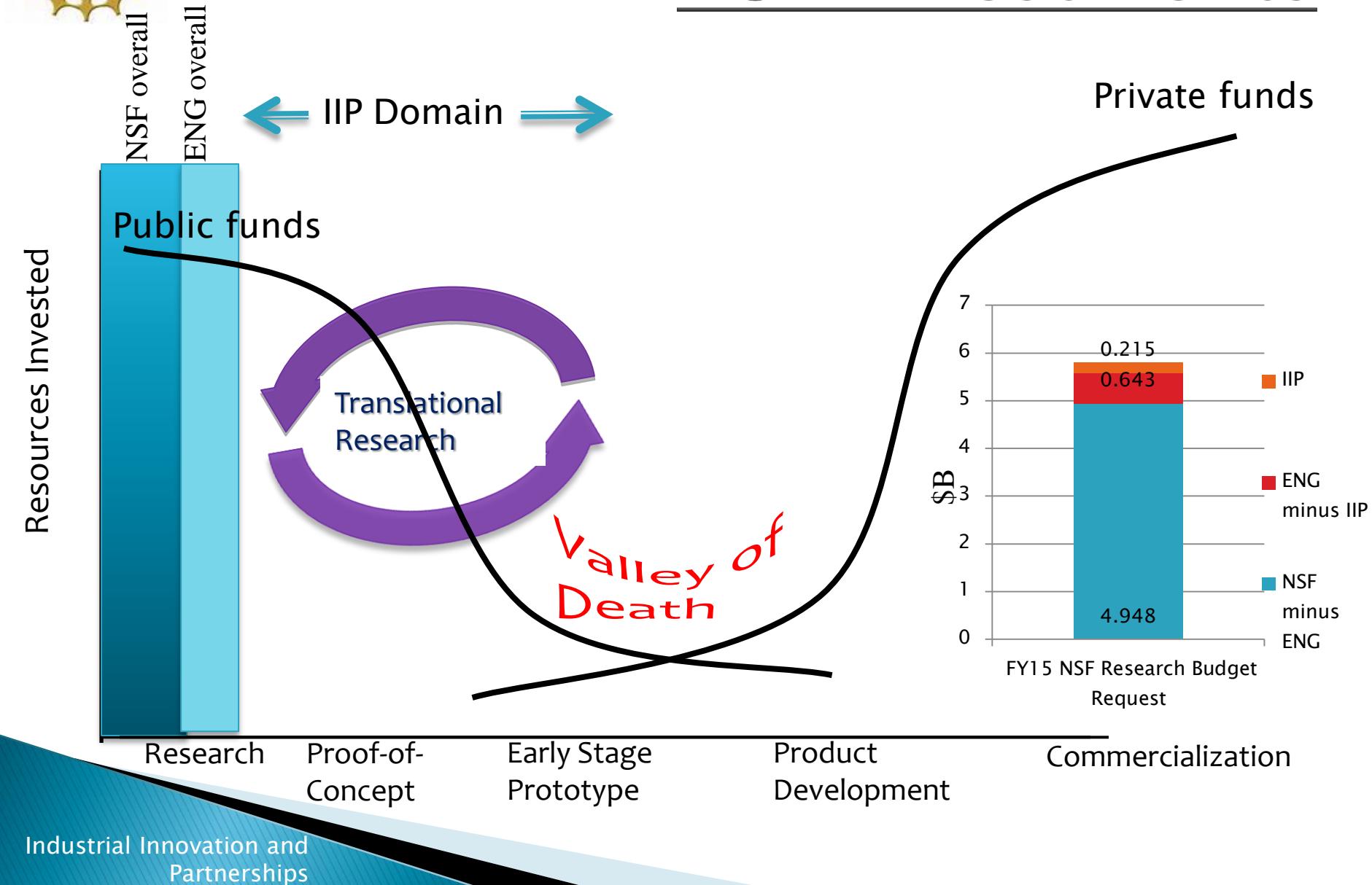
**Civil, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Innovation (CMMI)**  
George Hazelrigg (Acting)

**Electrical, Communications, and Cyber Systems (ECCS)**  
Samir El-Ghazaly

**Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP)**  
Cheryl Albus (Acting)

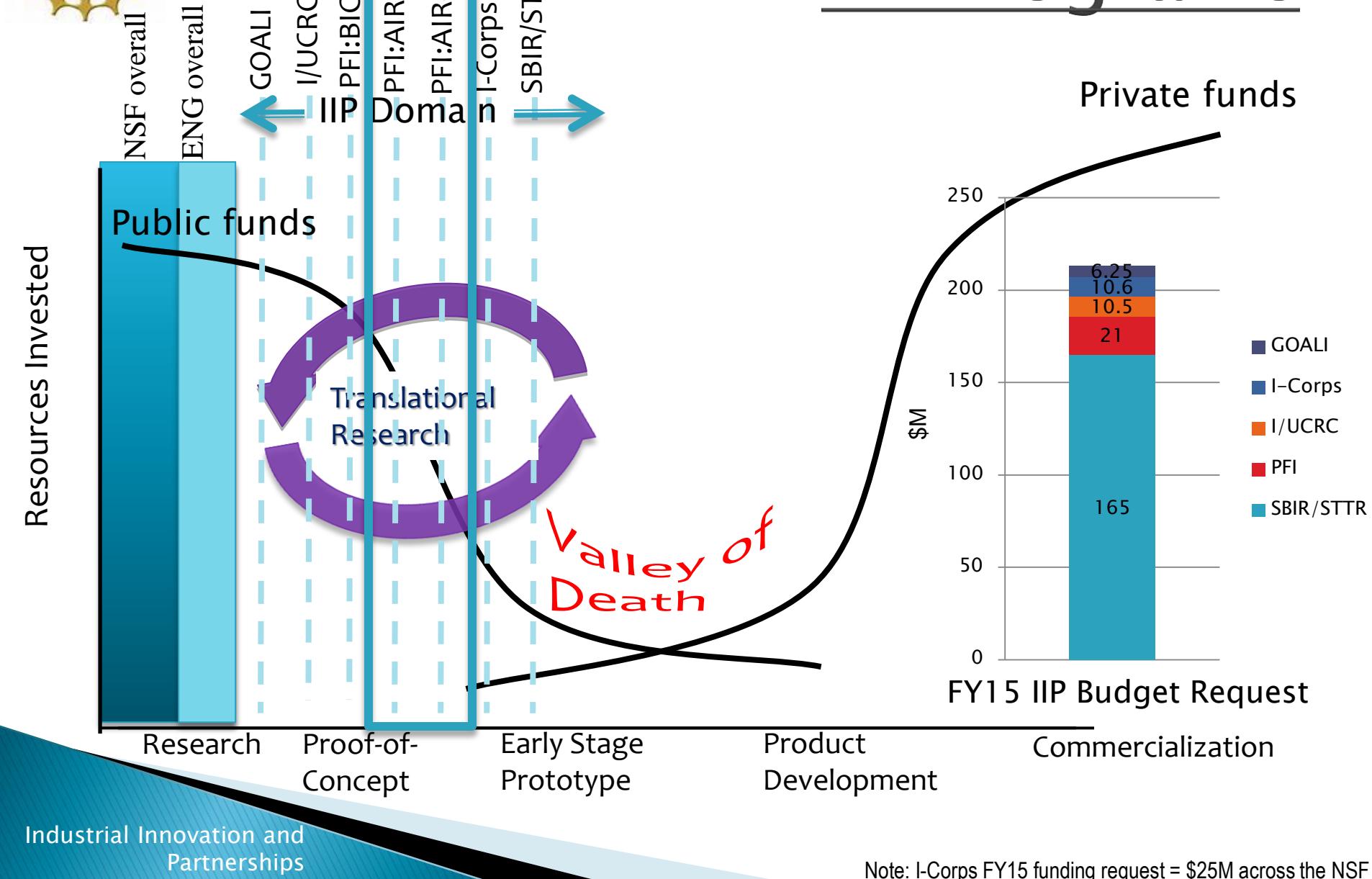


# NSF Investments





# IIP Programs





# PFI: Accelerating Innovation Research (AIR)

| Strategic Goal | Accelerate the derivation of societal and economic benefit from new knowledge created in the discovery process  |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| Objectives     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leverage NSF research award investments to accelerate the translation and transfer of research discoveries into commercial realities.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Catalyze the development or enhancement of a network of connections between researchers and persons with a user-oriented perspective.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engage students and faculty in entrepreneurial/innovative/market-oriented thinking.</li></ul> |

- ▶ Two types of awards for academic researchers
  - Technology Translation (14-569): Designed for single investigators
  - Research Alliance (14-612): Designed for research consortia (e.g. centers)



# AIR- Technology Translation: Leveraging NSF Investments

## 1. Technical

Basic  
Research

NSF-Funded  
Research Result



Technology/knowledge gaps



Successful  
Commercialization

## 2. Commercial

Preliminary understanding of market need, potential competitive advantage, IP landscape, regulatory hurdles. Strategy toward commercialization.



Enhanced commercial understanding, refined strategy toward commercialization



## 3. Educational

Student innovation/entrepreneurial experiences



# Key Facts 14-569

- ▶ Two windows

| LOI required   | Full Proposal   |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Sept. 2, 2014  | October 2, 2104 |
| March 13, 2015 | April 14, 2015  |

- ▶ PI/co-PI requirements:
  - PI must be faculty member at U.S. academic institution
  - Lineage: PI or co-PI must have had an NSF research award that ended no more than 6-years prior *that is the basis* for the proposed translational research work.
  - There must be at least one other individual involved in the work (co-PI, Senior Personnel, or Other Personnel) with explicit business experience.
  - PI/co-PI may submit only one proposal *per year*
- ▶ Up to \$200K for 18 months



# Difference from SBIR/STTR

- ▶ PI must be faculty member at U.S. academic institution
  - Flexibility in funding partnerships
  - Flexibility in mode of commercialization
- ▶ Based on results from prior NSF merit-reviewed research awards
  - Focused on research necessary to move to the next step on the path toward commercialization
- ▶ Up to \$200K & 18 months
  - (SBIR up to \$150K & 6 months, STTR up to \$225K & 12 months)
  - No Phase-II equivalent
- ▶ Entrepreneurial / Innovation experience/knowledge for students

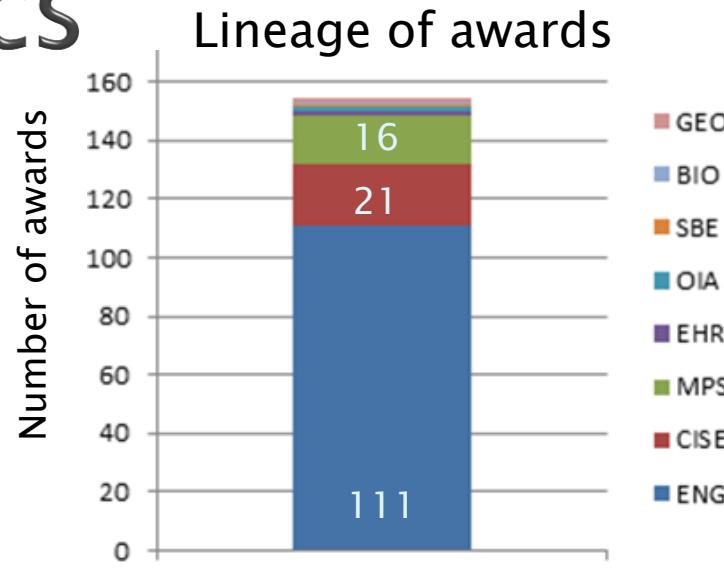
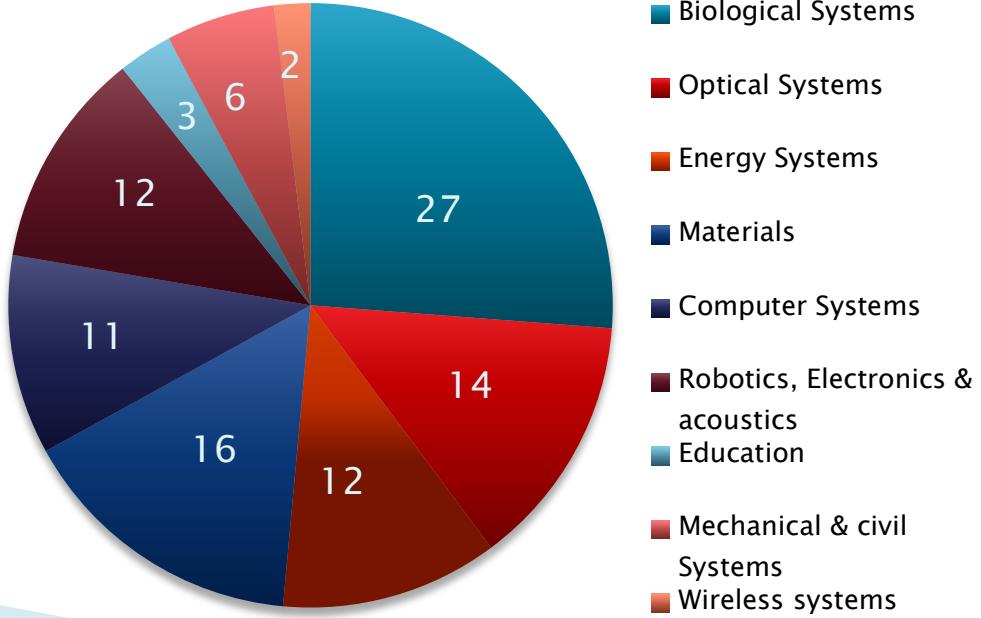


# Program Statistics

## ► AIR-TT: Technology Translation

- 103 awards made to date
- Lineage to 154 research awards
  - 25 with lineage to I-Corps
- \$18.9M funding to date
- 7 Final Reports

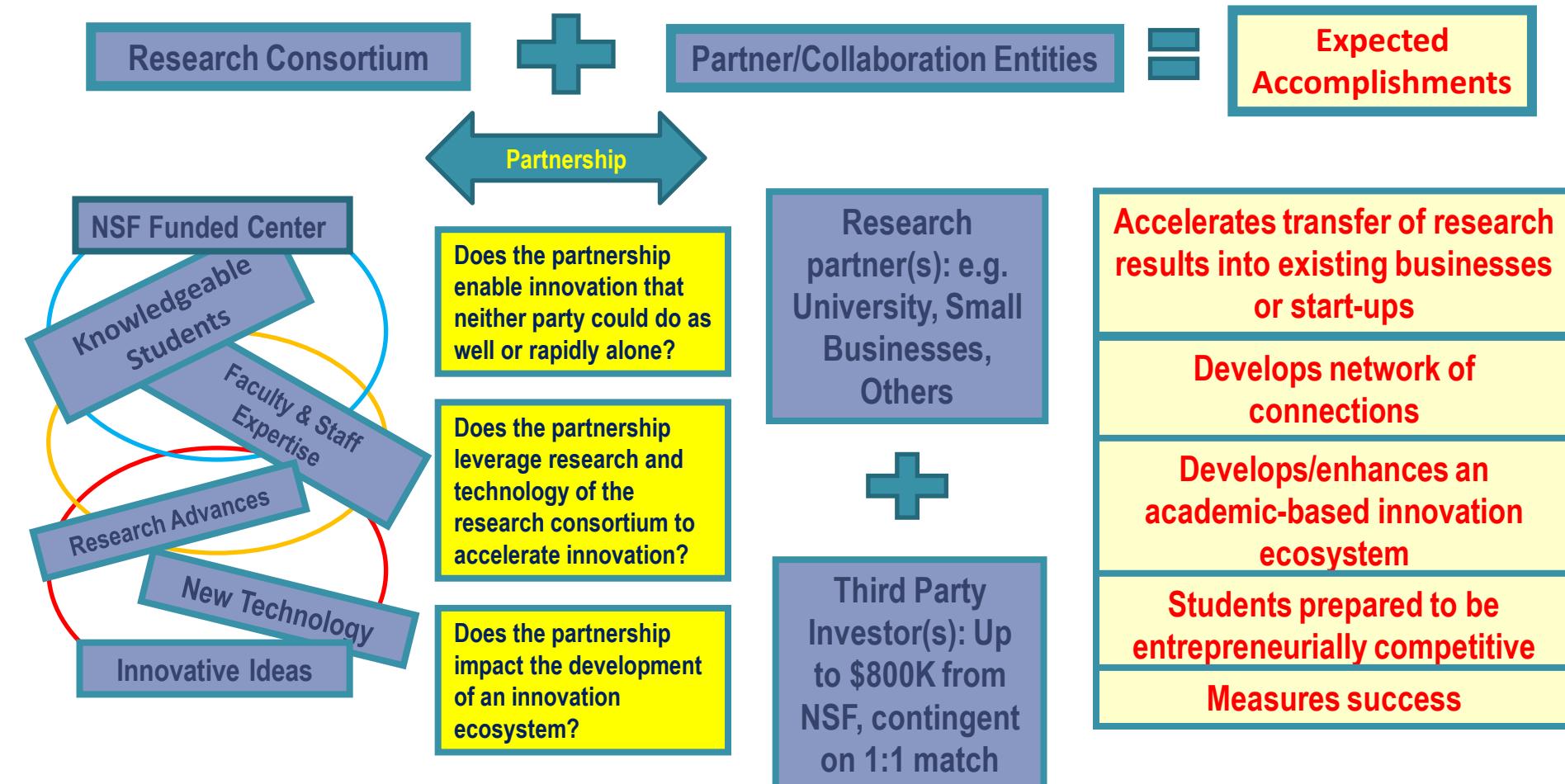
Technology Areas





# AIR- Research Alliance: Leveraging Center-level NSF Investments

Develop/enhance an academic-based innovation ecosystem to accelerate technology transfer





# Key Facts 14-612

- ▶ One window

| LOI required     | Full Proposal     |
|------------------|-------------------|
| January 12, 2015 | February 18, 2015 |

- ▶ PI must be faculty member active within an NSF-funded Research Consortium
- ▶ Technology to be translated must leverage the research of the underlying consortium
- ▶ At least one third party investor is required
  - 1:1 match, up to 25% can be in-kind
- ▶ At least one research partner is required
- ▶ Maximum award is up to \$800K, 3 years

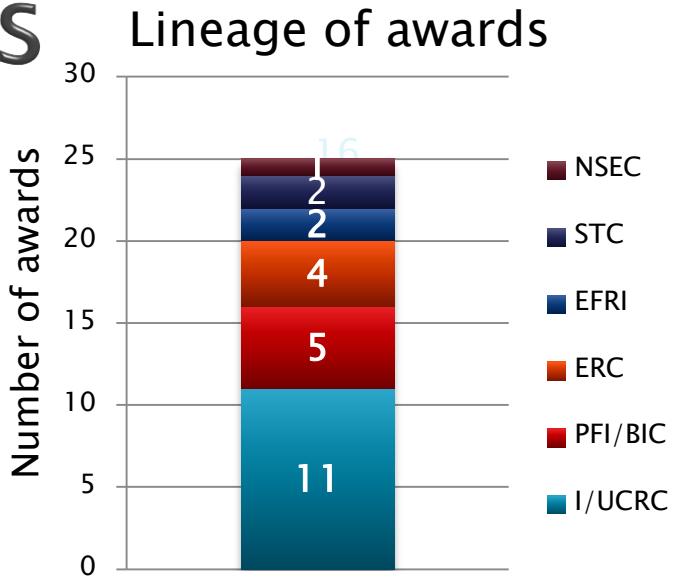
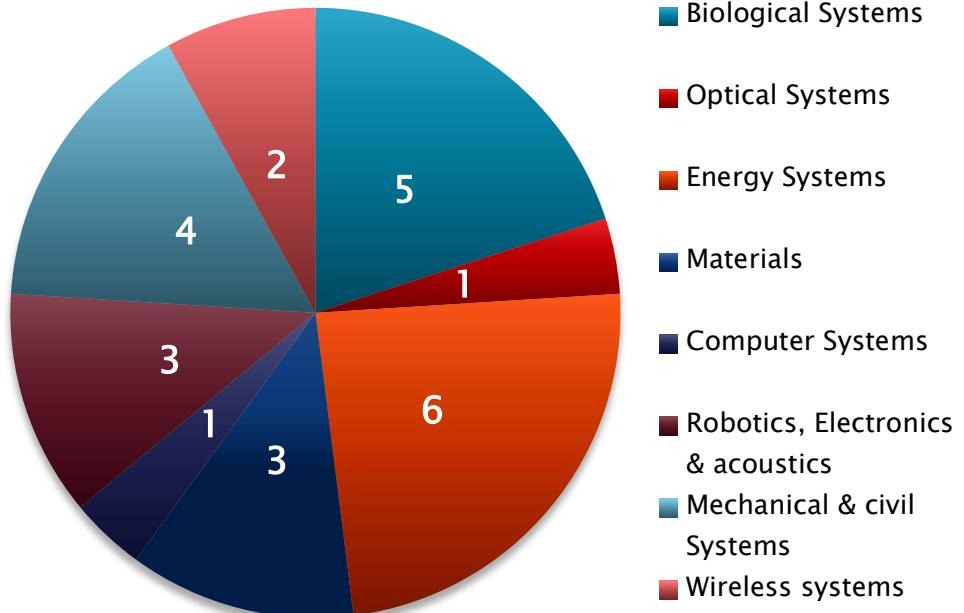


# Program Statistics

## AIR-RA: Research Alliance

- 25 awards made to date
- Lineage to 6 consortium types
- \$20.7M NSF funding
- \$19.9M 3<sup>rd</sup> party match
- \$3.7M in-kind match
- 3 Final Reports

## Technology Areas





# PFI: Accelerating Innovation Research (AIR)

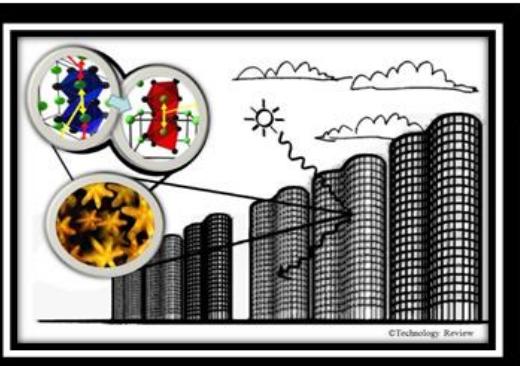
| Strategic Goal | Accelerate the derivation of societal and economic benefit from new knowledge created in the discovery process                          |  |   |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| Objectives     | • Leverage NSF research award investments to accelerate the translation and transfer of research discoveries into commercial realities. | • Catalyze the development or enhancement of a network of connections between researchers and persons with a use-oriented perspective. | • Engage students and faculty in entrepreneurial/innovative/market-oriented thinking. |

Examples...

# Smart Window Technologies: PI: Sarbajit Banerjee



DMR 087169: CAREER: Synthesis, Phase Transitions, and Device Integration of Nanoscale Vanadium Oxides (2009-2014)



MIT Technology Review Selects PI as Top 35 Innovator Under 35



Jesus Velazquez  
Ph.D. '12  
National Academies  
Ford Foundation  
Fellow

Luisa Whittaker-Brooks,  
Ph.D. '11  
L'oreal Fellow  
Assistant Professor,  
University of Utah

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### Panasci winners capitalize on high-tech coating

Entrepreneurs take top prize in UB's Panasci competition

Peter Marley, Ph.D. '15  
Sean W. Depner, Ph.D. '14  
Brian J. Schultz, Ph.D. '13



IIP: 1311837 AIR Option 1: Technology Translation: Smart Windows for the Improved Energy Efficiency of Buildings

IIP: 1333405: I-Corps: Dynamic Glazing Technology Based on Nanostructured Vanadium Oxides



Kate E.  
Pelcher  
First prize at  
IIP Pitch  
Competition



New York State TAF invests \$50,000 to de-risk technology

Launch of diMien LLC.

**DIMIEN**  
DIRECTED MATERIALS IN ENERGY

diMien secures SBIR Phase I Funding to develop window films

Quanex invests \$77,500 for scale-up + first royalty payments

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

**Quanex**  
building products



**IIP: AIR 1127786, 2011 – Water Technology Innovation Ecosystem (WaterTIE)**

Third party Investor: PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development

Technology Commercialization Partner: BenFranklin Technology Partners, PA



**IIP IUCRC: Water and Environmental Technology (WET) Center**

Industry/University Cooperative Research Center

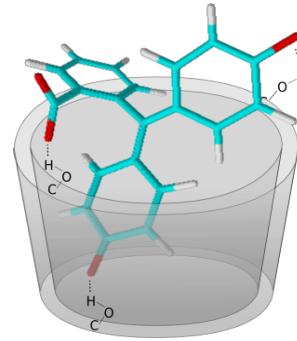
IIP: 0855881 Phase I, 2009; IIP: 1361498 Phase II, 2014

Temple Univ. (lead), Univ. of Arizona, Arizona State Univ.

Director: Rominder Suri, PhD, Temple Univ.

AIR Technologies for Water Treatment:

1. Novel Adsorbent Filter
2. Novel Ion Exchange Resin
3. Ultrasound for pollutant destruction
4. Advanced Oxidation Processes



**IIP: ICORPs 1439640, 2014; Novel adsorbents for water treatment**

Research training to 40 graduate +  
30 undergraduate students

\$40 Million revenue in 5 yrs  
estimated by Industry partners



35+ Industry  
Members,  
including DoD

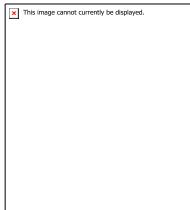
**Student Awards:**  
Candice Johnson, PhD by SETAC-HDC  
Gangadhar Andaluri, PhD by PA WEA

4 patents Filed  
40+ Publications  
120+ Presentations



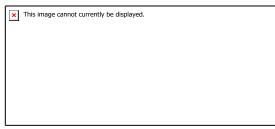
# Connect with PFI:AIR

Funding and webinar announcements,  
news, and success stories



## Online:

[nsf.gov/eng/iip/pfi/air-ra.jsp](http://nsf.gov/eng/iip/pfi/air-ra.jsp)  
[nsf.gov/eng/iip/pfi/air-tt.jsp](http://nsf.gov/eng/iip/pfi/air-tt.jsp)

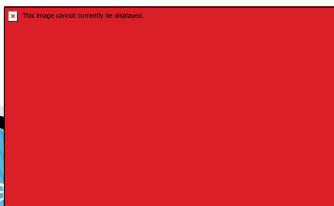


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**Channel:** [NSFIInnovationIIP](https://www.youtube.com/NSFIInnovationIIP)



# Thank you! Questions?

Additional questions, please contact Barbara Kenny at  
[bkenny@nsf.gov](mailto:bkenny@nsf.gov)

Thank you for your interest!