**Purdue Limited Submission – Request for Information (RFI)**

**NSF Regional Innovation Engines (NSF Engines)**

On May 3, 2022, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter for [Regional Innovation Engines](https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/nsf-regional-innovation-engines-nsf-engines-program), which is the first major program announced by the new TIP directorate. The program aims to fund regional coalitions of partnering organizations to establish NSF Engines that will catalyze technology and science-based regional innovation ecosystems. Key attributes of the NSF Engines are:

* Engines must focus on addressing specific aspects of a major societal and/or economic challenge that are of significant interest in the Engines defined “region of service”
* Engines will carry out an integrated and comprehensive set of activities spanning use-inspired research, translation-to-practice, entrepreneurship, and workforce development to nurture and accelerate regional industries
* Engines must also work to bring together an inclusive and diverse network of partners and stakeholders who will participate in the regional innovation ecosystem
* Engines will emphasize research that meaningfully engages the consumers of research outcomes in motivating that research as well as in the subsequent prototyping and piloting of research-based solutions (i.e., co-design and co-creation), the translation of research results to practice, entrepreneurship, and direct economic growth

The NSF Engines program anticipates funding two award types:

* Type 1 – Development awards to lay groundwork for a Type 2 proposal. Up to $1M over 2 years;
* Type 2 – Ready to launch an Engine by award date. Up to $160M over 10 years

NSF Engines will be awarded as Cooperative Agreements that will enable NSF to tailor project-specific requirements and performance metrics for the Engines while also taking on an active role in the oversight of the award.

Concept Outlines are due by June 30 (REQUIRED); Type 1 – August 31 for LOI and September 29 for full proposal; Type 2 – TBD in FY 2023

**An organization may only submit one proposal in which it serves as the “Lead Organization,” but it may participate in multiple proposals**. Proposals may be submitted by Institutions of Higher Education, US-based non-profit, non-academic organizations, and US-based for-profit organizations. NSF strongly encourages organizations that intend to submit proposals serving a particular region to collaborate on a single proposal rather than submitting multiple proposals focused on a similar topic area. A given region is encouraged to identify its strengths and emerging competitiveness and develop a cohesive proposal for submission. NSF will diversity the portfolio of Type-2 awards geographically.

The full solicitation is posted through SAMS as a [BAA](https://sam.gov/opp/67236a938b4f49c5a582e6c57921e3bc/view).

Due to the large scale of the program and expectation for state, regional and national support, we are modifying the limited submission process to identify the proposal(s) that will be led by Purdue and PARI. We will also determine the topical areas that are well suited for regional partnerships.

Interested teams should complete the brief Request for Information (RFI) on the following page and submit responses to EVPRPlimited@purdue.edu by **COB on Tuesday, May 17, 2022**.

**NSF Engines RFI**

1. Topic Area

Provide a brief description of the proposed topic/scientific area in less than 250 words. Explain why an NSF Engine award in this area would add major societal and/or economic challenge of significant interest in the defined “region of service” with a specific focus on Indiana. See NSF Engines FAQ – More Questions for examples.

1. Proposed Region of Service

Describe the proposed ‘region of service’ and include key core partners from academia, industry, and non-profits in less than 100 words (excluding list of core partners).

1. Type of Award and Prime/Partner

Explain if the Purdue team expects to (1) lead a proposal submission, or (2) partner with another team in the region. For (1) or (2), provide a list of potential lead partners along with a two to three sentence description of the partner and if outreach has occurred.

Explain if the Purdue team expects to submit a Type-1 or Type-2 proposal, and the basis for the recommendation in two to three sentences.

1. Purdue Participants

Provide a list of major Purdue participants along with a one sentence description of their potential role in the NSF Engines program. Note that the leader of Type-2 award is expected to contribute 100% effort to this program and is not necessarily a tenured faculty member.

1. Regional and National Partners

Provide a list of key academic, industry, and non-profit partners that are expected to participate along with expected level of participation (high to low) and cost-share/investment (high to low).

1. Translation and Workforce

Provide a brief description of the opportunities for technology translation and workforce development and how these activities will accomplish the program goals in less than 150 words.