

Subject: University-Industry collaborative grant opportunity: NSF PFI-BIC 2016

Dear Colleagues:

NSF Directorates for Engineering and Computer & Information Science & Engineering have released the 2016 solicitation for the [Partnerships for Innovation: Building Innovation Capacity \(PFI-BIC\)](#) . As part of the PFI family of grants, the program is intended to support translational research in partnership with industry. In contrast with the technology-centered nature of many translational research programs, the PFI-BIC program is grounded in the idea that in order to fill a human need, a new technology needs to become part of a larger configuration of people, technologies and organizational structures.

While it supports translational research, the PFI-BIC program does not require that applicants have a clear path to commercialization. Instead, the program is focused on the incorporation of emerging technologies into systems of people, organizations and information, and the use of such systems as testbeds for the new technologies. The program specifically seeks to support incorporation of new technologies into so-called *smart service systems*, in which technologies for sensing, actuation, coordination, communication, control, etc., serve to augment human capacities for learning, adaptation and decision-making.

As described in NSF's [program structure diagram](#), teams are expected to incorporate these elements into their programs:

- engineering systems design and integration;
- computing, sensing and information technologies; and
- human factors, behavioral sciences and cognitive engineering

The solicitation embraces the notion that these interactions of people and technology may spawn additional discoveries.

Grants are for up to \$1,000,000 over 3 years. NSF anticipates making ten awards. The full solicitation, which includes more about the conceptual underpinnings of the program (with references) and proposal details, is at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16591/nsf16591.htm>. While the solicitation has changed this year, the [listing of last year's awards](#) may be helpful as well.

**This is a limited-submission program, with a maximum of two proposals per institution.** As such, it is necessary that we determine whether an internal selection process is needed prior to NSF's October 14 deadline for letters of intent.

### Key dates

Group viewing of <a href="#">NSF Webinar</a> (see details below)	September 7, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Repeat NSF webinar	September 9, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Internal expression of intent to submit (via email)	September 19, 8:00 am

White papers due (if needed)  
Internal selection complete  
Letters of intent due at NSF  
Full proposals due at NSF

September 26, 8:00 am  
October 3  
October 14  
November 16

### **Group viewing of the NSF Webinar**

Due to the complexity of the PFI-BIC solicitation, we strongly recommend that those with potential interest in the program view the NSF webinar. To facilitate discussion among Lehigh faculty, we have arranged for **group viewing on Wednesday, September 7, 2016, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm** in EWFM 370D (Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning), with lunch provided. For planning and food order purposes, RSVP by email to [VPResearch@lehigh.edu](mailto:VPResearch@lehigh.edu) by September 5 is appreciated.

NSF will hold a repeat webinar on Friday, September 9, 2016, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm. Registration is required by NSF.

Please contact Kate Popejoy at [VPResearch@lehigh.edu](mailto:VPResearch@lehigh.edu) with any questions you may have.

Kind regards,