



U.S. Small Business
Administration

2024 Growth Accelerator Fund Competition Theme Areas Webinar

January 31, 2024

AmericasSeedFund.us/accelerators
accelerators@sba.gov

Agenda

- Welcome and Brief Competition Overview
- Highlights from 2023 GAFC Stage One Winners
- About the Theme Areas
- Introduction of Guest Speakers
- Don Ufford
- Rukmani Vijayaraghavan
- Dan Goetzel
- Q&A

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Growth Accelerator Fund Competition



Speed the launch, growth and scale of STEM/R&D-focused small businesses through impactful and inclusive approaches.



Nurture a national equitable entrepreneurship ecosystem – new collaborations and support for entrepreneur support organizations to enhance small business success.

About the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition

Building an inclusive public-private support ecosystem for all innovators.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering \$50,000 to \$200,000 in prize awards for impactful and inclusive approaches to foster a thriving, collaborative national innovation support ecosystem to advance research and development (R&D) from ideas to impact.

By fostering connections between entrepreneurs, advisors, mentors, partners, philanthropies, corporations, investors, and other shared resources, the 2024 Growth Accelerator Fund Competition (GAFC) will catalyze strategic ecosystem partnerships to build community and organizational capacity for the successful launch, growth, and scale of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)-based entrepreneurs and startups.

The total funding available for this program announcement is \$5,750,000. The Stage One award is \$50,000. SBA expects to award up to \$3,000,000 in cash prizes for Stage One. Only Stage One Catalyst winners can submit for Stage Two Accelerate funding and receive up to an additional \$150,000 for their partnership (total funding award: \$200,000).

Prize Structure

**Stage 1 Submissions Due
February 16, 2024**

Winners Announced April 2024

**Stage 2 Submissions Due
June 2024**

Stage 1 Catalyze
\$50k each

Ecosystem Building Activities

Stage 2 Accelerate
\$50k - \$150k each

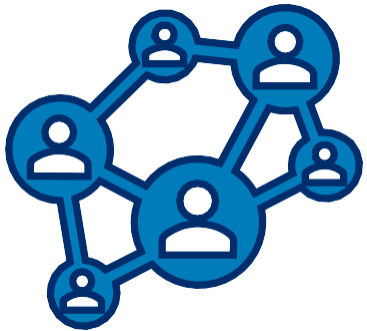
- Ecosystem builders (Catalysts) focus on a Theme Area
 - Ecosystem building activities to recruit and/or support Accelerators
 - How you amplify the impact Accelerators have for small businesses
- Submissions posted publicly to facilitate connections with Accelerators

- Catalysts
 - Host ecosystem building activities, such as co-design workshops or Strategic Doing sessions
 - Recruit Accelerators to support Theme Area
 - Identify match or in-kind resource support for Accelerators
 - Close collaboration with SBA

- Accelerators submit:
 - How they will support small businesses
 - What value-add they are looking for from a Catalyst
 - Assessment of Catalyst winners, identifying preferred Catalyst partner
- Participating Catalysts win additional \$50k to support Accelerator network
- Opportunity for Bonus Prizes directly to Accelerators using FY23 funding

americasseedfund.us/accelerators
accelerators@sba.gov

Stage One: Catalyze – Portal Closes February 16, 2024



Use of Stage One Prize Funds

SBA expects Catalyst winners to use Stage One funds for ecosystem-building activities, including but not limited to:

- Recruitment of new, community-connected Ecosystem Partners
- Co-design with Ecosystem Partners
- Establishment of novel partnerships
- Strengthening existing alliances among stakeholders (including public, private, non-profit, and academic partners)
- Developing resources to support Growth Accelerator Partnership impact during Stage Two
- Creating a new ecosystem-focused accelerator model

View 2023 GAFC Stage One Catalyze winners here: <https://bit.ly/GAFC23Directory>

americasseedfund.us/accelerators
accelerators@sba.gov

Submission Package

Contestant Information: Submission Portal at AmericasSeedFund.us/accelerators

Submission Slide Deck: A **PDF** version of a slide deck (no more than **13 slides**) and must address all items, in the order listed. The deck will not be made public.

A standard, 11-point minimum font size applies (tables, images, and illustrations may use a reduced font size not less than 8-point and may be landscape).

No more than 10 MB.

One-slide Summary (public): A single presentation slide that summarizes information about your organization and the ecosystem you are working to build that may be used to attract new Ecosystem Partners. If selected, the one-slide summary will be made public.

Video Narrative: A video of not more than **ninety (90) seconds** that describes how the applicant is uniquely qualified to catalyze the entrepreneurship ecosystem around its selected theme. The video must be posted to a public site (such as YouTube or Vimeo) and be accessible to Competition judges. If selected, the video may be made public.

BioRise is on a mission to catalyze growth of the bio economy by elevating innovative startups and emerging companies through a combination of financial, mentorship, and networking resources.

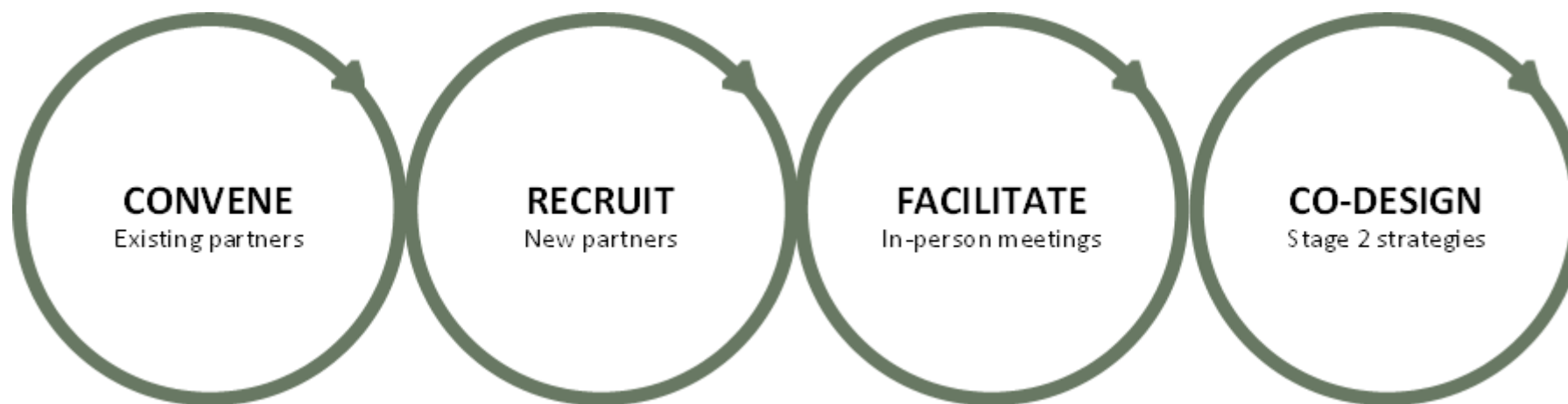


“The flexibility of the GAFC award allows us to work on projects and bring together a group of partners who otherwise wouldn’t have collaborated. We aim to enable the relationships formed through this award to be the launching pad for many future projects with these partners.”

The Aerospace industry is undergoing a rapid evolution not seen since the dawn of the jet age. Through a new **Tribal Emerging Aerospace Growth Accelerator Partnership**, we can bring emerging aerospace business opportunities, jobs, and capital into underserved Tribal communities.



UAS
CLUSTER INITIATIVE



The activities in Stage 1 led to the formation of the Tribal Emerging Aerospace Growth Accelerator, a working group that sets agendas and defines strategies and programs for the future.

Equitech Tuesday

In a Snapshot:

- 125+ Equitech Tuesdays
- 1,000s of Attendees
- 7 Partnered Equitech Tuesdays
- 25% > More Attendees
- 35 Average Attendees



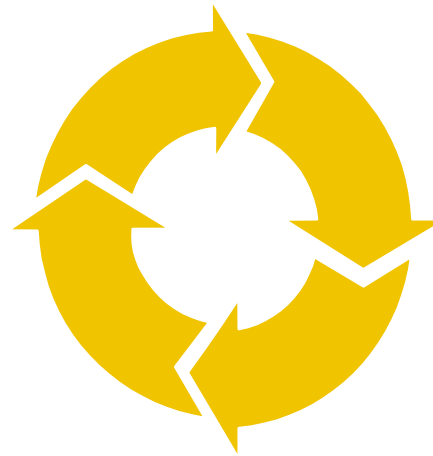
The Growth Accelerator Fund Competition enabled us to focus on our ecosystem partnerships and foster relationships with national partners.

SBA Office of Investment and Innovation Programs

Connecting public and private sector resources and capital with innovation economy entrepreneurs

Small Business Investment Company Program (SBIC)

- \$42B in Assets Under Management
- \$8B in Financing to SBs and Startups in FY23
- ~318 Private Funds
- Private Equity, Private Credit, Venture Capital, Growth Equity, Buyout, and Fund-of-Funds



Small Business Innovation Research & Tech Transfer (SBIR/STTR)

- \$4 in SB Contract and Grant Awards Annually
- Three Phases of Awards
- 11 Participating Federal Agencies
- Funding for Technical and Business Assistance
- SBIR Assistance through Federal and State Technology Partnership Program (FAST)

Investment & Innovation Ecosystem Development

- Growth Accelerator Fund Competition (GAFC) Prize Awards
- Regional Innovation Clusters (RIC) Contracts
- Ecosystem Support Organization Convening, Resources and Education

Why the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition has Theme Areas

- SBA's Strategic Objective 1.2 is to ***Build a thriving national innovation ecosystem that promotes investments in all small business communities***
- The development of critical technologies is necessary for our national and economic security and cannot happen without the entirety of the innovation ecosystem.
- GAFC partnerships and overall efforts support small businesses who are building these critical technologies and ensure they receive the business assistance and capital they need to grow.

THEME AREAS



National and Economic Security

Including but not limited to:

- National Security and Defense
- Artificial Intelligence
- Microelectronics
- Advanced Computing and Software
- Quantum Computing
- Human-Machine Interfaces
- Other Critical and Emerging Technologies



Domestic Manufacturing and Production

Including but not limited to:

- Advanced Manufacturing R&D
- Supply Chain Resiliency
- Critical and Resilient Infrastructure
- AgTech and Agricultural Innovation
- Other Supply Chain, Infrastructure, and Manufacturing Technologies



Sustainability and Biotechnology

Including but not limited to:

- Energy and Sustainability
- Biotechnology
- Climate and Environment
- Public Health
- Renewable Energy Generation and Storage
- Electric Vehicles
- Blue Economy
- Other Climate, Energy, and Life Science Technologies



Our Speakers Today:

Don Ufford, Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office, NIST

Rukmani Vijayaraghavan, Science and Energy Program Manager, Office of the Under Secretary for Science and Innovation, DOE

Dan Goetzel, Entrepreneurial Lead, Regional Innovation Engines Program, NSF



Opportunities for Entrepreneurial Interaction

Don Ufford, Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office, NIST

An interagency team building partnerships with U.S. industry and academia



About Manufacturing USA

VISION: Securing U.S. Global Leadership in Advanced Manufacturing

MISSION: Connecting people, ideas, and technology to:

- solve industry-relevant advanced manufacturing challenges
- enhance industrial competitiveness and economic growth
- strengthen our economic and national security



Purposes



**IMPROVE
COMPETITIVNESS**



**SECURE U.S.
LEADERSHIP IN
ADVANCED MFG**



**SCALE
MANUFACTURING
TECHNOLOGIES**



**DEVELOP ADVANCED
MANUFACTURING
WORKFORCE**



**PROVIDE SHARED
RESOURCES AND
FACILITIES**



**EXCHANGE BEST
PRACTICES**



**INCREASE
PARTNERSHIPS AND
COLLABORATION**



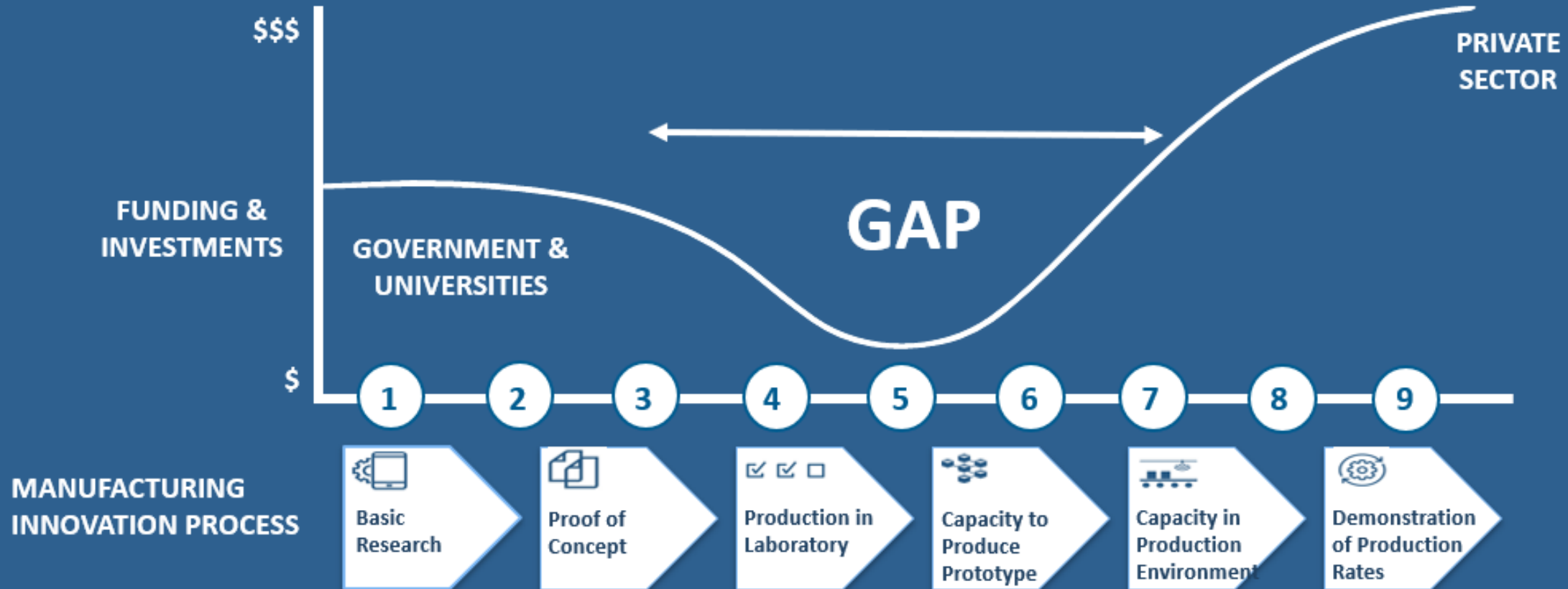
**BOOST
MANUFACTURING
EMPLOYMENT**



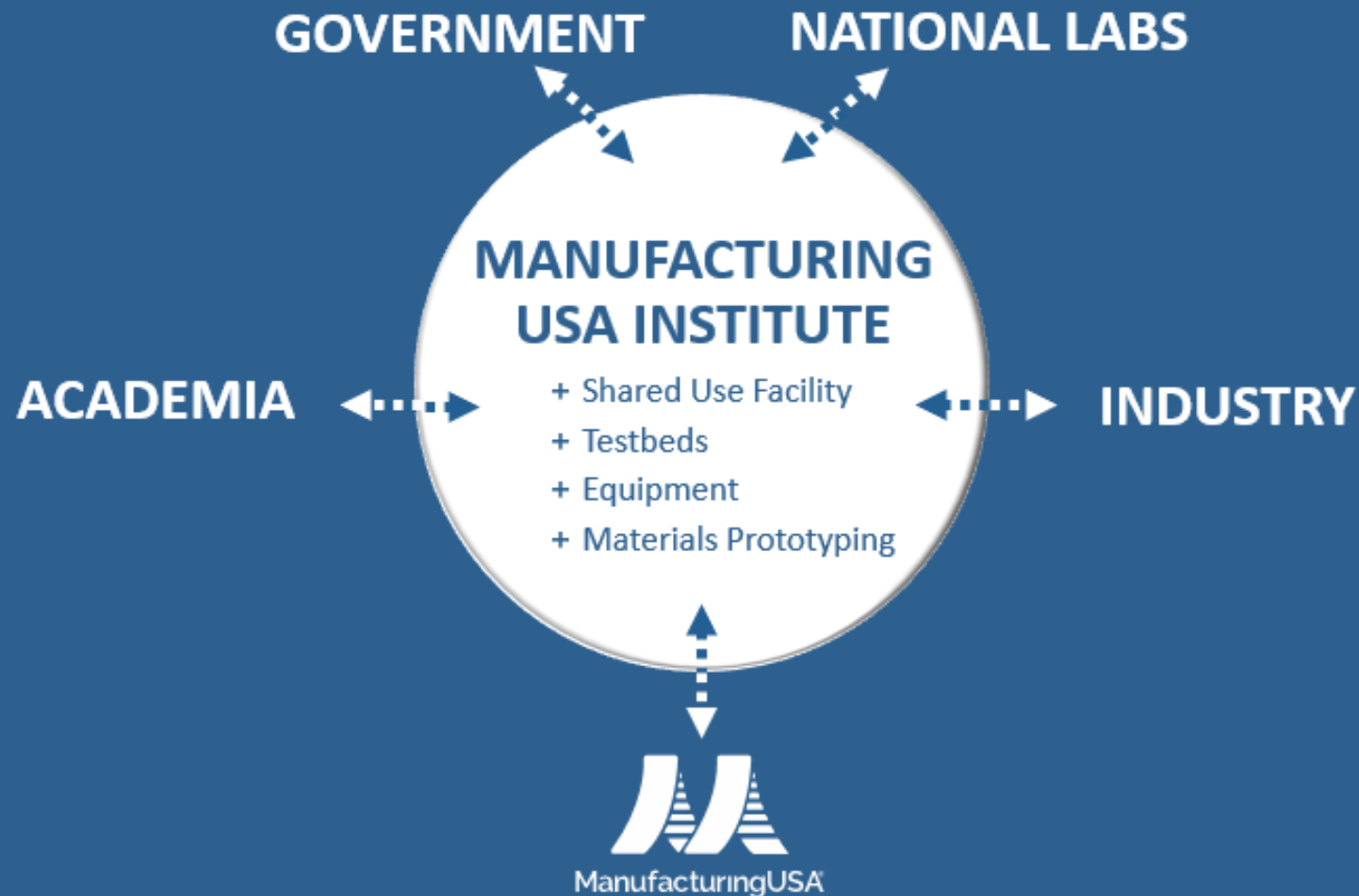
**DEVELOP
INNOVATION
ECOSYSTEMS**

Manufacturing USA Purpose: Accelerate Discovery to U.S. Production

Create an effective collaboration environment for applied industry research to "bridge the gap" from discovery to production.



Institutes Enable Large-Scale Collaboration



Manufacturing USA Network: 17 Institutes and Growing

ELECTRONICS



Integrated Photonics
Albany, NY
Rochester, NY



Flexible Hybrid
Electronics
San Jose, CA



Wide Bandgap Semiconductors
Raleigh, NC

MATERIALS



Advanced Fibers and Textiles
Cambridge, MA



Advanced Composites
Knoxville, TN
Detroit, MI



Advanced Materials
Detroit, MI

ENERGY/ ENVIRONMENT



Modular Chemical
Process Intensification
New York, NY



Sustainable
Manufacturing
Rochester, NY



Smart Manufacturing
Los Angeles, CA



Industrial Process
Decarbonization
Tempe, AZ

DIGITAL/ AUTOMATION



Additive Manufacturing
Youngstown, OH
El Paso, TX



Advanced Robotics & AI
Pittsburgh, PA



Digital Manufacturing
& Cybersecurity
Chicago, IL



Cybersecurity in
Manufacturing
San Antonio, TX

BIO- MANUFACTURING



Regenerative
Manufacturing
Manchester, NH



Biopharmaceutical
Manufacturing
Newark, DE



Bioindustrial Manufacturing
St. Paul, MN

Upcoming: NIST competition for new institute

NIST competition for new CHIPS Manufacturing USA semiconductor institute(s)

NIST

www.nist.gov

Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)

- National Office

www.nist.gov/mep

- State Centers

<https://www.nist.gov/mep/center>
[S](#)

Manufacturing USA Network

www.Manufacturingusa.com

Manufacturing Technology Roadmap Teams

<https://www.nist.gov/oam/programs/advanced-manufacturing-technology-roadmap-mfgtech-program>

CHIPS Information

<https://www.nist.gov/chips>

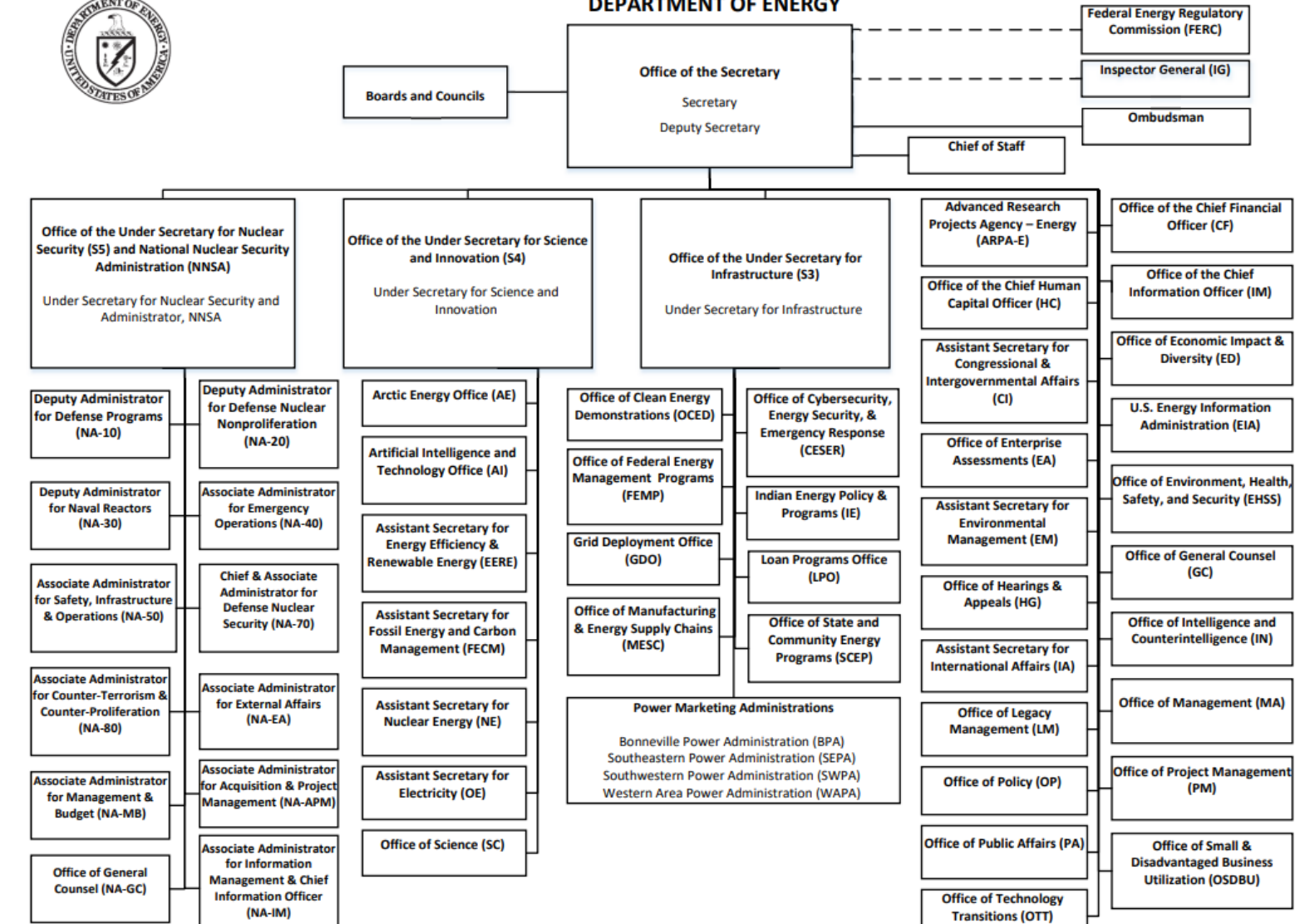


Rukmani Vijayaraghavan

Office of the Under Secretary for Science and Innovation;
Water Power Technologies Office



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



“All hands-on-deck” commitment to achieve the major RD&D breakthroughs ***in the next decade*** *that are needed* to solve the climate crisis.

- Make a major impact to **reduce GHG emissions**
- Address the **most difficult-to-solve technology barriers**
- Set **highly ambitious targets** that are **compelling, bold, and inspirational**
- Significantly **engage stakeholders**

Energy Earthshots™ Portfolio

Generation & Grid



Floating
Offshore
Wind



Enhanced
Geothermal



Long
Duration
Storage

Industry



Industrial
Heat



Clean Fuels &
Products



Hydrogen

Transportation

Buildings



Affordable
Home
Energy

**Achieving the
Energy Earthshots™
can save \$850
billion and
avoid ~3.9 Gt CO₂**

*Independent analysis by
Third Way for the Cumulative
and Combined Impacts (2021-
2050) (Published before CFP and
AHE Shots)*

Removing Carbon



Carbon Negative

Announced June 2021- October 2023

2024 GROWTH ACCELERATOR FUND COMPETITION

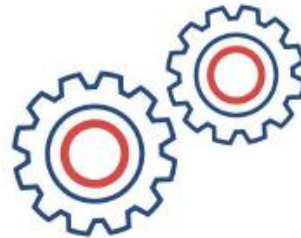
THEME AREAS



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Including but not limited to:

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- Energy and Sustainability
- Biotechnology
- Climate and Environment
- Public Health
- Renewable Energy Generation and Storage
- Electric Vehicles
- Blue Economy
- Other Climate, Energy, and Life Science Technologies

DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

energy.gov/eere

EERE’s mission is to accelerate the research, development, demonstration, and deployment of technologies and solutions to equitably transition America to a carbon pollution-free electricity sector by 2035 and a net-zero emission economy by no later than 2050, creating good-paying jobs with the free and fair chance to join a union and bargain collectively, and ensuring the clean energy economy benefits all Americans, especially workers and communities impacted by the energy transition and those historically underserved by the energy system and overburdened by pollution.

Funding, Prize, and Competition Opportunities

Below are the current open EERE funding opportunities. Visit [EERE Exchange](#) to see past opportunities.

TECHNOLOGY AREA	SOLICITATION TITLE	OPEN DATE	CLOSE DATE
Solar	Solar Energy Evolution and Diffusion Studies 4 (SEEDS 4)	12/14/2023	1/30/2024
Water	Strategies to Increase Hydropower Flexibility - Concept Papers	11/16/2023	2/1/2024
Wind	Innovative DEsigns for high-performAnce Low-cost HVDC Converters (IDEAL HVDC) - Final Applications	9/27/2023	2/2/2024
Cross-office	Community Energy Innovation Prize	8/29/2023	2/2/2024
Cross-office	Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) FY24 Funding Opportunity - Phase I Release 2 - Letters of Intent	1/18/2024	2/2/2024
Wind/Water	Installation Noise Reduction and Reliable Moorings for Offshore Wind and Marine Energy - Full Applications	9/29/2023	2/29/2024
Buildings	Buildings Energy Efficiency Frontiers & Innovation Technologies (BENEFIT) - 2024	11/6/2023	3/5/2024
Solar	Small Innovative Projects in Solar: Concentrating Solar Power and Photovoltaics (SIPS: CSP & PV) - Annual	1/17/2024	3/6/2024
Cross-office	SBIR/STTR FY24 Funding Opportunity - Phase I Release 2 - Full Applications	1/18/2024	3/12/2024
AMMTO	Re-X Before Recycling	11/27/2023	3/12/2024
IEDO	Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization Office Fiscal Year 2024 Cross-Sector Technologies FOA	11/17/2023	3/20/2024
AMMTO	Critical Materials Accelerator	11/22/2023	3/22/2024
Fuel Cells	Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office FOA to Advance the National Clean Hydrogen Strategy	12/15/2023	3/22/2024
Water	Strategies to Increase Hydropower Flexibility - Full Applications	11/16/2023	4/11/2024
Vehicles	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law FY23: Electric Drive Vehicle Battery Recycling and Second Life Applications	12/18/2024	4/19/2024
Water	Marine Energy University Foundational R&D	1/16/2024	4/22/2024
Wind	American-Made Wind Turbine Materials Recycling Prize - Phase 2	7/12/2023	7/12/2024
Water	Power at Sea Prize	11/13/2023	7/26/2024

Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO)

energy.gov/water

WPTO enables research, development, and testing of emerging technologies to advance **marine energy** and next-generation **hydropower** and **pumped storage** systems for a flexible, reliable grid.

Hydropower Program



Modernizing the Existing Fleet



Pumped Storage Hydropower



New Low-Impact Projects

Marine Energy Program



Wave



Tidal, River and Ocean Current



Ocean Thermal

National Science Foundation + CHIPS & Science Act

NSF supports the full range of critical and emerging technologies, including the key technology focus areas enumerated in the "CHIPS and Science Act of 2022".

- Advanced computing and semiconductors
- Advanced materials
- Advanced communications
- Advanced energy and industrial efficiency technologies
- Artificial intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Cyberinfrastructure and cybersecurity
- Disaster prevention and mitigation
- Robotics and advanced manufacturing
- Quantum information science and technology

Five societal, national, and geostrategic challenges:

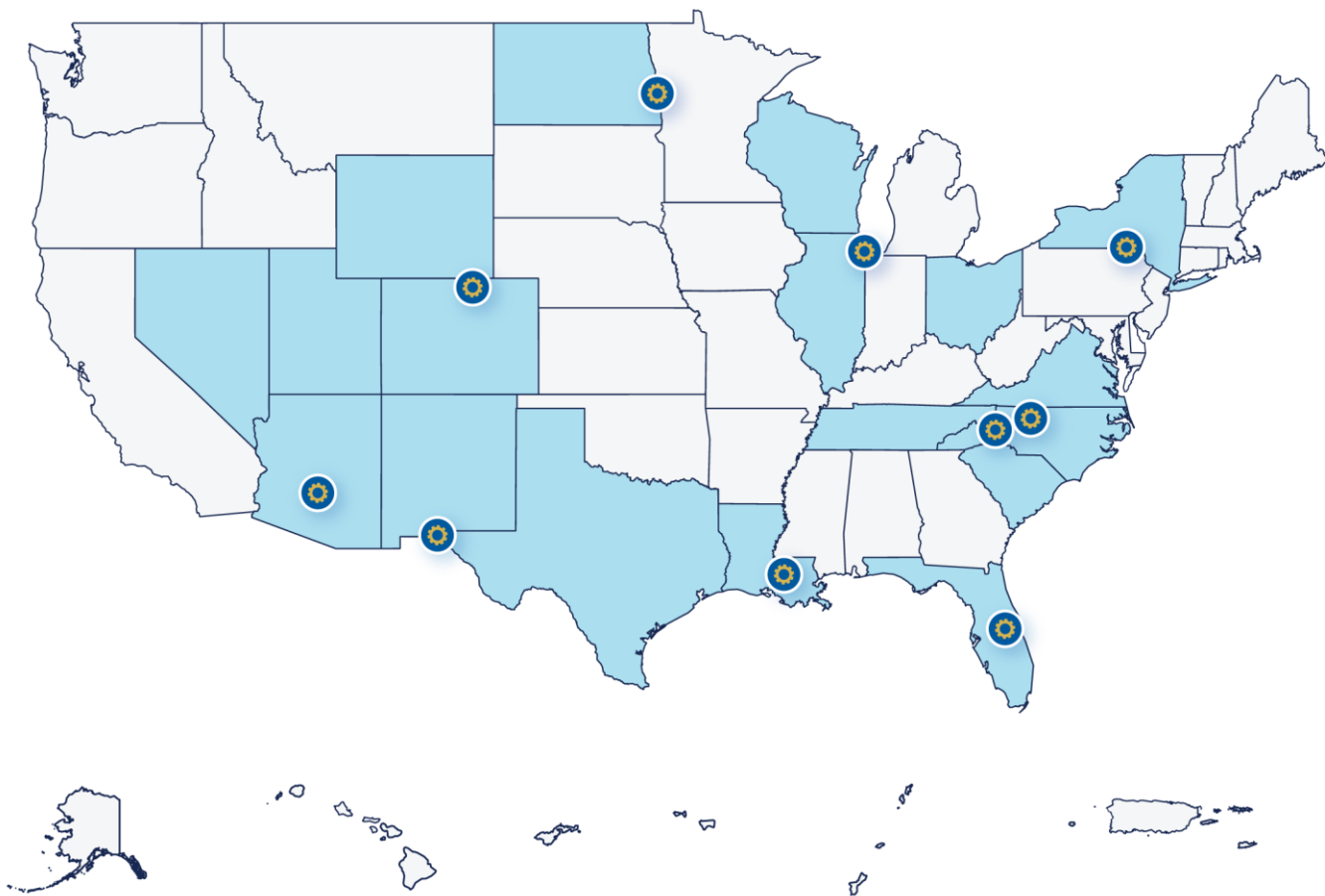
- *United States national security*
- *United States manufacturing and industrial productivity*
- *United States workforce development and skills gaps*
- *Climate change and environmental sustainability*
- *Inequitable access to education, opportunity, or other services*

Contact:

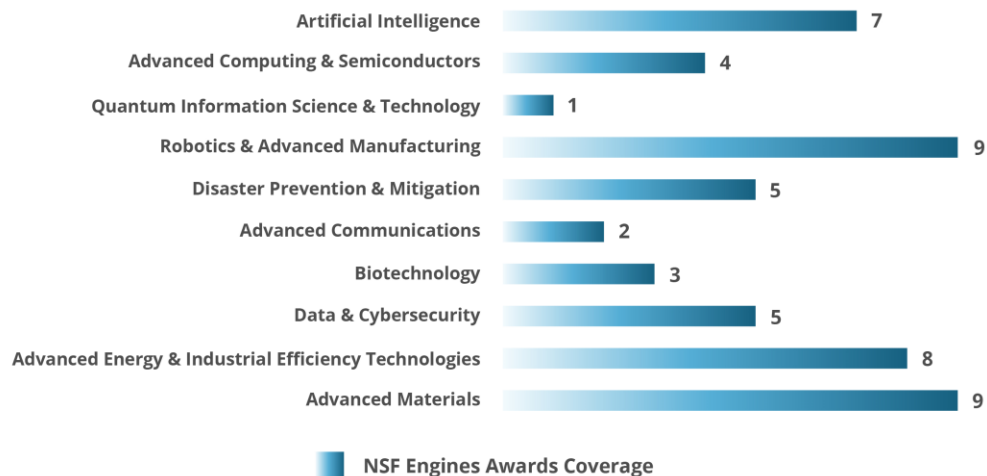
engines@nsf.gov



Key Technology Areas for NSF Engines



NSF ENGINES KEY TECHNOLOGY AWARDS AREA BREAKDOWN



Competition Guidelines

This webinar is not intended to cover all details pertaining to the competition guidelines.

You are responsible for reviewing the full and complete competition guidelines at: AmericasSeedFund.us/accelerators.

Time for Q&A