



2025 NNCI Nanotechnology Entrepreneurship Challenge (NTEC)

Supporting student & post-doc-led nanotechnology innovation and entrepreneurship

NTEC 2025 is supported by the [NSF-funded National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure \(NNCI\)](#). **Student- or post-doc-led teams can receive funding and mentorship to develop nano-enabled innovations.**

Overview

NTEC awards:

- Provide funding, mentorship, and leadership opportunities for students and post-docs
- Help students and post-docs use nanotechnology to solve real-world problems
- Encourage innovation and entrepreneurship through diverse, student-led teams linked to [NNCI sites](#)
- Educate students on the technology transfer process and programs like [NSF I-Corps](#) and [SBIR/STTR](#)
- Encourage translation of original ideas and/or intellectual property (IP) at participating [NNCI sites](#)

Awards

- Multiple awards of up to \$1,000 USD are available.
- Teams receive mentorship through the Virtual [NNCI NTEC Accelerator Program](#).
- Awards are used for instrument time at participating [NNCI sites](#) and qualifying travel.
- **The top 3 NTEC teams are eligible for additional funding and travel support to pitch their ideas at the [TechConnect World Innovation Conference & Expo in Austin, TX, June 9-11, 2025](#).**

Key Dates 2025

- Feb. 11th (National Inventor's Day) – NTEC Applications Due
- Feb. 24th – Awardees Announced
- Mar. 3rd to Apr. 18th – NTEC Virtual Accelerator (optional but encouraged)
- Week of Apr. 14th – NTEC Virtual Showcase (top 3 teams selected)

Eligibility

- Teams must be **student or post-doc led**.
- An **NNCI-affiliated mentor** (staff or faculty) is required.
- Team leads must be **currently enrolled** at or affiliated with an [NNCI site](#). Teams associated with other networks, like the [DOE Nanoscale Science Research Centers \(NSRCs\)](#), are eligible to apply.

Apply Now through Feb 11th

URL <https://forms.gle/PT7uyUFRSy8R6Cfz9>



Review Process and Criteria

Awards are made based on the following criteria:

- Merit of the innovation proposed
- Commercialization potential
- Quality of the technology transfer strategy and future plans
- Extent to which NNCI analytical tools are used
- Team participation in the virtual NTEC Accelerator program
- Availability of funds

Questions?

Email Dr. Matthew Hull at mahull@vt.edu