



Fall 2025 NNCI Nanotechnology Entrepreneurship Challenge (NTEC)

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

The Fall 2025 NTEC Program is hosted 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 of 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 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 Raleigh, NC, March 10-12, 2026](#).**

Key Dates

- **Sep. 22, 2025** – Applications Due
- **Oct. 9, 2025** – Program Kickoff / Awardees Announced Publicly
- **Oct. 9th to Nov. 20th** – NTEC Virtual Accelerator (mentorship, weekly webinar)
- **Dec. 4th 2PM ET** – NTEC Virtual Showcase (top 3 teams selected)
- **Mar. 10-12, 2026** – NTEC Finals on March 11th at TechConnect, Raleigh, NC

Eligibility

- Teams must be **student (undergrad, grad, community college) 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 Sep. 22nd

URL <https://forms.gle/HYvjNK9pVq4wYKPa7>



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?

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