2019/2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: What is MITTIC?
Answer: MITTIC is an abbreviation for MUREP Innovation and Technology Transfer Idea Competition. MITTIC is a spinoff competition established to develop new ideas for commercialization by seeking concept papers from multidisciplinary student teams enrolled at a Minority Serving Institution (MSI).

Question: What is the MITTIC timeline?
Answer: MITTIC Opportunity Opens: Tuesday, October 30, 2019
MITTIC Concept Papers DUE: Tuesday, February 4, 2020
Acceptance Letters Sent to Qualifying Teams: February 2020
Online Collaboration for Ten Qualifying Teams: March 2020- May 2020
NASA’s Johnson Space Center Onsite Experience for Ten Qualifying Teams: April 26-30, 2020
NASA’s Ames Research Center Onsite Experience for One Qualifying Team: June 2-5, 2020

Question: What is MUREP?
Answer: MUREP is the abbreviation for Minority University Research and Education Project. MUREP’s mission is to enhance the research, academic and technology capabilities of Minority Serving Institutions by providing authentic learning experiences related to NASA missions to contribute to a diverse future STEM workforce. MITTIC is a MUREP-funded challenge. To learn more about MUREP, visit: https://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/national/murep/home/index.html

Question: What is a Minority Serving Institution (MSI)?
Answer: MSIs are institutions of higher education enrolling populations with significant percentages of undergraduate minority students, or that serve certain populations of minority students under various programs created by Congress, are known as Minority Serving Institutions. They include: Historically Black College or University (HBCU), Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), Tribal College or University (TCU), Alaska Native-Serving Institution or a Native Hawaiian-Serving Institution, Predominantly Black Institution (PBI), Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPSI), Native American Serving Nontribal Institution. For more information on MSIs, please visit the Department of Education website: https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html

Question: What is a NASA Spinoff?
Answer: NASA Spinoffs are new ideas, products, and processes that are created using NASA-developed technologies/Intellectual Property (IP). For examples of NASA Spinoffs and how they were commercialized, visit https://spinoff.nasa.gov/.
**Question:** Where can I find a list of previous MITTIC winners for examples of the types of ideas that were selected?

**Answer:** Due to proprietary information examples cannot be uploaded to the MITTIC website.

**Question:** Is MITTIC only for engineering students?

**Answer:** It is recommended that MITTIC teams are formed with multidisciplinary college students at MSIs. (See eligibility requirements.)

**Question:** Can my team choose another IP if we cannot develop a concept using the MITTIC IPs provided in the competition?

**Answer:** No. The selected NASA IPs located in the revised 2019/2020 challenge guidelines were chosen based on a specific set of criteria and are the **ONLY** IPs that can be submitted for consideration in MITTIC.

**Question:** Can my team use the IP from the first competition and expand on the concept?

**Answer:** No. The selected NASA IPs located in the revised 2019/2020 challenge guidelines were chosen based on a specific set of criteria and are the **ONLY** IPs that can be submitted for consideration in MITTIC.

**Question:** My team cannot find a NASA Small Business Company (SBC) to partner with during MITTIC. Can my team submit a concept paper?

**Answer:** If your team meets the MITTIC eligibility requirements, your team may submit a concept paper. Teams that have a NASA SBC will be given priority. If your team needs help finding a NASA SBC please contact HQ-MITTIC@mail.nasa.gov. The MITTIC team will work to help find your team a NASA SBC.

**Question:** Should team members sign a nondisclosure agreement before starting the MITTIC competition?

**Answer:** Decision to use nondisclosure agreements are up to each individual team.

**Question:** Can teams be made up of more than four students?

**Answer:** Yes, we encourage supporting team members. Note: only the 4 primary team members are funded and badged to attend the onsite events at Johnson Space Center. The winning team travelling to Ames Research Center can have up to 8 team members funded. All team members travelling MUST meet eligibility requirements.

**Question:** Can teams have more than one Principal Investigator (PI)?

**Answer:** Yes, we encourage supporting faculty members. Note: only one PI is funded and badged to attend onsite events Johnson Space Center. The winning team is funded to have one PI attend the Ames Research Center/Silicon Valley experience. All faculty travelling MUST meet eligibility requirements.

**Question:** On the website, under the Apply Here icon it says COMING SOON - what does that mean? Where do I apply?

**Answer:** Coming soon means the proposal application system is currently being developed. The link to submit your concept paper will be updated on or before October 31, 2019 to make sure your teams have enough time to submit. The application process is new and easier to use this year! We look forward to seeing your concept papers.

**Question:** Can more than one team submit a concept paper from the same school?

**Answer:** Yes, more than one team (meeting eligibility requirements) can submit concept papers. Note: Team members from the same institution must have different student team members and different ideas written on the concept paper. One PI may represent multiple teams. If two teams submit the exact same concept paper, BOTH teams will be disqualified.

**Question:** What is the prize?

**Answer:** MITTIC is a MUREP funded activity. Funds are used to provide each qualifying teams’ travel, hotel accommodations and meals during the NASA onsite experiences at Johnson Space Center in March 2020 and Ames Research Center in April 2020.

**Question:** Can my MITTIC team use our concepts to start a small business or start-up company?

**Answer:** Yes. The NASA Technology Transfer Program’s startup initiative is a good place to research to learn more about the opportunity at https://technology.nasa.gov/startup.
**Question:** Are teams required to make a low-fidelity prototype of their concept?
**Answer:** Teams are not required to make a low-fidelity prototype, but teams in the past have made items to represent their idea to help judges with visualization of their concept.

**Question:** Where can I find a list of the NASA Small Business Companies (SBCs)?
**Answer:** Please contact your regions NASA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Center Points of Contact at https://sbir.nasa.gov/content/nasa-sbirsttr-program-contacts.