MITTIC

MUREP Innovation and Tech Transfer Idea Competition

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

January 2021

#NASAMITTIC #MUREP

2020 / 2021

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is MITTIC?
MITTIC is an abbreviation for MUREP Innovation and Tech 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).

What is the MITTIC prize?
MITTIC offers awards for qualifying teams. Funds are used for accommodations during the virtual experiences with NASA's Johnson Space Center in April 2021 and NASA's Ames Research Center in May 2021. Additionally, EACH qualifying team could receive incentives of up to $5,000 to support team activities, while the winning team is eligible to receive up to an additional $10,000 in support of prototype development.

What is MUREP?
MUREP is the abbreviation for Minority University Research and Education Project. NASA Minority University Research and Education Projects are administered through NASA's Office of STEM Engagement. MUREP enhances the capabilities of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or HBCUs; Hispanic Serving Institutions, or HSIs; Tribal Colleges and Universities, or TCUs; and Other Minority Universities, or OMUs, to contribute to the research needs of science and technology enterprises. The MUREP staff at NASA are responsible for developing agency-wide policies, procedures and guidelines that enhance the involvement of all minority-serving education institutions in the mission of the agency. MITTIC is a MUREP-funded challenge. To learn more about MUREP, visit:
https://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/national/murep/home/index.html

What is a Minority Serving Institution (MSI)?
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. Under part F of the HEA, 20 U.S. Code § 1067q – "Investment in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions," the following institutions are eligible to receive funds under that section: Historically Black College or University, Hispanic-serving Institution, Tribal College or University, Alaska Native-serving Institution or a Native Hawaiian-serving Institution, Predominantly Black Institution, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution and Native American-serving Non-tribal Institution. For additional information, please visit the U.S. Department of Education website.

Can I form a team with multiple MSI's?
Yes. If your team chooses to combine MSI's, in your Letter of Intent, provide us with names, emails, and the type of MSI each team member and PI represent. Your "core team institution" is the institution of which your PI is employed, meaning when the monetary incentive is given, it is given to the PI. The PI's will decide on if they choose to split funds with other institutions on their team after the award is received (MITTIC will not be part of this process).

What is a NASA Spinoff?
NASA Spinoffs are new ideas, products, and processes created using NASA-developed technologies/Intellectual Property (IP). For more information, visit: https://spinoff.nasa.gov/

Where can I find a list of previous MITTIC winners for examples of the types of ideas that were selected?
Due to proprietary information examples cannot be uploaded to the MITTIC website.

Is MITTIC only for engineering students?
No. MITTIC encourages students to form multidisciplinary teams from various disciplines.

Can my team choose another IP if we cannot develop a concept using the MITTIC IPs provided in the competition?
No. The selected NASA IPs located in the challenge guidelines were chosen based on a specific set of criteria and are the ONLY IPs that can be submitted.

Can my team use the IP from the first competition and expand on the concept?
No. The selected NASA IPs located in the challenge guidelines were chosen based on a specific set of criteria and are the ONLY IPs that can be submitted.

My team cannot find a Large/Small Business Company to partner with during MITTIC. Can my team submit a concept paper?
Yes. If your team meets the MITTIC eligibility requirements, your team may submit a concept paper.

Can teams be made up of more than four students?
Each team must have four (4) to five (5) team members currently enrolled in the proposing Minority Serving Institution (MSI). Teams may enlist the support of students of any classification, faculty members, professional consultants, etc. However, no more than five (5) primary team members and one (1) PI may participate in the onsite immersive experiences. All team members traveling MUST meet eligibility requirements.

Can teams have more than one Principal Investigator (PI)?
Yes, we encourage supporting faculty members. Note: Only one PI is funded and allowed to attend the onsite events at NASA's Johnson Space Center and NASA's Ames Research Center/Silicon Valley. All faculty traveling MUST meet eligibility requirements.

Where does our team submit our concept paper?
The proposal application system will begin accepting concept papers on January 4, 2021. We look forward to seeing your concept papers!

Can more than one team submit a concept paper from the same school?
Yes, up to two teams per institution can submit concept papers. Team members from the same institution can have the same PI. Teams must have different student members and different concepts.

What if our team cannot find a PI?
Having a PI is mandatory in submitting a concept paper. Some ideas include contacting any of the following at your institution: previous/current professors, deans/department chairs, other faculty and or administrators.

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

Are teams required to make a low-fidelity prototype of their concept?
While teams are not required to make a low-fidelity prototype, previous teams have made items to represent their idea to help judges with visualization of their concept. However, the winning team is eligible to receive up to $10,000 in support of prototype development.

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