FUNDING FOR STARTUPS

UP TO $1.75 MILLION
FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

America’s Seed Fund powered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) funds startups in the development of deep technologies – those that are based on discoveries in fundamental science and engineering – transforming scientific discovery into products and services with commercial and societal impact.

With NSF funding you retain full control over your team, the direction of your work, and your intellectual property. Our hope is that the startups funded by NSF will become successful and have a positive impact.

“NSF helped us refine our vision, figure out if our technology could be used for different applications, and helped us figure out if we can manufacture our technology in a scalable fashion – taking it from an academic project to a real-scale commercial project.”

– SHREYA DAVE
Co-Founder and CEO of Via Separations
an NSF-funded company

$200 MILLION &
400 AWARDS EVERY YEAR

292 Companies were awarded Phase I grants in 2018
48% were less than 3 years old
69% had fewer than 3 employees
55% had never submitted a proposal to NSF
92% had never received a Phase II award from NSF

Nearly 3,000 Phase I and Phase II awards were made during FY2012-FY2018.
We fund unproven, high-impact innovations in any area of technology.

How to get started:

PROJECT PITCH
Submit a 3-page Project Pitch and find out in 3 weeks if your project is a good fit.

Project Pitches must outline:
1. Technology Innovation
2. Technical Objectives and Challenges
3. Market Opportunity
4. Company and Team

If your project is a good fit, you will receive an official invitation to submit a Phase I proposal.

Each startup can only submit one Project Pitch at a time and up to two Project Pitches per submission window.

See what’s possible.
seedfund.nsf.gov