



University of South Carolina is a National Science Foundation (NSF) Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Site. NSF I-Corps is a suite of activities and programs that aim to:

- Accelerate the transition **technology-driven ideas** to the marketplace.
- Encourage collaboration between academia and industry.
- Train students to understand innovation and entrepreneurship.

■ WHY APPLY FOR INNOVATION CORPS PROGRAM?

- **Seed funding** up to \$3000 per team for prototyping, travel and other business expenses.
- **Educational** workshops on Lean LaunchPad methodology and customer discovery.
- **Mentoring** via USC I-Corps Site’s entrepreneurial network.
- **Designation as an NSF-funded project** opens opportunities for follow-on funding through NSF.

■ INNOVATION CORPS TEAMS

- **Entrepreneurial Lead** will be postdoctoral scholar, graduate or undergraduate student with relevant knowledge of the technology and commitment to investigating the commercial landscape surrounding the innovation.
- **Academic Lead** will be a faculty member or scientist with a deep understanding of the core technology.
- **Business Mentor** will be an experienced or emerging entrepreneur with experience in transitioning technology out of academic labs.

■ USE OF FUNDING

- **Materials and supplies** used to develop prototypes or equipment.
- **Services or educational programs** related to customer discovery or technology commercialization.
- **Travel to conferences and trade shows** for the purpose of customer discovery or market research.

■ EXPECTATIONS

- Attendance by the team at the three workshops: **(1) kick-off customer discovery, (2) business model development, and (3) lessons learned.**
- **Conducting a minimum of 10 interviews** with potential customers.
- Submission of a **progress report** at the end of discovery module.
- **All teams will make a “go/no-go” decision about commercialization of their technology and follow-on funding application to NSF.**

■ APPLICATION

- Visit <http://uscicorps.com/>

