



Convergence Accelerator

**DCL 21-012 | REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**NSF CONVERGENCE ACCELERATOR | IDEATION FOR FY 2022**

# NSF Convergence Accelerator

*Accelerating Solutions Toward Societal Impact*

## **Mission:**

The Convergence Accelerator speeds the transition of convergence research into practice to address national-scale societal challenges

## **NSF Vision:**

Envisions a nation that capitalizes on new concepts in science and engineering and provides global leadership in advancing research and education.



# NSF Convergence Accelerator

**WHY:** Leverage the science across all fields of NSF research to produce outcomes in an accelerated timeframe, with streamlined operations allowing for nimbleness to support the most innovative results

**WHAT:** A new organizational structure to *accelerate* the transition of basic research and discovery into practice, in areas of national importance

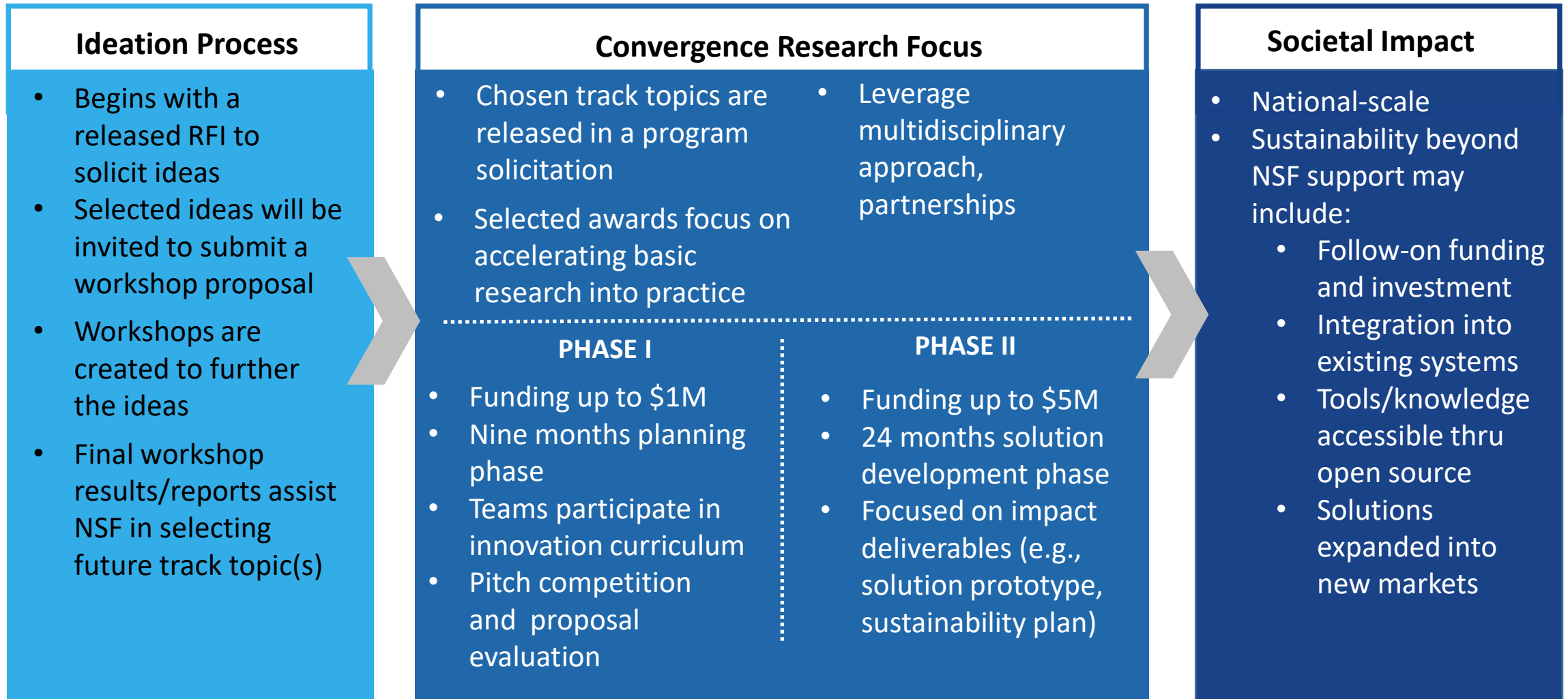
## Characteristics

- Use-inspired research
- Clear goals, milestones, high-impact deliverables
- Leverages multidisciplinary teams
- Larger, national scale
- Requires diverse partnerships – industry, non-profits, academia

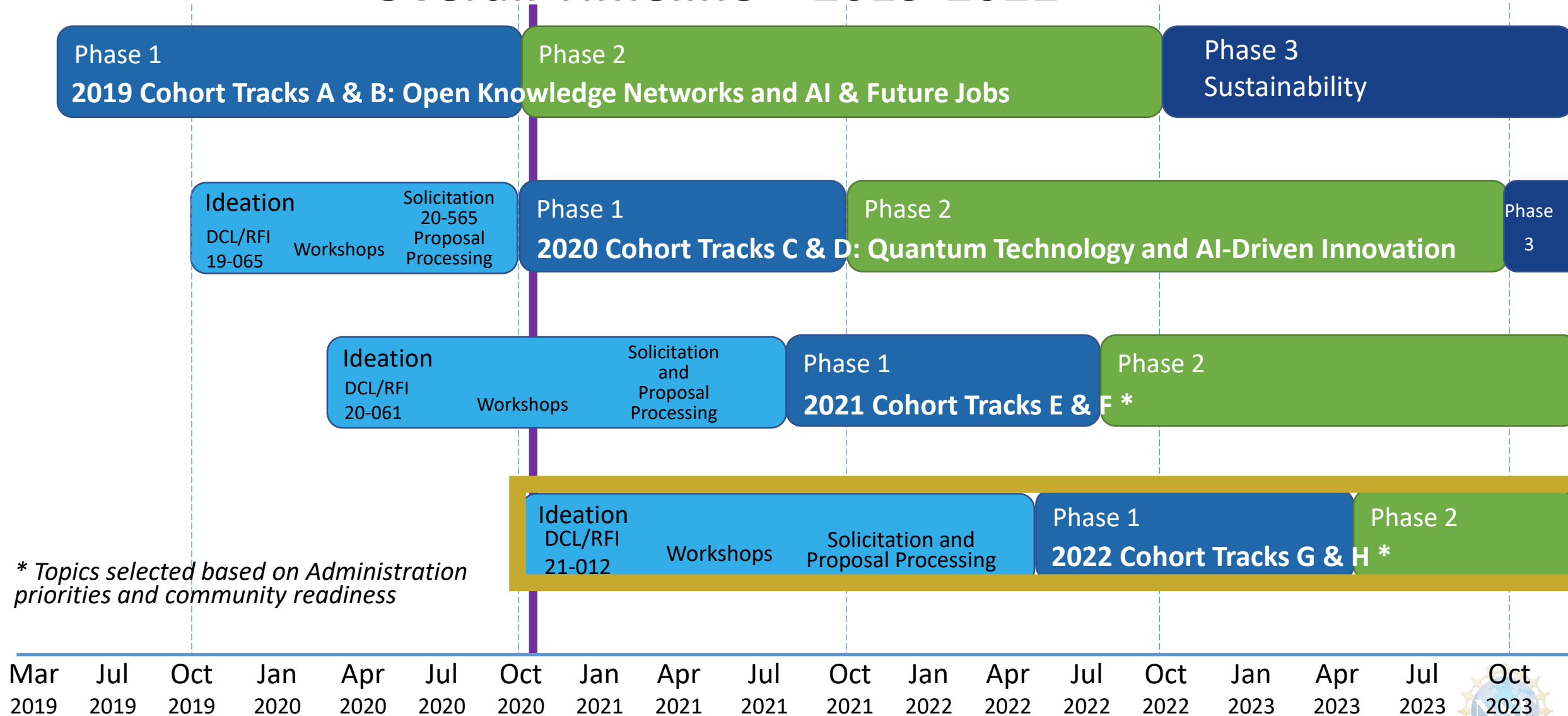
## Proactively & Intentionally Managed

- Teams and Cohorts—“Tracks”
- Cooperation and Competition
- Intensive education and mentorship—human-centered design thinking, team science, and customer discovery
- Mission-driven evaluation

# NSF Convergence Accelerator Model



# Convergence Accelerator Program Overall Timeline – 2019-2022



# 2022 DCL/RFI Cohort Schedule

Oct 9, 2020	DCL/RFI Released	Ideation Process
Nov 9, 2020	RFI Responses Due	
Dec 14, 2020	RFI Selection for Workshops	
Jan 25, 2021	Workshop Proposals Due	
Feb 22, 2021	Workshops Awarded	
June 2021	Workshop Reports Submitted	
Aug 2021	2022 Solicitation Published	Convergence Research Focus
Oct 2021	Preliminary Proposals Due	
Nov 2021	Phase I Proposal Invitations	
Jan 2022	Phase I Proposals Due	
Apr 2022	Phase I Award Decisions Made	
May 2022	Phase I Grants Awarded	

# Convergence Accelerator Model - Ideation Summary

- **Societal Impact Opportunity:** Researchers/Innovators to provide future topic ideas
- **Who can submit:** Global researchers/innovators from academia, industry, non-profit, government, etc. may submit ideas
- **RFI DCL 21-012**
  - **Responses Due November 9, 2020**
  - Ideas must be short and concise and must meet:
    - Significant national-scale societal impact
    - Be built upon basic research
    - Convergence research approach
  - For additional details and/or to submit ideas, visit the DCL: <http://bit.ly/NSF-21-012>

# Upcoming Outreach Webinars for the RFI (DCL 21-012)

**Tuesday, October 27, 2-3:30 p.m. (ET)**

- Register in advance for this meeting by clicking [here](#)\*
- For real-time closed captioning click [here](#)\*

After registering a confirmation email containing meeting information, including how to join will be provided.

\* *Use CTRL+Click to open the hyperlinks*





Convergence Accelerator

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