National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Space Technology Research Grants (STRG) Program Overview

Space Technology Mission Directorate

> Damian Taylor August 22, 2017

## Space Technology Research Grants Opportunities to Propose

**Engage Academia**: tap into **spectrum** of academic researchers, from graduate students to senior faculty members, to examine the theoretical feasibility of ideas and approaches that are critical to making science, space travel, and exploration more effective, affordable, and sustainable.

### NASA Space Technology Research Fellowships

 Graduate student research in space technology; research conducted on campuses and at NASA Centers and not-for-profit R&D labs

#### **Early Career Faculty**

 Focused on supporting outstanding faculty researchers early in their careers as they conduct space technology research of high priority to NASA's Mission Directorates

#### **Early Stage Innovations**

- University-led, possibly multiple investigator, efforts on early-stage space technology research of high priority to NASA's Mission Directorates
- Paid teaming with other universities, industry and non-profits permitted

#### Space Technology Research Institutes

- University-led, integrated, multidisciplinary teams focused on highpriority early-stage space technology research for several years

#### Accelerate development of groundbreaking high-risk/high-payoff low-TRL space technologies





## **STRG Opportunities to Propose**

### NSTRF



#### **Eligibility Requirements for NSTRF17**

- 1. Pursuing or seeking to pursue advanced degrees directly related to space technology.
- 2. Are U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S.
- 3. Are or will be enrolled in a full-time master's or doctoral degree program at an accredited U.S. university in fall 2017.
- 4. Are early in their graduate careers.

NSTRF<u>17</u>: http://tinyurl.com/NSTRF2017. NSTRF<u>16</u>: http://tinyurl.com/NSTRF2016. NSTRF<u>15</u>: http://tinyurl.com/NSTRF2015. NSTRF<u>14</u>: http://tinyurl.com/NSTRF14. NSTRF<u>13</u>: http://tinyurl.com/NSTRF13. NSTRF<u>12</u>: http://tinyurl.com/NSTRF12-OCT. NSTRF<u>11</u>: http://tinyurl.com/NSTRF11-OCT.

#### **Application Components**

1	Proposal Cover Page (Program Specific Data Questions)	5	Curriculum Vitae
2	Personal Statement	6	Transcripts
3	Project Narrative	7	GRE General Test Scores
4	Degree Program Schedule	8	Three Letters of Recommendation

#### **Award Value**

Fellowship Budget Category	Max value
Student Stipend	\$36,000
Faculty Advisor Allowance	\$10,000
Visiting Technologist Experience Allowance	\$10,000
Health Insurance Allowance	\$1,000
Tuition and Fees Allowance	\$17,000
TOTAL	\$74,000

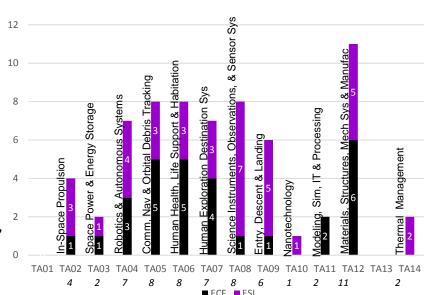
## STRG Opportunities to Propose ECF and ESI





#### **Technical Characteristics:**

- Unique, disruptive or transformational space technologies
- Low TRL
- Specific topics tied to Technology Area Roadmaps and the NRC's review of the roadmaps
- Big impact at the system level: performance, weight, cost, reliability, operational simplicity or other figures of merit associated with space flight hardware or missions



66 Topics

http://tinyurl.com/NASA-14ECE http://tinyurl.com/NASA-15ECF http://tinyurl.com/NASA-16ECF http://tinyurl.com/NASA-17ECF http://tinyurl.com/NASA-17ECF http://tinyurl.com/NASA-17ESI http://tinyurl.com/NASA-14ESI http://tinyurl.com/NASA-15ESI www.tinyurl.com/NASA-16ESI http://tinyurl.com/NASA-17ESI http://tinyurl.com/NASA-14ESI http://tinyurl.com/NASA-15ESI www.tinyurl.com/NASA-16ESI http://tinyurl.com/NASA-17ESI http://tinyurl.com/NASA-14ESI http://tinyurl.com/NASA-15ESI www.tinyurl.com/NASA-16ESI http://tinyurl.com/NASA-17ESI http://tinyurl.com/NASA-14ESI http://tinyurl.com/NASA-15ESI www.tinyurl.com/NASA-16ESI http://tinyurl.com/NASA-17ESI http://tinyurl.com/NASA-14ESI http://tinyurl.com

### **Eligibility Summary:**

Both ECF and ESI proposals must be submitted by accredited U.S. universities

#### Early Career Faculty

- Untenured assistant professor and on tenure track
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- No current or former Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)
- No co-investigators

#### **Early Stage Innovations**

- PI must be from proposing university
- Co-investigators are permitted
- ≥ 50% of the proposed budget must go to the proposing university
- ≥ 70% of the proposed budget must go to universities

## **STRG Highlights and Plans**





**TA14- Corey Kruse, U Nebraska Lincoln:** Using Femtosecond Laser Processing to improve heat transfer on bare stainless steel and copper surfaces by nearly 7x over traditional materials.



**TA06- Heather Hava, CU Boulder:** Developed in situ food (plant) production systems for space exploration, relevant for long duration missions; Completed the design of an intelligent pot (SmartPOT) that can be remotely monitored and controlled.



**TA12- Scott Zavada, U Michigan:** established the viability of using an in situ polymerizable liquid as an autonomic healing layer within a rigid structure, which was validated by ballistics testing.

#### STRG is impacting all Technology Areas. Here are some examples.



TA04- Jennifer King, Carnegie Mellon: Successfully expanded the types of tasks that can be performed by robots while reducing the need to hard-code task-specific action sequences. The algorithms use simple physics models (including estimates of friction, mass, etc.) to enable a robot to autonomously plan its interactions with the environment and perform manipulation tasks beyond just pick and place.



#### TA08- Kathleen Harrington, Johns Hopkins:

successfully installed and operated Variable-delay Polarization Modulators (VPMs) on the Cosmology Large Angular Scale Surveyor (CLASS) telescope in Atacama, Chile.

**Recent Milestones** 

Solicitation	Date
NSTRF	8/1/2017: NSTRF17 awards in place
ECF	8/8/17: ECF17 announcement
ESI	5/11/17: ESI17 release
STRI	2/16/17: STRI selection

#### Annual Solicitation Schedule



## NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) Program

Space Technology Mission Directorate

August, 2017

Jason Derleth Program Executive, NIAC hq-niac@mail.nasa.gov





## NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts

A program to support early studies of innovative, yet credible, visionary concepts that could one day "change the possible" in aerospace.

# NIAC Awards, Scope, Criteria

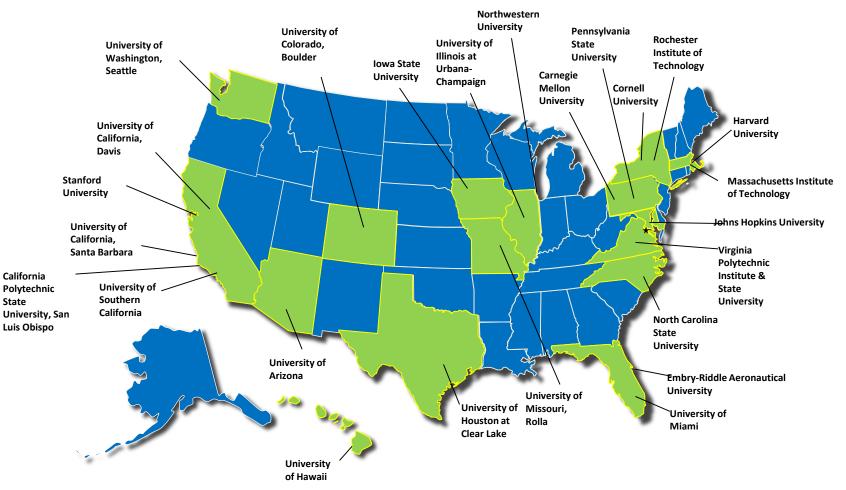


- NIAC grant awards support 2 phases of study:
  - Phase I: up to \$125K, ~9 months, for concept definition and initial analysis in a mission context
    - Proposal Submission & Selection Process: Two-step Process; Step A is fully- open; Step B by Invitation only; Independent Peer Review. (<u>https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/spacetech/niac/niac-phase-I-solicitation</u>)
  - Phase II: up to \$500K, 2 years, for further development of most promising Phase I concepts, comparative mission analysis, pathways forward
  - Eligibility: All categories of U.S organizations may apply. Non-U.S. organizations may partner in, or lead, NIAC studies on a no-exchange of funds basis, and subject to NASA's policy on foreign participation. <u>How to Apply</u>: (https://www.nasa.gov/feature/how-to-apply-to-niac)
  - Goal: Early studies of visionary aerospace architecture or mission concept
  - Technology Readiness Level (TRL): TRL 2 or lower at start of award
  - NIAC Key Dates: 2018 Phase I Proposals Due: 13 Sep '17; Selections: 28 Mar '18; 2018 Phase II Call for new proposals—Early Dec. 2018 (Planned); (https://www.nasa.gov/content/key-dates-and-solicitations)
- Scope of NIAC Phase I Studies:
  - Aerospace architecture or mission concepts (not focused tech.)
  - **Exciting**: offering a potential breakthrough or revolutionary improvement
  - Unexplored: novel, with basic feasibility and properties unclear
  - **Credible**: sound scientific/engineering basis and plausible implementation
- NIAC proposal evaluation criteria:
  - **Potential of the Concept** (all scope elements above, especially exciting)
  - Strength of the Approach (research objectives, technical issues, suitability of team and cost)
  - Benefits of the Study (concept definition, mission analysis, wider benefits, scientific/engineering contributions, notably new/different/inspiring)

# **NIAC Educational Institutions**

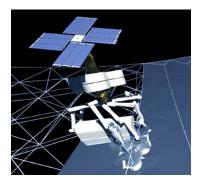


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# **NIAC Awards & Successes**









Notable Awards & Successes of NIAC Fellows

\$100M institute created for NIAC concept: Prof. Philip Lubin, University of California, Santa Barbara Private Funding - Directed energy interstellar work

Prof. Chris Walker, University of Arizona was testing his 10 Meter Sub-Orbital Large Balloon Reflector (LBR) in Antarctica with NASA

NIAC Fellow and NEC Member, Prof. Penny Boston was selected as NASA's new Director for Astrobiology at NASA ARC, effective May 31<sup>st</sup> 2016

Prof. Behrohk Khoshnevis, University of Southern California- Space Based Manufacturing First place award at the NASA In-Situ Materials Challenge