

NSF's Convergence Accelerator Mid Year Survey (Revised)

Background

Participation in this survey helps the Convergence Accelerator adapt to your team's needs and evaluate our progress as a program. This will help us improve, and in turn help every team we serve. Your participation and responses will not be attributed to you without prior consent, and will not influence any current or future funding award decisions made by NSF. Your participation is also entirely voluntary. We are still very grateful for your help.

You can skip a question if you don't know the answer, but please try to answer everything you can.

Thank you! We value your time and appreciate your participation!

OMB Control No. 3145-XXXX

* 1. What is your name?

2. What is your team's number? Ex: X123

* 3. What type of organization is your primary employer?

- Research university
- Teaching university
- Non-profit
- Industry
- Other (please specify)

* 4. Briefly, what are your fields of expertise?

5. What are your current primary roles on the Convergence Accelerator project?

- Leadership
- Technical
- Research
- Outreach/Partnership
- Support
- Sales
- Program Manager
- Other (please specify)

* 6. During the last year, on average, how many hours a week did you spend on the Convergence Accelerator project?

* 7. Overall, how satisfied are you with your experience with the Convergence Accelerator?

- Extremely satisfied
- Mostly satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Mostly dissatisfied
- Extremely dissatisfied

* 8. Please explain why you chose that answer, with all the details you think are important for us to know.

* 9. How could the Convergence Accelerator have better supported you in your goals? Please provide all the details you think would be helpful for us to support you, and improve.

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Team Functioning

10. Overall, how successful do you think you have been when it comes to effective collaboration and good relationships on your team?

- Extremely successful
- Mostly successful
- Somewhat successful
- Slightly successful
- Not at all successful

11. How could we have done more to help you with effective collaboration and good relationships on your team? Please provide all the detail you think would be helpful for us to support you, and improve.

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Organizational Sustainability

12. In your project's current state, do you expect your project to become a:

- For-profit company
- Non-profit organization
- Open source project
- Don't know yet
- Other (please specify)

13. How much would you agree that you have a fully completed business plan / sustainability plan?

- Completely agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Completely disagree

14. How much would you agree that you have a written and agreed upon contract, licensing materials, or other documents, specifying who controls your intellectual property (IP) / stock / organizational ownership?

- Completely agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Completely disagree

15. Overall, how successful do you think your team has been when it comes to preparing for organizational sustainability?

- Extremely successful
- Mostly successful
- Somewhat successful
- Slightly successful
- Not at all successful

16. How could we have done more to help you, with preparing for organizational sustainability? Please provide all the detail you think would be helpful for us to support you, and improve.

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Product Development and User Testing

17. Which of the following answers best describes the **current** state of your project?

- 1. Basic principles considered
- 2. Technology concept formulated
- 3. Experimental proof of concept
- 4. Technology validated in lab-like environment
- 5. Technology validated in relevant environment
- 6. Technology demonstrated in relevant environment
- 7. System model or prototype demonstration in operational environment
- 8. System complete and qualified for use
- 9. Actual system proven in operational environment

18. Which of the following answers best described the state of your team's project **when you first started at the Convergence Accelerator**?

- 1. Basic principles considered
- 2. Technology concept formulated
- 3. Experimental proof of concept
- 4. Technology validated in lab-like environment
- 5. Technology validated in relevant environment
- 6. Technology demonstrated in relevant environment
- 7. System model or prototype demonstration in operational environment
- 8. System complete and qualified for use
- 9. Actual system proven in operational environment

19. Approximately many interviews has your team completed with people who will use the solution themselves (not just who are affected by it)? For example, if you are developing a curriculum, these are the **teachers**.

20. Does your solution currently envision a separate user population, who might not use the solution themselves, but are still directly affected by it? For example, if you are developing a curriculum, these are the **students**.

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

21. IF YOU ANSWERED YES, approximately how many interviews has your team completed with people who will be directly affected by the solution (but not use it themselves)? For example, if you are developing a curriculum, these are the **students**. If you answered NO or NOT SURE, you can skip this question

22. Currently, and overall, what proportion of your time is spent on exploring what you should do (such as basic research, market research, experimental prototyping, etc), and what proportion is spent on implementing things you've decided are good ideas (such as building the solution, adding features, or installing systems for users)? Choose the one that fits best.

- 100% exploration, 0% implementation
- 75% exploration, 25% implementation
- 50% exploration, 50% implementation
- 25% exploration, 75% implementation
- 0% exploration, 100% implementation

23. Overall, how successful do you think you have been, when it comes to product/solution development and user testing?

- Extremely successful
- Mostly successful
- Somewhat successful
- Slightly successful
- Not at all successful

24. How could we have done more to help you, with product/solution development and user testing? Please provide all the detail you think would be helpful for us to support you, and improve.

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Partnerships

25. Overall, how successful do you think you have been, when it comes to getting the partnerships you need to succeed?

- Extremely successful
- Mostly successful
- Somewhat successful
- Slightly successful
- Not at all successful

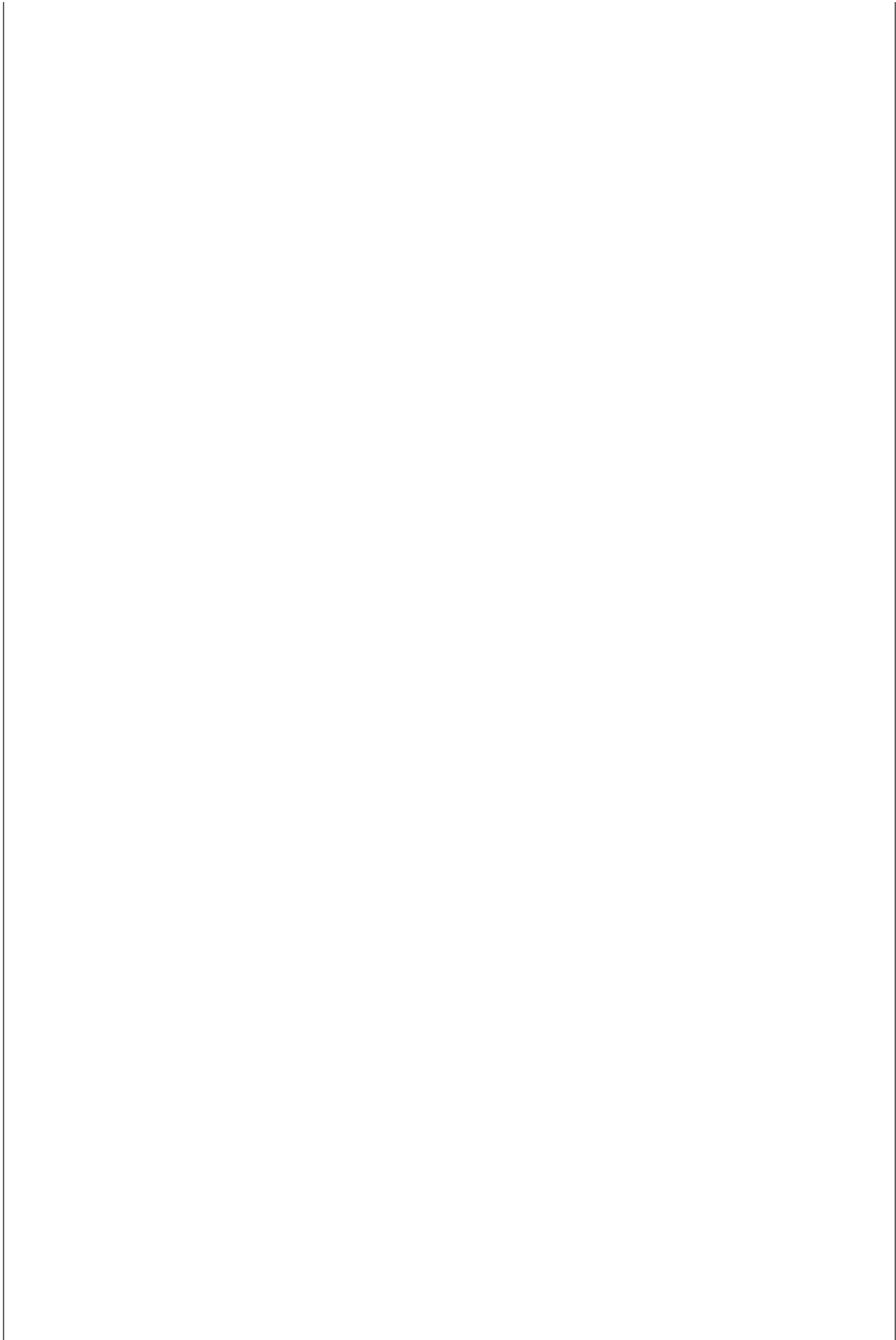
26. What kinds of partners does your team currently **have**? Please select all that apply.

- Academic
- Industry
- Non-profit
- Government
- Community / Users
- Funders / Investors
- Other (please specify)

27. What kinds of partners does your team currently **need most**? Please select all that apply.

- Academic
- Industry
- Non-profit
- Government
- Community / Users
- Funders / Investors
- Other (please specify)

28. How could we have done more to help you, with partnerships? Please provide all the detail you think would be helpful for us to support you, and improve.



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Impact and Outcomes

29. Three years from now, approximately how many people do you estimate will be direct **users** of your solution?

- 10s
- 100s
- 1,000s
- 10,000s
- 100,000s
- 1,000,000s (millions)
- 1,000,000,000s (billions)

30. Three years from now, approximately how many people do you estimate will be directly **affected** by your solution?

- 10s
- 100s
- 1,000s
- 10,000s
- 100,000s
- 1,000,000s (millions)
- 1,000,000,000s (billions)

31. On average, how much do you think your solution will change the lives of those affected by it?

- An enormous change to their quality of life
- A large change to their quality of life
- A moderate change to their quality of life
- A small change to their quality of life

32. Please briefly describe the **ways** in which you believe your solution will affect their lives positively, and why that's important.

33. How helpful would it have been to have training in the Convergence Accelerator Phase 1 curriculum that helped you evaluate the impact of your project?

- Extremely helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Slightly helpful
- Not at all helpful

34. If any, how many papers have you submitted for a publication or conference that are related to your Convergence Accelerator project?

35. If any, how many patents, invention disclosures, or other forms of IP have you applied for that are related to your Convergence Accelerator project?

36. If any, how many partners do you have for your Convergence Accelerator project?

37. If any, how many investors / financial contributors do you have for your Convergence Accelerator project, that are **not** the Convergence Accelerator?

38. If any, approximately how many users do you currently have?

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Convergence

39. By “convergence”, we mean a project that deeply integrates diverse expertise, sectors, and disciplines. Using this definition, how much would you say the Convergence Accelerator has contributed to your **change** in convergence, since you started?

- It has **increased** our convergence by a large amount
- It has **increased** our convergence by a small amount
- It has neither increased nor decreased our convergence
- It has **decreased** our convergence by a small amount
- It has **decreased** our convergence by a large amount

40. Specifically, how much did the “track integration” efforts contribute to your convergence?

- A lot
- Somewhat
- A little
- Not at all
- We were not involved in track integration efforts

41. Overall, did the track integration efforts feel like they were a valuable use of time?

- Extremely valuable
- Mostly valuable
- Somewhat valuable
- Not at all valuable
- We were not involved in track integration efforts

42. Please explain why you chose that answer, with all the detail you think it is important for us to have.

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The Innovation Ecosystem

43. Overall, how do you think the Convergence Accelerator has impacted your project, compared to other opportunities you might have had in its place?

- Much better than other opportunities would have been
- Somewhat better than other opportunities would have been
- Neither better nor worse than other opportunities would have been
- Somewhat worse than other opportunities would have been
- Much worse than other opportunities would have been

44. Please explain why you believe this, using as much detail as you think will be helpful for us to support you, and improve the program.

45. Are you one of the first people in your department or division to found an organization that delivers a product/solution? (In other words, this does **not** include organizations that might only host speaker series, for example).

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

46. Do you think your participation in the Convergence Accelerator has influenced **your institution** to consider or better accommodate more entrepreneurial approaches to their work?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No
- I don't know

47. Do you think your participation in the Convergence Accelerator has influenced **other people in your field** to consider more entrepreneurial approaches to their work?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No
- I don't know

48. In the future, do you plan on teaching any **new** courses on subjects you learned about in the Convergence Accelerator's curriculum?

- Yes, a course on Team Science
- Yes, a course on Human Centered Design
- Yes, a course on Communications, Pitching, or Story Telling
- Yes, a course on some other aspect of entrepreneurship
- No, I will not teach in any of these areas
- No new classes, but I already taught at least one of these topics

49. Do you have any ideas about how we might bring the Convergence Accelerator's entrepreneurial approach to a larger number of teams and institutions?

50. Do you have any comments on other aspects of the Convergence Accelerator, such as the phase structure, funding amount, program requirements, coaching structure, etc? We take your feedback very seriously, and welcome whatever information you can provide.

* 51. Would you be willing to have a more in-depth discussion to expand upon your answers in this survey?

- Yes
- No

That's the end of the survey -- thank you so much for your time and contribution!