NSF's Convergence Accelerator Group Entrance Survey (Revised)

Welcome!

Welcome to the Convergence Accelerator!

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!!

Team

1. What is your team's number? Ex: A123, X456

2. How many people are currently working on your Convergence Accelerator project, at least half time?

3. How many students or post-docs are currently involved with the project?

4. On average, how long have the team's PIs and Co-PIs been working together closely?

- ( ) Ten years or longer
- ( ) Five to nine years
- ( ) One to five years
- ( ) Six months to a year
- ( ) Less than six months

5. Does the team currently have a full-time project manager?

- ( ) Yes, we currently have one
- ( ) No, but we're actively working to hire one
- ( ) No, but we'd like to hire one soon
- ( ) No, and we don't intend to hire one soon

6. Is your team primarily in one place, or primarily distributed?

- ( ) Entirely in one place
- ( ) Mostly in one place
- ( ) Mostly in different places
- ( ) Entirely in different places

Project

7. Approximately how many years old is your project? (We know this can be a difficult question! By "project" we mean the solution that you are developing now, but **not** the basic research that came before the idea for that solution.)

[   ]

8. Which of these options 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

9. How much would you agree that you have a fully completed business plan / sustainability plan? We have **no expectation** that you do have such a thing -- we simply want to know your current situation.

○ Completely agree

○ Somewhat agree

○ Neither agree nor disagree

○ Somewhat disagree

○ Completely disagree

10. How much would you agree that you have a written and agreed upon contract, licensing materials, or other documents, specifying who controls your (possibly future) intellectual property (IP) / stock / organizational ownership? We have **no expectation** that you do have such a thing -- we simply want to know your current situation.

○ Completely agree

○ Somewhat agree

○ Neither agree nor disagree

○ Somewhat disagree

○ Completely disagree

Users and Stakeholders

11. Please describe **who** your intended users are (to the best of your current knowledge). These are the people who actually **use** the solution you're developing, not those are only affected by it.

12. Approximately how many interviews has your team completed with people who will use the solution themselves? For example, if you are developing a curriculum, these are the **teachers**. (We do not expect you have done any, but want to know if you have!)

13. In your current thinking, are there people who do **not** use your solution, but are still directly affected by it? For example, if you are developing a curriculum, these are the **students**. We refer to them as **stakeholders**.

○ Yes

○ No

○ Not sure

14. IF YOU ANSWERED YES, approximately many interviews has your team completed with **stakeholders**? (For example, if you are developing a curriculum, these are the **students**.) If you answered NO or NOT SURE, you can skip this question

Partnerships

15. What are your goals for partnerships during Phase 1 (approximately the next year)?

16. What kinds of partners does your team currently **have**? You can choose several, if applicable.

☐ Academic

☐ Industry

☐ Non-profit

☐ Government

☐ Community

☐ Funders / Investors

☐ Other (please specify)

17. What kinds of partners does your team currently **need** most? You can choose several, if applicable.

☐ Academic

☐ Industry

☐ Non-profit

☐ Government

☐ Community

☐ Funders / Investors

☐ Other (please specify)

18. What are some ways you hope the Convergence Accelerator will support you in your partnership goals? Please provide all the details you think would be helpful for us to support you.

Impact and Outcomes

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

○ 10s

○ 100s

○ 1,000s (thousands)

○ 10,000s

○ 100,000s

○ 1,000,000 (millions)

○ 1,000,000,000 (billions)

○ I have **no** idea

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

○ 10s

○ 100s

○ 1,000s (thousands)

○ 10,000s

○ 100,000s

○ 1,000,000 (millions)

○ 1,000,000,000 (billions)

○ I have **no** idea

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

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

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

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

[ ]

25. If any, approximately how many users do you currently have? (We do not expect you to have any, but want to know if you do!)

[ ]

Ecosystem

26. By "convergence", we mean a project that deeply integrates diverse expertise, sectors, and disciplines. Using this definition, where would you say you are right now?

- ○ Extremely convergent
- ○ Very convergent
- ○ Somewhat convergent
- ○ Slightly convergent
- ○ Not at all convergent (yet)

27. As part of a new, growing, and complex space, we want to know where we fit into the innovation ecosystem. Were you considering other similar programs, when applying to the Convergence Accelerator?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

28. If Yes, which ones?

29. How good of a "fit" did the Convergence Accelerator seem for your project, relative to other funding opportunities, and why?

30. We would like as many teams as possible to be able to apply to the Convergence Accelerator; did you encounter any particular barriers to application, or a lack of awareness of the program, that we could improve?

31. What is your team most **excited** about, in the Convergence Accelerator program?

32. What is your team most **worried, or concerned** about, in the Convergence Accelerator program?

33. What is your team most **confused** about, in the Convergence Accelerator program?

34. Do you have any additional questions, concerns, or comments at this stage?

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