***BIG* solutions from *small* technology**

**2021 NanoTechnology Entrepreneurship Challenge – Multicultural and Underserved Nanoscience Initiative (NTEC – MUNI)**

NTEC-MUNI 2021 is supported by Virginia Tech’s NSF-funded National Center for Earth and Environmental Nanotechnology (NanoEarth). Winning teams receive a cash award to help develop their concept as well as business development mentorship for their innovative idea. NTEC-MUNI awards:

* Encourage innovation and entrepreneurship through diverse, student-led teams involved in NanoEarth’s MUNI program ([www.nanoearth.ictas.vt.edu/MUNI.html](https://www.nanoearth.ictas.vt.edu/MUNI.html)) or another node site within the NSF-funded National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure ([www.nnci.net](http://www.nnci.net));
* Provide seed funding to help teams use nanotechnology to solve real-world problems in society;
* Encourage commercialization of nano-enabled technologies as value-added products or services
* Educate students on the technology transfer process

We expect to support **five awards** of up to **$1,000 each**. Awards can be used for qualifying materials & supplies, usage of NanoEarth instruments, and student travel to NanoEarth at Virginia Tech.

**Key Dates**

* **March 3rd, 2021**: One-page summary due (see format in Attachment A)
* **March 10th, 2021**: Notification of awardees

**Eligibility**

* Teams must be student led, but a faculty mentor is required.
* Team leaders must be enrolled as an **undergraduate or graduate student** at a minority serving institution **OR**, the leader may have participated in a research experience for undergraduates (REU) program at a participating NNCI site and submit a statement defining their underrepresented identity.
* Interdisciplinary teams spanning multiple institutions are highly encouraged.

**Review Process and Review Criteria**

One-page summaries will be reviewed by a panel with expertise in supporting diverse and inclusive entrepreneurship. Finalists will be selected based on the following criteria:

* Merit of the innovation proposed and its expected commercial potential
* Quality of the technology transfer strategy and future plans
* Interdisciplinarity of the team
* Reasonableness of the budget and budget justification

***Submission/Questions: Email completed summaries to Matthew Hull at*** ***mahull@vt.edu******.* Attachment A. Application (Limit to 1 page)**

**Title:**

**Student Leader (name/email) and Level (BS, MS, PhD, REU):**

**Faculty Mentor (name/email):**

**Home Institution:**

**Please provide a brief answer to each of the points below**

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| 1. Briefly describe your innovative idea.  |
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| 2. What specific customer/societal problem are you attempting to address; and how does your idea offer a solution? |
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| 3. Why will your proposed nanotechnology solution have a competitive advantage in addressing the problem noted above? |
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| 4. Briefly describe the initial/launch market(s) for your idea, the target customer base, and provide an estimate of the market size. |
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| 5. Budget: Briefly describe what you plan to accomplish with $1,000 and complete the table below in #6.  |
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| 6. Complete the budget table |
| **Budget Item** | **Amount** | **Brief Description**  |
| Materials & Supplies |  |  |
| Student Travel |  |  |
| NanoEarth Facility Usage |  |  |
| **TOTAL (MUST BE ≤ $1,000)** |  |  |

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| 7. Faculty mentorship statement: Briefly describe the nature of your support for the proposed project. |
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