



# MITTIC

MUREP Innovation and Technology Transfer Idea Competition

**NASA MITTIC**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**Fall 23/Spring 24**

## MITTIC Activity Questions

**Question:** What is MITTIC?

**Answer:** MITTIC is an abbreviation for MUREP Innovation and Tech Transfer Idea Competition. MITTIC is a spinoff challenge to develop new ideas for commercialization open to multi-disciplinary student teams attending [Minority Serving Institutions \(MSIs\)](#).

**Question:** What is a NASA Spinoff?

**Answer:** NASA Spinoffs are new ideas, products, and processes created using NASA-developed technologies/Intellectual Property (IP). For more information, visit the [website](#).

**Question:** What is MUREP?

**Answer:** MUREP is the acronym for [Minority University Research and Education Project](#). NASA Minority University Research and Education Projects are administered through NASA's Office of STEM Engagement. MUREP enhances the capabilities of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or HBCUs; Hispanic Serving Institutions, or HSIs; Tribal Colleges and Universities, or TCUs; and Other Minority Universities, or OMUs, to contribute to the research needs of science and technology enterprises. The MUREP staff at NASA are responsible for developing agency-wide policies, procedures and guidelines that enhance the involvement of all minority-serving education institutions in the mission of the agency. MITTIC is a MUREP-funded challenge.

**Question:** What is a Minority Serving Institution (MSI)?

**Answer:** Institutions of higher education enrolling populations with significant percentages of undergraduate minority students, or that serve certain populations of minority students under various programs created by Congress, are known as minority-serving institutions.

Under part F of the HEA, 20 U.S. Code § 1067q – “Investment in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions,” the following institutions are eligible to receive funds under that section:

Historically Black College or University, Hispanic-serving Institution, Tribal College or University, Alaska Native-serving Institution or a Native Hawaiian-serving Institution, Predominantly Black Institution, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institution and Native American-serving Non-tribal Institution. For additional information, please visit the [U.S. Department of Education website](#).

## Team Formation Questions

**Question:** Is MITTIC only for engineering students?

**Answer:** No. MITTIC encourages students to form multidisciplinary teams from various disciplines.

**Question:** Can I form a team with multiple MSI's?

**Answer:** Yes. If your team chooses to combine MSIs, your proposal must provide us with names, emails, and the institution of enrollment/employment for each team member and Principal Investigator (PI). Your "core team institution" is the institution of which your primary PI is employed, meaning when the monetary incentive is distributed, it is sent to that PI and/or institution. The PIs will decide on if they choose to split funds with other institutions on their team after the award is received (MITTIC will not be part of this process).

**Question:** Can my team have students who do not attend an MSI?

**Answer:** Yes, **but** the primary institution for your MITTIC proposal must be an MSI. Your primary PI must be employed by the MSI and **at least 60%** of the student team members must attend an MSI. If your team chooses to combine institutions, your proposal must provide us with names, emails, and the institution of enrollment/employment for each team member and PI. Your "core team institution" is the institution of which your primary PI is employed, meaning when the monetary incentive is distributed, it is sent to that PI and/or institution. The PIs will decide on if they choose to split funds with other institutions on their team after the award is received (MITTIC will not be part of this process).

**Question:** Can teams have more than one Principal Investigator (PI)?

**Answer:** Yes, we encourage supporting faculty members. Note: For selected teams, only the primary PI, who must be employed by an MSI is funded to attend the onsite events at NASA's Johnson Space Center and NASA's Ames Research Center/Silicon Valley. All faculty traveling must meet eligibility requirements. Only the primary PI on first and second place Space Tank winning teams will receive a \$2500 stipend.

**Question:** Can more than one team submit a proposal from the same school?

**Answer:** Yes, institutions can submit multiple proposals; however, a PI cannot sponsor more than 3 teams. Teams must have different student members and a different IP. An entire class of students can form multiple teams.

**Question:** What if our team cannot find a PI?

**Answer:** Having a PI is mandatory in order to submit a proposal. A suggestion includes contacting any of the following at your institution: professors, deans/department chairs, other faculty and or administrators.

## **NASA Intellectual Property Questions**

**Question:** Where can I find a list of previous MITTIC winners for examples of the types of ideas that were selected?

**Answer:** Due to proprietary information examples cannot be uploaded to the MITTIC website.

**Question:** Does my team have to choose a NASA IP from the list that was provided in the challenge guidelines?

**Answer:** No. The NASA IP list that is provided on the website and in the challenge guidelines is only a *suggested* list as those selections have additional resources, like webinars, that might assist a team in understanding the technology. A MITTIC proposal can be built around any IP found in the [NASA patent portfolio](#).

**Question:** Can my team use an IP from previous MITTIC competitions and expand on the concept?

**Answer:** No. Teams from MSIs that have been selected to compete in previous MITTIC competitions, including MITTIC hackathons, must have at least 50% new core team members, a new IP, and a new concept/idea.

## Proposal Submission Questions

**Question:** Do I have to submit a technical paper AND a pitch video in my proposal?

**Answer:** Yes. MITTIC proposals require your team to include a 5 to 8-page technical paper AND a 3 to 5-minute lightning pitch video to be considered complete. Refer to the challenge guidelines for details on what to include in your paper and pitch video.

**Question:** Where does our team submit our proposal?

**Answer:** All proposals will be submitted through NASA STEM Gateway. The “Apply Now” button can be found on the MITTIC website during fall and spring semesters when the proposal window is open. Please refer to the Timeline section of the challenge guidelines for submission dates. We look forward to seeing your proposals!

**Question:** My team cannot find a Large/Small Business Company to partner with during MITTIC. Can my team submit a proposal?

**Answer:** Yes. If your team meets the MITTIC eligibility requirements, your team may submit a proposal.

**Question:** Are teams required to make a low-fidelity prototype of their concept?

**Answer:** While teams are not required to make a low-fidelity prototype, previous teams have made items to represent their idea to help judges with visualization of their concept.

## Miscellaneous Questions

**Question:** Are there any prizes awarded to MITTIC participants?

**Answer:** MITTIC offers monetary awards for teams placing first or second in the Space Tank Competition (contingent upon teams fully participating and completing milestones leading up to and during the immersion experience at NASA's Johnson Space Center). The first-place team will be awarded \$20,000 and win a trip to NASA's Ames Research Center and Silicon Valley in June 2024. The second-place team will be awarded \$10,000. \$2,500 of every first and second place prize is sent directly to the PI as a stipend.

**Question:** Can my MITTIC team use our concepts to start a small business or start-up company?

**Answer:** Yes. The NASA [Technology Transfer Program's](#) startup initiative is a good place to research to learn more.