

Ignite What's Next: Noblis Innovation Quest (IQ) FAQs

Noblis is on a Quest to explore, fund and develop innovations that solve critical national scientific and technology challenges and opportunities.

Are you a university researcher, instructor, student or post-doc interested in collaborating with Noblis? We're launching an external innovation call, inviting qualified participants to submit ideas and interest in collaborating with Noblis to conduct breakthrough research. [Complete the interest form by Sept. 30 for consideration.](#)

What is Noblis' IQ?

IQ is an evolution of our University Programs. It's an open call for academic researchers to submit novel ideas in defined areas to solve complex national challenges. Researchers with selected proposals will receive Noblis funding to explore their ideas in collaboration with our science and technology (S&T) experts.

What are the goals of the IQ?

Through the IQ initiative, we will:

- Expand channels for advancing innovation
- Invest in and expedite solutions to complex customer challenges
- Dedicate top researchers to high-priority topics in collaboration with Noblis experts
- Facilitate meaningful academic collaboration in innovative research fields

What are the defined areas of research for this quest?

These areas of interest are:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Rapid Bio-Production
- Neuromorphic Computing
- Photonic Computing / Optical Networking
- Quantum Sensing
- Programmable Matter
- Teachable Robots

Who is eligible to participate?

We welcome inquiries from U.S. university affiliates, including faculty, staff, postdocs and students.

Who will own the ideas submitted for the IQ?

While ideas shared with Noblis should not contain proprietary or branding information, the submitter will own their idea. Our goal is to evaluate submissions for alignment with our IQ challenge areas and mutual benefit and foster collaborative innovation, not simply acquire ideas.

Selected concepts may lead to mutually beneficial research partnerships including funded/non-funded joint research agreements or teaming arrangements to pursue government funding opportunities.

Will selected IQ participants be required to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) to ensure confidentiality of the ideas, progression and impacts?

Yes. Outside of preliminary discussions with the interested third party on the concept, we will execute NDAs prior to any meaningful discussions.

How long will it take Noblis to respond to researchers who submit ideas?

We aim to respond to all submissions within 72 hours.

If my idea is selected and funded, will I be required to perform the work on site? . . . and how will I be compensated for my time?

Project locations will vary based on requirements. Academic partners typically work from their institutions, though some may be invited to Noblis facilities when our labs are needed. Noblis personnel maintain flexibility in managing time and location—working from Noblis offices, labs, partner facilities, or home offices as appropriate for the project.