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# Talking Points

**ENGINEERING RESEARCH VISIONING ALLIANCE (ERVA)**

## Overview: What

#### What is ERVA?

* The first engineering research visioning organization of its kind, the Engineering Research Visioning Alliance — abbreviated as ERVA — convenes, catalyzes and empowers the engineering community to identify and develop bold and transformative new engineering research directions.
* This directly supports the nation’s ability to compete in a rapidly changing global economy — and sparks new research directions for a more secure and sustainable world.

#### What does ERVA do?

* ERVA brings the engineering community together to envision high-impact solutions to society’s grand challenges.

#### What is the funding source for ERVA?

* ERVA is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Engineering (ENG) under a cooperative agreement. The award is $8 million over five years.

**Overview: Why**

#### Why was ERVA formed?

* ERVA was created by NSF to:
  + Provide the engineering community with a process for identifying future research challenges and opportunities.
  + Build connectivity among researchers and practitioners that will maximize societal impact and improve the human condition.
* ERVA is designed to unify the entire engineering community to envision future priorities for research — and funding.

#### What is ERVA’s purpose?

* Addressing today’s critical scientific and societal challenges requires increasingly collaborative, cross-disciplinary and convergent approaches — through new modes of engagement — to ensure broad participation across the entire engineering ecosystem. ERVA was formed to create this new, convergent network.
* ERVA brings together diverse perspectives to amplify efforts to improve the human experience through advancements in engineering research.
* ERVA serves as a synthesizer of traditional disciplines to solve big challenges — and it enables the engineering research community to speak with a unified voice.

**Overview: When**

**When was ERVA founded?**

* On March 4, 2020, the National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Engineering (ENG) invited the engineering research community to establish an organization to provide the engineering community with a process for identifying bold and high-impact engineering research directions. NSF officially launched ERVA in April 2021.

**What is the time frame for ERVA?**

* The NSF has established ERVA as a five-year initiative, and the core organizational partners have developed an ambitious agenda for its work. The first year is focused on launch, strategic planning, the first round of visioning events and the inaugural symposium. Then, ERVA will be positioned for growth as it continues to convene researchers, practitioners and others to set the vision for future engineering research and funding.

## Overview: Who

**Who are ERVA’s founding partners? How is ERVA led?**

* ERVA is managed by a team representing three founding partners:
  + The Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA).
  + The Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)/Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Foundation (EIF).
  + The University Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP), which is also the administrative manager for ERVA.

#### How is ERVA structured?

* ERVA consists of six groups that represent the engineering stakeholder community and that interact to facilitate the identification and development of bold new engineering research directions:
  + **Executive Committee** — Provides operational leadership.
  + **Advisory Board** — Provides high-level vision and guidance.
  + **Standing Council** — Convenes quarterly and is frequently engaged to explore research opportunities.
  + **Operations team** — The ERVA operations staff is lean, but effective, with four team members who report to a full-time executive director.
  + **Thematic task forces** — Responsible for reviewing research intelligence and information and identifying 30-60 experts to invite to a focused visioning event, with care taken to ensure diversity of sector, gender, geographic, ethnicity, and expertise.
  + **Working groups** — Grouped by operational focus area, including government engagement research intelligence and communications.

#### Who can contribute to ERVA’s visioning activities?

* All are welcome — the general public; students at all levels; researchers, faculty and deans in small and large college engineering programs; and interested parties in industry (from engineers to CEOs).
* ERVA believes that diverse participation — including different backgrounds, voices and ideas — is vital to identify emerging trends and efficient solutions that benefit society.

**Overview: How**

**How will ERVA succeed?**

* ERVA will help our nation stay at the forefront of innovation in engineering research and practice by identifying and developing new, high-impact engineering research directions to enable the engineering community to solve challenges and improve daily life.

## Get Involved

**How can audiences get involved?**

* Everyone can participate in ERVA, especially those interested in increasing collaboration between engineering researchers and practitioners to benefit society. There are many ways to get involved:
  + **Visit us online** at [ERVAcommunity.org](http://www.ervacommunity.org/).
  + **Become an ERVA Champion:** Subscribe on our website for email updates on our progress and get an early look at our latest advances, such as highlights from visioning sessions with some of the most innovative minds in engineering.
  + **Become an ERVA Affiliate Partner:** If your organization aligns with ERVA’s mission and goals and you are willing to substantially contribute on an ongoing basis, apply to become an ERVA Affiliate Partner at no cost.
  + **Contribute to our visioning activities:** Review our upcoming events. We’re looking for participants to help us create bold, new ideas and identify fundamental, cross-domain engineering research directions.
  + **Give us feedback:** Let us know what you think about ERVA and share your ideas about what we can do to help diverse engineering constituencies identify and unite behind research priorities that address major societal challenges.
  + **Follow ERVA on social media:** Join #ERVAcommunity discussion on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. @ERVAcommunity.

***About ERVA***

*The Engineering Research Visioning Alliance (ERVA) is a neutral convener that helps define future engineering research directions. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Engineering, ERVA is a diverse, inclusive and engaged partnership that enables an array of voices to impact national research priorities. The five-year initiative convenes, catalyzes and enables the engineering community to identify nascent opportunities and priorities for engineering-led innovative, high-impact, cross-domain research that addresses national, global and societal needs. Learn more at* [*www.ERVAcommunity.org*](http://www.ERVAcommunity.org)*.*

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ervacommunity>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ERVAcommunity>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ervacommunity>

Hashtag: #ERVAcommunity

***About the National Science Foundation (NSF)***

*The U.S.* [*National Science Foundation*](https://www.nsf.gov/) *propels the nation forward by advancing fundamental research in all fields of science and engineering. NSF supports research and people by providing facilities, instruments and funding to support their ingenuity and sustain the U.S. as a global leader in research and innovation. With a fiscal year 2021 budget of $8.5 billion, NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to nearly 2,000 colleges, universities and institutions. Each year, NSF receives more than 40,000 competitive proposals and makes about 11,000 new awards. Those awards include support for cooperative research with industry, Arctic and Antarctic research and operations, and U.S. participation in international scientific efforts.*

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