



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

HIGHLIGHTS | Trump Administration Empowering Innovation to Address COVID-19

The Trump Administration continues to harness America's entrepreneurial spirit through Federal prize competitions and challenges aimed at developing solutions to COVID-19. In recent months, Federal agencies have announced new opportunities for American innovators and entrepreneurs to address unique problems associated with the pandemic.

- The [MENTAL Health Innovation Challenge](#), announced by the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Federal Communications Commission, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), awards innovators for the development of technologies that help combat social isolation among older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans during the pandemic.
- The National Institutes of Health announced a new \$1.5 billion investment toward a [national testing challenge](#) aimed at speeding innovation, development and commercialization of COVID-19 testing technologies, a pivotal component needed to return to normal during this unprecedented global pandemic.
- The Food and Drug Administration and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) launched the [COVID-19 Risk Factor Modeling Challenge](#), calling on the science community to develop and evaluate computational models to predict COVID-19 related health outcomes in Veterans.
- The U.S. Army named the winners of the [xTech COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge](#), which spurred the development of low-cost, readily manufacturable emergency ventilators to quickly augment ventilator capacity.
- More than 15,000 participants joined the [NASA Space Apps COVID-19 Challenge](#), a virtual hackathon to propose solutions to the COVID-19 crisis using Earth observation and other open data.
- The [COVID-19 Maker Challenge](#), led by VHA, focuses on developing innovative solutions to the challenges encountered by essential workers on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic.



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The Trump Administration is partnering with the private sector to challenge the innovation community to tackle key areas of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- OSTP coordinated the release of the [COVID-19 Open Research Dataset](#) along with private sector, university, and government leaders, and then issued a [Call to Action](#) to the AI community to develop AI tools and techniques to analyze the over 200,000 scholarly articles on the virus.
- The Department of Defense created [Unite and Fight](#), a one-stop-shop portal of defense industry, commercial companies, and academia to share creative ideas with Federal agencies to combat the virus.

Federal agencies are crowdsourcing their own scientific expertise and creating opportunities to contribute to the fight against the virus.

- The National Institutes for Standards and Technology launched [“How can NIST Help?”](#) to galvanize teleworking staff around critical areas of scientific interest to address the pandemic.
- NASA announced the [NASA@Work Coronavirus Response Challenge](#), an agency-wide call for NASA employees to share scientific knowledge that can be helpful in pandemic response.

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