

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2022

PROBLEM STATEMENT

In partnership with the Resilient Infrastructure and Secure Energy (RISE) Consortium, the National Spectrum Consortium, and the Consortium for Rare Earths Technologies (CREaTe), TechConnect hosted the National Infrastructure Innovation Challenge, aligned with the nation's recent monumental investments through the Infrastructure Law, the US House's American COMPETES Act, and the Senate's US Innovation and Competition Act (USICA). These three consortia sought to attract transformative energy, network, infrastructure, and climate innovators representing dual-use solutions for both civilian and national security applications. Ultimately, they hoped to incorporate strong companies into the consortia as members and enable their support of federal requests in the future.

OUTCOME & RESULTS

TechConnect's call for innovations resulted in 134 qualified entries across advanced networks; climate resilient solutions; cyber solutions; energy, grid, and storage; rare Earth innovations; resilient infrastructure; and smart mobility. Of those, 40% joined the RISE Consortium, 7% joined the National Spectrum Consortium, and 7% joined CREaTe, totaling a more than 50% conversion rate for non-members becoming members. The Challenge also sought to pull in non-traditional innovators, defined as not having engaged with the federal government within the last three years. Applicants were 82% non-traditional, meaning they were never-before-seen by the consortia's government clients. 18 finalists pitched and five won a total of \$50,000 in prizes. We enjoyed working on a broad solution set with these three consortia to explore interdisciplinary overlaps and support the mission infrastructure at such a critical time for our nation.

