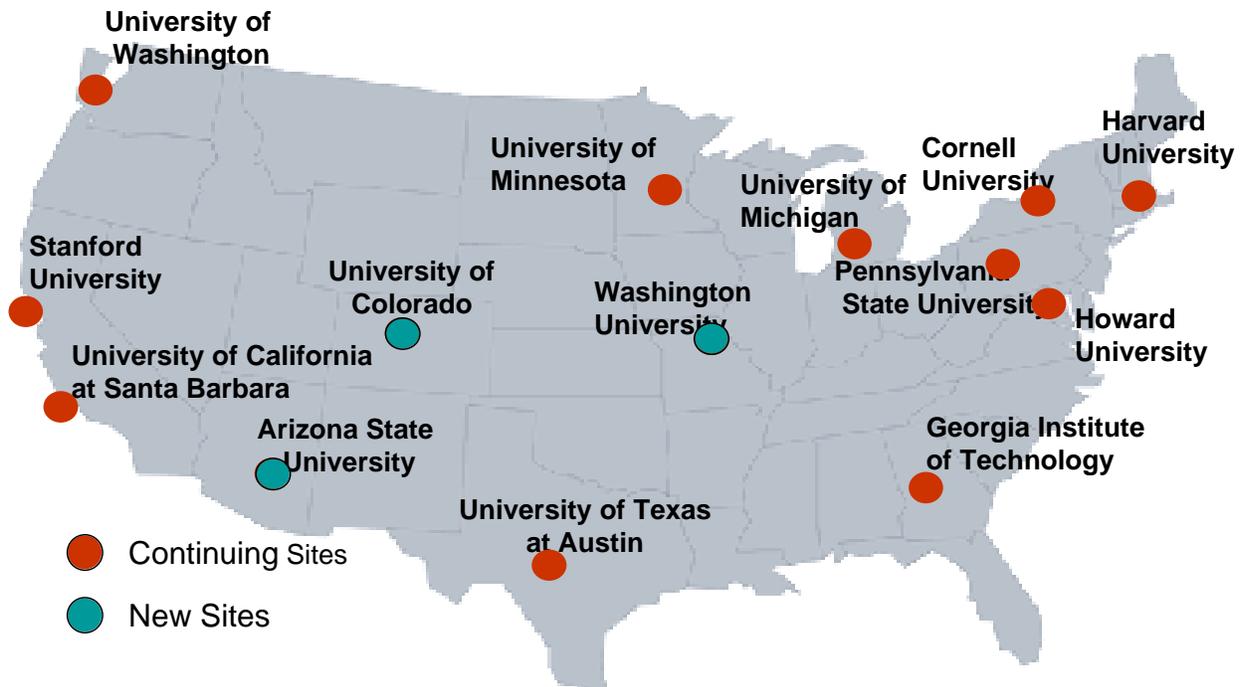


National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network

The National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network (NNIN) is an integrated network of 14 university user facilities that provides users from academia, small and large industry, and government laboratories with access to leading-edge tools, instrumentation, and expertise in all domains of nanoscale science, engineering, and technology. NNIN's open facilities approach has transformed the culture of advanced research and development and has made possible major scientific achievements and innovations in nanotechnology, spanning the range from fundamental measurements, through molecular and supra-molecular scale phenomena, to applications. In 2008, the cumulative number of users for all NNIN sites exceeded 4,600, including more than 3,700 from academe (primarily graduate students, as well as undergraduate students and postdoctoral associates), 466 from small companies, and 225 from large companies. Many start-up and small companies choose to use NNIN facilities as prototyping laboratories for initial-stage commercialization, and some have even gotten their start at an NNIN facility. Each year, approximately 1,000 graduate students earn Ph.D. degrees in science and engineering after conducting important parts of their research at NNIN facilities. All user projects carried out at NNIN facilities leverage some \$500 million dollars annually in external research investments. The development of a diverse science and engineering workforce, education and outreach efforts of national impact, the examination of societal and ethical implications of nanotechnology, and issues of environment, health, and safety are all essential to NNIN's success. With funding support from all NSF research and education directorates, NNIN began operations in fiscal year 2004 and now has been renewed through fiscal year 2013.



NNIN sites across the United States.

Contributing Agency: NSF