

# Accelerating Applied Research for Societal Impact



October 17, 2019, from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Scott Lab, Room e100

**Featured Speaker: Peter Atherton, PhD**

SBIR/STTR Program Director and Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP), National Science Foundation

National Science Foundation innovation programs move ideas from the lab to the marketplace to strengthen America's economy, health, and security. NSF's Directorate for Engineering's Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP) supports programs to accelerate fundamental research into market opportunities and fosters public-private partnerships to advance technological innovation. IIP invests in high-tech small businesses and collaborations between academia and industry to transform discoveries into innovative commercial technologies with societal benefits.

## About the Speaker

Peter Atherton comes to the NSF with a broad background in the physical sciences, and extensive experience in technology development and commercialization. Before joining NSF, Peter was originally CEO, and subsequently CTO, at MIKOH Corporation Ltd, a publicly-traded company that he founded in Sydney, Australia. While at MIKOH Corporation he was instrumental in developing and commercializing technologies in a range of fields including diffractive optics, laser-based marking, radio frequency identification, and internet-based personal authentication. Prior to MIKOH he spent approximately seven years at the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC Australia) where he managed optical fiber communications R&D, including approximately 14 months in the UK at British Telecom's Martlesham Heath R&D laboratories. While at OTC his research group made world-leading advances in high-speed optical communications technologies, some of which were commercialized via spin-off companies. He also managed externally contracted development and commercialization of a number of optical fiber and optoelectronic technologies and was instrumental in establishing a commercialization center for specialized optical fibers at the University of Sydney. He moved to the United States in 1998 to further develop the company's technologies and markets. Peter holds a PhD in physics (Quantum Optics), and a BEng (Mech) –both from the University of Queensland (Australia).

