FAQs

1. Am I eligible for the Tech Surge Awards?

To be eligible for a Tech Surge Award, a team must meet all of the NVC requirements AND be using UCI intellectual property (IP) as a core element of the business it is entering into the competition.

2. How do I enter the Tech Surge Track of the NVC?

Step 1) Identify the IP you are interested in using for your business idea by either reviewing the Tech Surge IP list under the Tech Surge Awards section of the NVC website or by browsing the library of Available Technologies published by the Invention Transfer Group (ITG) at UCI Applied Innovation.

Step 2) Register with UCI Applied Innovation by no later than January 23, 2017, one week prior to the Concept Paper deadline. To initiate this process, email Doug Crawford (doug.crawford@uci.edu) at UCI Applied Innovation to discuss the IP and associated participation in the Tech Surge Track. In your email to Doug, make sure to include your team name, the names and UCI affiliations (undergrad student, grad student, staff, etc.) of the team members, a brief description of your business idea, and the UC case number of the specific UCI IP you are interested in using.

Teams are required to register by January 23, 2017 in order to allow them adequate time to access, review, and analyze the UCI IP they are using in their business idea ahead of the NVC Concept Paper submission deadline. The rationale for this registration deadline is the presumption that having more time to review technology will lead to better Concept Papers and overall competitiveness in the Tech Surge Track. To incentivize this behavior, teams that submit their registration by December 21, 2016 will be eligible for special prizes as well as early access to mentors and coaching at UCI Applied Innovation.

Step 3) When submitting your Concept Paper to the NVC, select the option for “UCI Tech Surge Awards.”

3. What are the prizes for the Tech Surge Awards?

Prizes for the Tech Surge Awards are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Overall Prize</th>
<th>Unrestricted Cash</th>
<th>Restricted Grant Funds</th>
<th>In-Kind Award Bonus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winner</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>Cove Share Summer Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runner-up</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Undergraduate*</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Only awarded if there is a qualifying team for which the award applies. If an undergraduate team places in one of the main prize categories in the Tech Surge track, that team will be awarded the undergraduate prize in addition to the main prize won.

Prizes for the Tech Surge Awards are distributed via a two-stage allocation process. The unrestricted cash prizes will be distributed at the close of the NVC. Winners eligible for restricted grant funds will then be
invited to participate in the Cove Share summer program. If teams elect to participate in the Cove Share summer program, they will each work with staff from UCI Applied Innovation to set specific milestones that will determine the disbursement of the restricted grant funds. While the details of the Cove Share summer program are still being finalized, teams can expect a structured summer residency at The Cove involving access to space and resources (mentorship, industry expertise, legal aid, etc.) for the purpose commercializing their business.

4. Can my team win a Tech Surge Award without advancing to the semifinal or final rounds of the NVC?

Yes. Teams that do not advance in the main NVC are still eligible to participate in the Tech Surge Track as long as they remain active participants in the NVC’s Pivot Program.

5. If my team wins a Tech Surge Award and elects to continue on to the Cove Share summer program, do all of the original team members need to participate?

Not all original team members are required to participate in the Cove Share summer program, but there must be at least one original member. New members can be added at this point. The restricted grant funds will be disbursed to the new team per the milestones established with UCI Applied Innovation at the beginning of the summer.

6. Why should my team participate in the Tech Surge Track?

Teams in the Tech Surge Track are competing for over $20,000 across four awards beyond the main NVC. Additionally, Tech Surge teams will have the opportunity to work closely with staff at UCI Applied Innovation throughout the competition process to hone their business ideas and competition materials. In addition to tailored mentorship experiences, special enrichment opportunities such as workshops may be made available exclusively for Tech Surge teams.

7. Is there any additional work outside of the NVC required to participate in the Tech Surge Track?

Yes. Teams participating in the Tech Surge Track will be delivering pitches and submitting business plans separate from the main NVC. Additionally, special enrichment opportunities such as workshops may be made available exclusively for Tech Surge teams, in which case attendance would be expected.

8. What are the criteria used to judge the winner of the Tech Surge Awards?

Teams will be evaluated based on the judging panel’s criteria of the business’ viability. The focus will be on business’ “fundability” (as demonstrated in the submitted business plan and pitch deck), meaning that the immediate next steps identified are clearly defined and realistically achievable with the aid of SBIR grants or external sources such as angel and venture capital investments.

9. Who are the judges for the Tech Surge Awards?

The judging panel for the Tech Surge Awards is a team of people consisting of Licensing Officers and Experts-in-Residence from UCI Applied Innovation as well as Venture Capital and Angel Investors.

10. May more than one team select the same UCI IP to enter into the Tech Surge Track?

Yes. More than one team may select a particular UCI IP to use as part of the respective business it is entering into the NVC competition. It is expected that the business ideas will differ and thus will be judged without respect to each other.
11. If my team would like to use UCI IP that is not listed on the Tech Surge IP list, what should we do?

If you would like to use UCI IP that is not listed on the Tech Surge IP list, contact Doug Crawford (doug.crawford@uci.edu) at UCI Applied Innovation. On a case-by-case basis, you may be granted permission to use your desired UCI IP.

12. Will my team have the opportunity to interact with the UCI inventor whose IP my team is using for the competition?

Maybe. The UCI inventor’s involvement with a Tech Surge team is at his or her discretion, and none is promised by way of you selecting his or her IP to use as part of your business idea. A Principal Inventor’s (PI)’s willingness to help support a Tech Surge team was considered when curating the list of Tech Surge IP, and thus the PI may be open to answering questions about the technology or commercialization ideas related to his or her inventions. However, it is important that you **DO NOT contact a UCI inventor prior to getting approval from the Invention Transfer Group (ITG) at UCI Applied Innovation; doing so will result in your disqualification from the Tech Surge Track.** Direct any questions you may have about this process to Doug Crawford (doug.crawford@uci.edu).

13. Can a UCI inventor participate on my team?

Yes. A UCI inventor may participate on your team, but is not required to do so. If you intend for the inventor to contribute to your project or present during any of your pitches, then he or she MUST be listed as an official team member on your materials submitted to the NVC. Per the above guidelines, **DO NOT contact a UCI inventor prior to getting approval from the ITG; doing so will result in your disqualification from the Tech Surge Track.** Direct any questions you may have about this process to Doug Crawford (doug.crawford@uci.edu).

14. Will my team be automatically granted a license or other rights to use of the UCI IP that we use in Tech Surge?

No. Using the selected UCI IP in the NVC does not confer or ensure any rights to the IP; however, it may serve as the basis for license discussions. Teams that would like a license to UCI IP will need to negotiate rights of use or a license the ITG.

15. Will my team or team members receive rights such as equity and/or employment in companies that participate in Tech Surge?

No. Teams or team members will not be automatically granted rights such as equity or employment or other consideration in companies that participate in Tech Surge. Teams or team members also will not be granted automatic rights such as equity or employment or other consideration in companies that form after Tech Surge.

16. Will Tech Surge Track mentors and judges sign confidentiality agreements?

No. The Tech Surge mentors and judges will not sign confidentiality agreements. The UCI IP used in Tech Surge have pending patent applications or granted patents, so the UCI IP is protected.
Teams must officially register for the Tech Surge Track with UCI Applied Innovation. To initiate this process, email Doug Crawford (doug.crawford@uci.edu). Include your team name, the names and UCI affiliations (undergrad student, grad student, staff, etc.) of team members, a brief description of your business idea, and UC case number of the UCI IP you have chosen to use.

*Early Incentive Deadline! Teams that register by Dec. 21, 2016 will be eligible for special prizes as well as early access to mentors and coaching at UCI Applied Innovation.

See NVC website for content requirements.
When submitting Concept Paper, make sure to select “UCI Tech Surge Awards.”

Requirements and other details to be made available to Tech Surge Track participants.

**By invitation only.
Requirements and other details to be made available to winners of the Tech Surge Awards.