“Science of Innovation” is a multi-part series produced by NBC Learn, the educational arm of NBC News, in partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The series highlights innovations, but also explains the specific processes that helped bring them about, such as the need to imagine and invent, as well as the desire to improve existing innovations and even inspire others. The stories are told through the eyes of scientists and engineers funded by NSF, who have used patents and sometimes trademarks to protect their work. Innovation isn’t just about any one invention or inventor, it’s a process that anyone from a garage tinkerer to a federally funded scientist often takes in order to achieve an innovation.

The latest collection focuses on advanced manufacturing and highlights how innovation has the potential to turn fundamental science and engineering ideas into significant societal and economic impacts. The new collection is narrated by NBC News and MSNBC anchor Kate Snow.