Please note the very short time frame and the cost-share requirement.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - OFFICE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

Limited Submission Funding Opportunity

Department of Energy: CLEANTECH UNIVERSITY PRIZE (CLEANTECH UP)

https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/#FoaId5d7b39bf-31cb-4bee-b015-b1c1c8c38a2b

**FOA#:** DE-FOA-0001271 (Attached)

DOE is funding three-year awards in two topic areas. Topic 1 establishes the Cleantech UP Hub, a national center for student-focused clean energy entrepreneurship training and education. The Cleantech UP Hub will also coordinate a national competition for student start-ups and administer its prize. Topic 2 funds collegiate-focused competitions across the United States. Together, the Cleantech UP Hub and Cleantech UP Collegiate Competitions form an ecosystem that increases student entrepreneurs’ participation—both in quantity and quality—in clean energy, and closes the existing gap in early-stage training.

The program’s goals are to:

1. Catalyze clean energy start-up formation on college campuses;
2. Support novel training and educational opportunities that equip the next generation of energy entrepreneurs and innovators across the country;
3. Establish a national-level training program and competition for America’s top clean energy student entrepreneurs; and
4. Create a sustained and diverse community to support student entrepreneurs.

**Topic 1- Cleantech UP Hub (1 award) – $700,000; 3 year period of performance**

50% cost share requirement

The Hub will be responsible for engaging the nation’s student entrepreneurs, developing an innovative training program, institutionalizing coordination within the student cleantech entrepreneurship community and the Collegiate Competitions, and coordinating with DOE to execute the nation’s premier event for student cleantech entrepreneurs at the National Competition, including awarding the $100,000 National Prize. The Hub will create and implement programs to address gaps in clean energy entrepreneurship training that occur early in the education pipeline. The Hub will also provide capacity building activities related to the Cleantech UP network and the general clean energy entrepreneurship ecosystem.

**Topic 2- Cleantech UP Collegiate Competitions (up to 8 Awards at up to $225,000 each; 3 year period of performance)**

20% cost share requirement

Cleantech UP Collegiate Competitions will execute innovative approaches to support entrepreneurial ecosystems on their campuses and support best-in-class competitions with $50,000 Collegiate Prizes. This model builds on the DOE National Clean Energy Business Plan Competition by providing additional support for academic enrichment, while continuing to fund cash prizes. Collegiate Competitions must demonstrate plans to sustain their competitions beyond this FOA’s period of performance.
LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER ORGANIZATION
Applicants may submit one application to each topic area of this FOA.

KEY DATES
Internal Letter of Intent Due: February 23, 2015 (by midnight)
Sponsor Concept Paper Due (Required): March 4, 2015
Sponsor Proposal Due: April 16, 2015

SUBMITTING A MANDATORY LETTER OF INTENT
Faculty members interested in applying are required to submit a letter of intent (LOI). An LOI is required but not binding.

Click here to access the LOI form.

1. Name the LOI as follows: “LastName-FirstInitial-LOI-DoE-Cleantech-2015”, replacing “LastName” with your last name and “First Initial” with your first initial.
2. Click on the Vault ticket: https://vault2.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e6471635_1-t_3CLFBP0l
3. Click the Upload button.
4. Click the Browse button and navigate to your file on your hard drive or network.
5. Click the OK button.

Note: You will get a tiny confirmation message upon upload. If you do not see it, you may contact Karen Cielo k-cielo@northwestern.edu for a confirmation.

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES
The Office of Research Development offers assistance in identifying and facilitating collaborations, putting together interdisciplinary teams, programmatic and administrative development of large, cross-school proposals, and leveraging institutional resources for outreach and education. Contact Fruma Yehiely (yehiely@northwestern.edu), Director of ORD, for more information.

CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Fruma Yehiely, Director of ORD, 847-491-1074, yehiely@northwestern.edu
Limited Submissions web site: http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/