AMERICAN
MADE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Digitizing Utilities Prize

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October 18, 2022

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Digitizing Utilities Prize Overview

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The American-Made program is your **fast track to the clean energy revolution**. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, we incentivize innovation through prizes, training, teaming, and mentoring, connecting the nation's entrepreneurs and innovators to America's national labs and the private sector.

supercharge

A REVOLUTION OF **BOLD IDEAS**

Fast track your ideas for the clean energy revolution

$100M
in cash prizes and support

30+ prizes

300 Network members

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Grants vs. Prizes

Financial Award Process

- Write and submit concept papers
- Concept paper review
- Applicants write and submit full applications
- Full applications review
- Selections and negotiations
- Begin performing
- Prepare and submit reimbursement request
- Request reviewed and reimbursement issued

Prize Award Process

- Begin performing
- Achieve predefined goal
- Complete submission packet
- Judges score submissions
- Winners receive payment

Digitizing Utilities Prize

Submission Deadline: January 26, 2023

- Connect utilities with interdisciplinary teams of software developers and data experts to facilitate transforming digital systems in the energy sector and data analytics for utilities.

Prize Structure

Phase 1: **Plan**

Form teams and propose a solution for one of the utility issues presented.

Up to nine winners of Phase 1 will receive a cash prize of **$75,000.**

Phase 2: **Progress**

Develop your proposed solution and demonstrate how this method and process could be utilized by other utilities in the future.

Up to four winners of Phase 2 will receive a portion of the **$425,000** total cash prize pool.

Prize Tracks

Track1 – Load Modeling
(Bonneville Power Administration)

Competitors will use load modeling to help correctly forecast future power demands, specifically addressing the dynamic nature of weather-sensitive loads for residential and commercial buildings.

Track 2 – Data Analysis Automation
(Dominion Energy)

Competitors will propose methods for automation of data analysis to help engineers scrutinize and evaluate a data-driven approach to resolving nuanced complexities across the system.

Track 3 – Competitor-Identified Challenge

Teams with an existing utility partner may apply with their own digitization or data challenge and proposed solution. Eligible topics are outlined in the official prize rules.

Eligibility

Who Can Compete?

Target Audience:

- Software developers
- Automation Engineers
- Data scientists

Eligible Teams:

- Private entities (for-profits and nonprofits)
- Non-Federal government entities such as states, counties, tribes, and municipalities, academic institutions, and individuals

Eligibility Requirements

Individuals, teams of individuals, private entities (for-profits and nonprofits), and nonfederal government entities (such as states, counties, tribes, municipalities, and academic institutions) are eligible to compete in this prize.

- Employees of the Track 1 and Track 2 utility partners are not eligible to apply.
- Private entities must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States with majority domestic ownership and control.
- Academic institutions must be based in the United States.
- An individual prize competitor or group of competitors who are not competing as part of an incorporated private entity must all be United States citizens or legal permanent residents.
- Individuals competing as part of an incorporated private entity may participate if they are legally allowed to work in the United States.

Refer to the official rules for the complete eligibility requirements.

Important Dates & Events

Important Dates

Now!

- Follow the Digitizing Utilities Prize on HeroX and start working

January 26, 2023, 5 p.m. ET

- Deadline to submit an entry to the Digitizing Utilities Prize

Submitting to the Digitizing Utilities Prize

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Read the Rules

Official Rules for the

American-Made Digitizing Utilities Prize

are available online

https://americanmadechallenges.org/challenges/digitizingutilities/docs/digitizing-utilities-official-prize-rules.pdf

What to Submit

1. 90-second video (public)

2. Cover page content

3. Narrative that answers three questions about the team, solution, implementation plan (not to exceed 2,500 words)

4. One summary PowerPoint slide (public)

5. Letters of commitment or support (optional).

Online Public Video

- Suggested content
  - Describe your team and how it is uniquely qualified to solve the selected utility's problems.
  - Describe your proposed solution and why it is the best approach to the utility's problem.
- Judges will consider these criteria
  - While there are no specific scoring criteria for the video, it will be evaluated as part of the entire submission package. The video serves as a first introduction of your team and solution to the reviewers

TIPS and TRICKS

- This is your first impression
- Be creative and focus on content
- Watch previous winners' videos
- Get feedback before you post online

Three Questions

1. TEAM

Describe your team's past experience providing solutions for this or related problems

2. SOLUTION

What is your solution to the problem?

Word Limit: 2,500 words
Up to 5 images, graphs, or figures

3. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Question 3: How will you measure the success of your approach?

💡 **TIPS and TRICKS**

- Remember your audience
- Be specific (this portion isn't public)
- Pay attention to the word count

Narrative Content & Review

Question 1: Team – Describe your team's past experience providing solutions for this or related problems.

Suggested Content Competitor Provides

- Describe your team, the organizations that comprise your team, and the backgrounds and expertise of your team members.
- Describe the unique past experience or combination of capabilities that your team brings to the table.
- Describe the relevant algorithms, software models, or concepts that your team has developed and can leverage for this prize.
- Demonstrate that your team understands (for tracks 1-2) or describe (for track 3) the utility partner's problem, its broader context, and its negative impact on the utility.
- Describe if and how your approach could be applied to other utilities facing a similar problem.

A single score on a scale of 1-6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration

- The competitor has the relevant skills and expertise to solve the proposed problem.
- The team has access to relevant resources that can be leveraged for this prize.
- The team demonstrates a thorough understanding of the utility's problem, its broader context, and the importance of solving this problem.
- The team has sufficient interdisciplinary expertise to develop and integrate digital infrastructure and data analytics tools effectivity.

What's Next?

1. Follow the challenges on HeroX
   https://www.herox.com/digitizingutilities

2. Read the rules
   https://americanmadechallenges.org/challenges/digitizingutilities/docs/digitizing-utilities-official-prize-rules.pdf

3. Sign up in the Matching Tool and connect
   https://network.americanmadechallenges.org/

4. Start innovating

5. Submit by January 26, 2023