### Phase 1 – Develop: Core Narrative Template

Answer each of the following four questions:

1. **Problem:** what is the problem, and why is solving it important?
2. **Solution:** what is your solution, and why will it be successful?
3. **Accomplishments and team:** what have you done to date, and what qualities give you a competitive edge?
4. **Breakthrough plan:** what is your plan to achieve your goals?

For convenience, these questions are provided in the headings of the tables on pages 3-7 along with suggested content (and corresponding judging statements) to help guide your responses. The content bullets are only suggestions to guide your responses. You decide where to focus your answers. The individual answers to the four questions do not have a word limit; however, **the aggregate response to these four questions must not exceed 2,500 words,** not including captions, figures/graphs, and references. A word count must be included at the end of your submission (see template for details). You may also include **up to five supporting images, figures, or graphs**. The reviewers will score the questions based on the content you have provided.

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| **Question 1:** ***Problem*** *–* What is the problem, and why is solving it important? | |
| **Suggested content to provide**   * Describe the problem, quantify its significance with metrics, and explain why now is the right time to solve it. Be specific to the problem space that your innovation addresses. * Explain why existing solutions are inadequate. Be as technically specific as possible to your innovation area, providing examples where possible. * Show how you know this is a significant problem using evidence-based validation (e.g., interviews with users, case studies, literature). | **A single score is provided, taking the following statements into consideration**   * The competitor quantifies a critical problem using important metrics and provides a compelling argument for why now is the right time to address it. * The competitor’s assessment of current solutions and their limitations shows a comprehensive understanding of the problem-solution space. * The competitor uses real-world evidence to validate key assumptions about industry needs. |

**Response to Question 1:**

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| **Question 2:** ***Solution*** *–* What is your solution, and why will it be successful? | |
| **Suggested content to provide**   * Describe how your solution is better than the existing products or emerging solutions described in Question 1. * Describe your component- or system-level innovation in as much detail as possible, including component integration into an existing system (if applicable), while also discussing technical feasibility and maturity. * Describe how your technical component- or system-level innovation compares to the current state of the art or commercially relevant competition from a techno-economic and life cycle perspective. * Describe your component- or system-level innovation’s unique value proposition and how it will lead to a sustainable business. | **A single score is provided, taking the following statements into consideration**   * Sufficient technical detail was provided to understand the underlying principles of operation of the innovation. * The solution represents an innovative approach built on reasonable assumptions, valid technical foundations, and lessons learned from other notable efforts in this space. * The competitor is pursuing an innovative and compelling solution that will lead to a sustainable business. * The innovation improves DAC beyond the current state of technology, mitigates environmental impacts, and has a feasible path to deployment. |

**Response to Question 2:**

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| **Question 3:** ***Accomplishments and Team*** *–* What have you done to date, and what qualities give you a competitive edge? | |
| **Suggested content to provide**   * Describe your efforts to advance your solution concept prior to or since the announcement of the Prize contest, and highlight key milestones achieved. * Define the integrated, bench-scale proof of concept system conceptual design by providing, at a minimum, a process flow diagram with a description of each individual technology used in the overall system, highlighting the breakthrough component- or system-level solution(s). Competitors are encouraged to include heat and material balances, provide utility requirements, and discuss appropriate MRV methods and system integration. * Explain what critical failures would cause you to reconsider your approach. * Introduce your team, explain how the team came together, and highlight the knowledge and skills that make the team uniquely capable of achieving success. * Highlight your team’s experience and the track record that makes it likely to succeed in the prize competition. What experience do you have trying new things, solving difficult problems, and overcoming barriers to bring ideas to reality? * Describe your team’s readiness to meet your goals and whether your team requires additional talent and resources. * Describe what drives your team to realize this solution and why you will continue when facing difficulties. | **A single score is provided, taking the following statements into consideration**   * A considerable amount of high-quality effort was put into defining and advancing the proposed solution. * The planned integrated, bench-scale proof of concept system is reasonably ambitious and validates the critical assumptions necessary to advance. * The team’s track record demonstrates notable entrepreneurial qualities, such as adaptability, creativity, decisiveness, and resourcefulness. * The team has the knowledge, experience, and determination to transform their proposed solution into a viable business in the near future. |

**Response to Question 3:**

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| **Question 4:** ***Breakthrough*** ***Plan*** *–* What is your plan to achieve your goals? | |
| **Suggested content to provide**   * Describe where you stand in your solution’s development cycle and define goals for the Design and Deliver Phases and a one-year goal **(see special instructions below)**. * Explain why winning the Develop Phase will substantively change the likely outcome for the proposed solution. * Provide a high-level budget for meeting your goals. Explain how you will leverage program resources, DOE national laboratories, members of the American-Made Network, and/or other entities (include references to letters of support/commitment, if applicable). * Describe risks to the development plan and mitigation strategies (e.g., data requirements and plans to acquire the necessary data). | **A single score is provided, taking the following statements into consideration**   * The stated goals are ambitious, reduce risks, and show a commitment to an accelerated development cycle. * Meeting the stated goals will demonstrate critical progress toward developing, testing, and validating the functionality and market demand of this innovation. * Winning the Develop Phase will significantly increase the team’s chances of creating a viable business based on this solution. * The proposed plan effectively uses the resources available in this program to advance the innovation and help the team address upcoming commercialization challenges. * Sufficient risks to the development plan have been identified, and reasonable risk mitigation strategies have been described. |

**Response to Question 4:**

### Core narrative word count: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ total words

**Please read and comply with the additional requirements about your submission in** [**Appendix 1**](#_Appendix_1:_Additional)**.**

**COMPETITORS WHO DO NOT COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS MAY BE DISQUALIFIED**