



# TCF Open Voucher Call

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

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OFFICE OF  
Technology Transitions



# Overview of OTT and TCF

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**OTT's STATUTORY (ENERGY ACT 2020) MISSION IS:**

***“to expand the commercial impact of the research investments of the Department.”***

**OTT stewards commercialization programs across the Department and labs.**

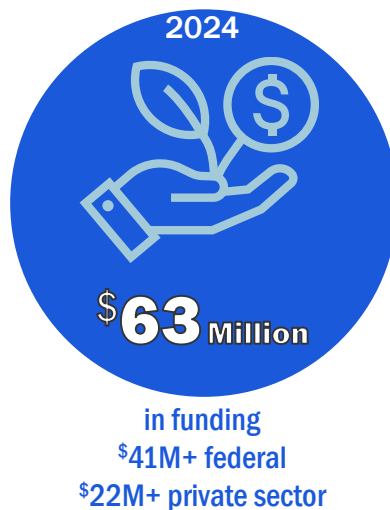
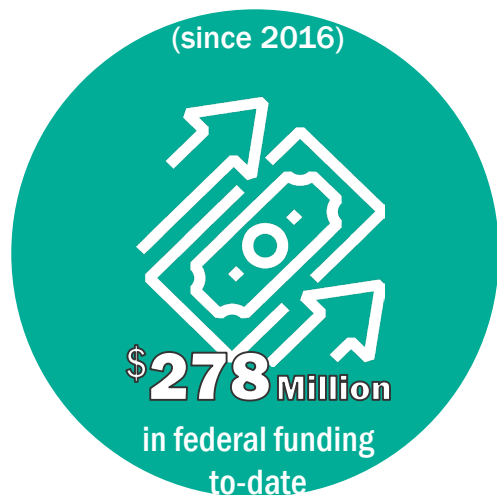
*We “oversee delivery of the DOE **strategic goals for technology commercialization** and streamlining access to DOE’s national labs to **foster partnerships with the private sector to move solutions to market.**”*

(We also have congressional mandate to report out on tech transfer activities across DOE.)

# Technology Commercialization Fund (TCF) Base

TCF was created by the 2005 EPAct to help catalyze the agency's research, development, demonstration, and deployment efforts into affordable, market-ready energy solutions

- Focus on commercializing National Lab developed technologies
- 0.9% of Applied programs and demonstration funds go towards TCF Base
- Since 2016, OTT administers TCF Base on behalf of the Applied Programs



Program Offices



National Labs,  
Plants & Sites



FY22-24 Funding for Core  
Laboratory Infrastructure for  
Commercialization



Projects funded to  
date

AMERICAN  
**MADE**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

# American-Made Program Overview

# AMERICAN MADE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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



**\$260M+**

in cash prizes  
and support



**70+**

prizes



**450+**

Network  
members

AMERICAN  
**MADE**

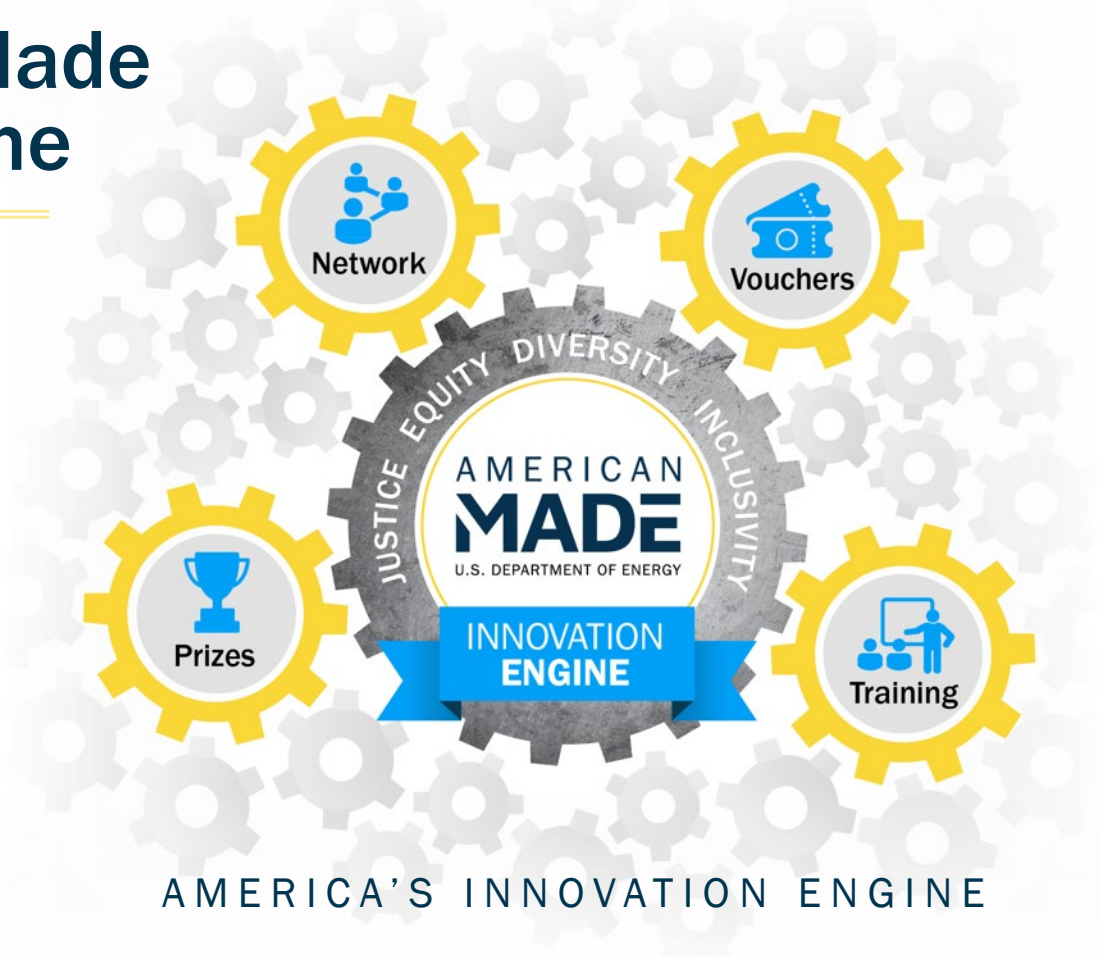
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



# The American-Made Innovation Engine

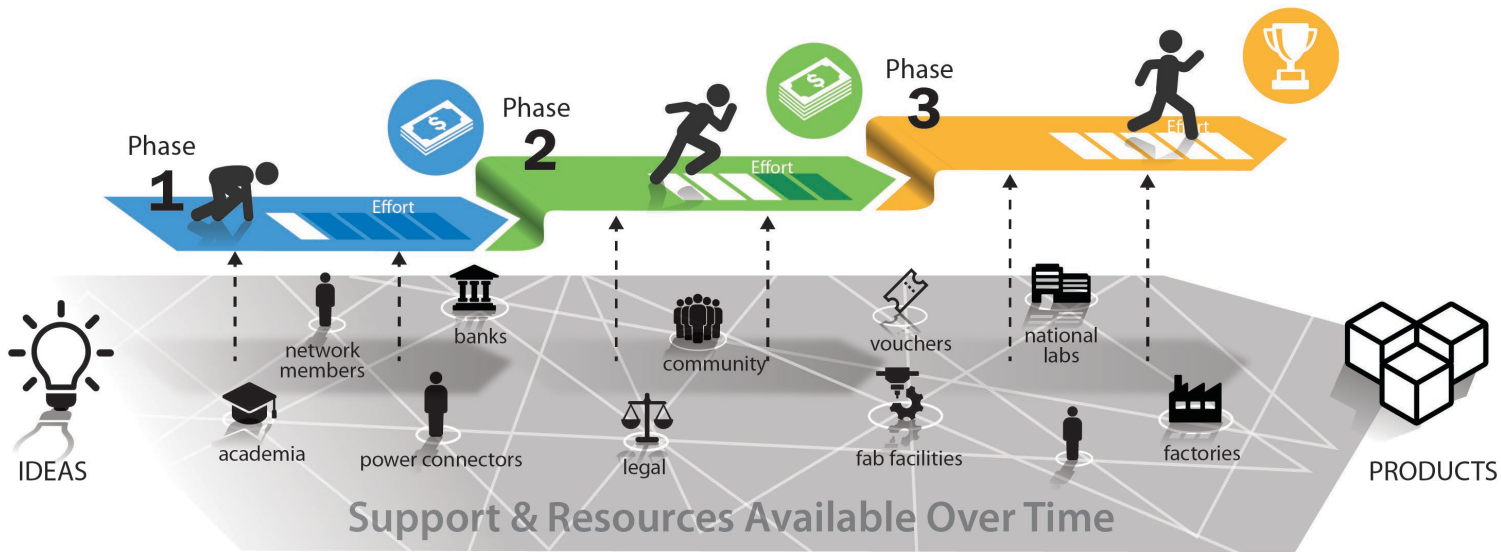
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1. Prizes and Competitions
2. Network of Support
3. Vouchers and Technical Assistance
4. Training and Education



# Prizes offer a low barrier to entry and enable training and growth opportunities along the way

A phased prize approach positions innovators, students, and communities for success and the underlying network supports, connects, mentors, educated, and accelerates ideas, partnerships, and progress.



# American-Made Vouchers

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- Prizes Supported: SETO VELOCITI program, Geophone Prize, Hydrogen Shot Prize, FLOWIN Prize, Microbattery Design Prize, Geothermal Manufacturing Prize, Solar Desalination Prize Round 1 and 2, EAS-E Prize, Solar Prize Rounds 1-7, Wind Turbine Materials Recycling Prize, E-Scrap Prize, CABLE Prize, Digitizing Utilities Prize Round 2, Open Voucher Call, and more to come!
- Offices that have used vouchers: SETO, GTO, BTO, OE, HFTO, WETO, AMMTO
- Labs that have received vouchers: NREL, LBNL, FERMI, PNNL, SNL, Ames, ANL, LANL, ORNL, INL, and SLAC
- Member labs of the VELOCITI Collaborative: NREL, SNL, PNNL, Ames, ANL, and LANL
- Member labs of the new TCF Open Voucher Call Collaborative: NREL, SNL, PNNL, Ames, ANL, LANL, LBNL, and ORNL
- Private lab facilities that have received vouchers: 25+



**\$14M+**

**Total value of vouchers**



**200+**

**Vouchers awarded**



**19+**

**Prizes supported by vouchers**

# TCF Open Voucher Call



Accelerating technology commercialization while connecting the public with U.S. Department of Energy's National Laboratory facilities.

**Submission Deadline: October 3, 2024 – 5 p.m. ET**

# New Opportunity: TCF Open Voucher Call

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Work with national labs to translate intellectual property (IP) into real-world concepts.

- Offering a total of \$2.1 million in technical assistance voucher funds to work with national labs to translate intellectual property (IP) into real-world concepts.
- This single-phase competition will award up to 21 teams a voucher of up to \$100,000 each, to be redeemed at one of eight national laboratories.
- A variety of technologies will be considered, and applicants are encouraged to leverage national laboratory IP when developing their ideas.
- For each voucher awarded, winning teams will be required to provide a minimum cost share of \$25,000 (either cash or in-kind).
- Teams will have one year to work with one national laboratory that fits their needs and will provide a progress report at the conclusion of their work.

# Participating DOE National Laboratories

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- Ames National Laboratory
- Argonne National Laboratory
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Sandia National Laboratory

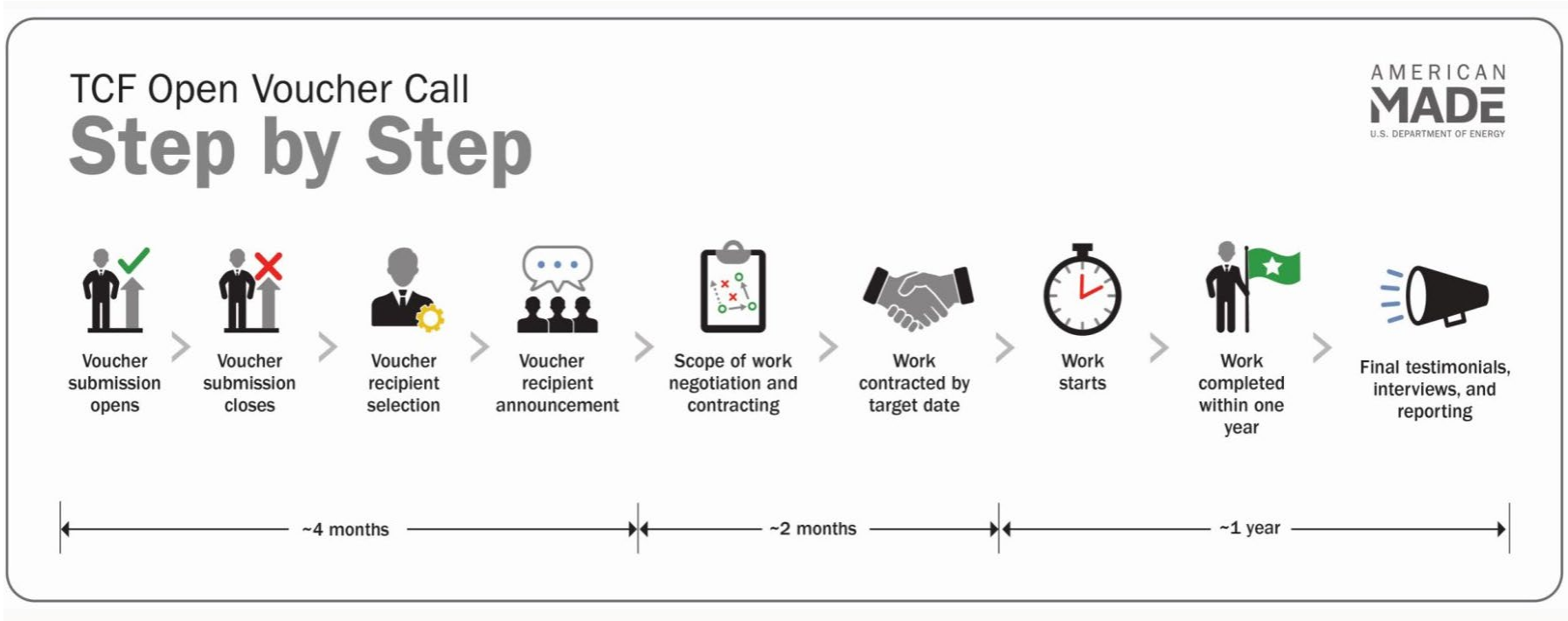
# Technology Areas

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<https://labpartnering.org/>

- Analysis
- Analytical Instruments
- Battery
- Bio-Based Products
- Biofuels
- Buildings
- Concentrating Solar Power
- Demand Flexibility and Controls (includes Demand Response and Other Grid Services)
- Direct Air Capture
- Electric Vehicles
- Energy
- Energy Storage
- Hydrogen
- Integrated Water Systems
- Manufacturing
- Marine Energy
- Materials
- Microgrid
- Nuclear
- Photovoltaics
- Power Grid
- Security
- Solar Photovoltaic Module Mounting
- Technical Energy Assistance
- Water Treatment
- Wind Energy

# TCF Open Voucher Call Timeline





# Eligibility Requirements

**A single submitter or team may submit a maximum of one submission per technology area. If more than one submission per technology area is received from a single submitter or team, the most recently submitted submission will be considered.**

The TCF Open Voucher Call is open only to private entities (for-profits and nonprofits); non-federal government entities such as states, counties, tribes, and municipalities; academic institutions; and individuals, subject to the following requirements:

- Private entities must be U.S. owned and controlled. The participating group must also commit to manufacture any inventions conceived or reduced to practice in connection with the program in the United States in accordance with U.S. competitiveness provisions. These domestic requirements must be maintained throughout the program.
- An individual submitter or group of submitters who are not submitting as part of an incorporated private entity must all be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents.
- Individuals submitting as part of an incorporated private entity may participate if they are legally allowed to work in the United States.
- Academic institutions must be based in the United States.
- DOE employees, employees of sponsoring organizations, members of their immediate families (e.g., spouses, children, siblings, or parents), and persons living in the same household as such persons, whether or not related, are not eligible to participate in the call.
- Individuals who worked at DOE (federal employees or support service contractors) within six months prior to the submission deadline of any call are not eligible to participate in the TCF Open Voucher Call.
- Federal entities and federal employees are not eligible to participate in any portion of the TCF Open Voucher Call.
- DOE national laboratory employees cannot compete in the TCF Open Voucher Call.

**[Refer to the official rules for the complete eligibility requirements.](#)**

# Submitting to the TCF Open Voucher Call

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**Technology  
Commercialization Fund  
(TCF) Open Voucher Call  
Official Rules**

MAY 2024

# Read the Rules

[Official Rules for the  
TCF Open Voucher Call](#)  
are available online

<https://americanmadechallenges.org/challenges/open-voucher-call/docs/Open-Voucher-Call-Rules.pdf>

# What to Submit

1. Technical Assistance Request Form
2. Letters of commitment or support (optional).

# Technical Assistance Form

Word Limit: 2,500 words

Technical Assistance Request Form Template
<p><b>Project Overview</b></p> <p>1. <i>Project Title:</i></p> <p>2. <i>Brief non-proprietary project description:</i></p> <p>3. <i>Please select a stage of readiness for your innovation:</i> <i>(Research and Development Stage, Field Validation &amp; Demonstration Stage, Scale-Up and Commercial Launch Stage, Deployment Stage, Market Transformation Stage)</i></p> <p>4. <i>Team captain (name, email address, and link to their professional online profiles):</i></p> <p>5. <i>Key project members (names, email addresses, and links to their professional online profiles):</i></p> <p>6. <i>Other partners (if any):</i></p> <p>7. <i>Your city, state, and nine-digit zip code:</i></p> <p>8. <i>Requested national lab(s):</i></p> <p>9. <i>National lab intellectual property to be incorporated as part of this request: Yes/No</i> <i>If yes, please provide details:</i></p> <p><b>Alignment With National Laboratory</b></p> <p>1. <i>Specific expertise needed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>What specific expertise within the national laboratory do you believe is crucial for the success of your project, and how will it complement your team's skills?</i></li></ul>

# Technical Assistance Form

Word Limit: 2,500 words

## Facilities and Equipment

- *List the facilities and/or equipment at the national laboratories that you would like to leverage for your project. (It is understood that you may not be aware of the exact equipment that is available, so it is acceptable to generalize.)*
  
- *Describe how these facilities and/or equipment align with your research/business objectives.*

## Enhancement of Technical Aspects

- *How do you anticipate the national laboratory's expertise and/or facilities will enhance the technical aspects and outcomes of your proposed project?*

## Addressing Challenges

- *List any specific challenges or bottlenecks in your project that you believe the national laboratory's expertise and/or facilities could help address.*

## Cost Share Commitment

- *Describe how your team will provide the requested minimum \$25,000 cost share, specifying whether it will be in-kind or cash.*

# Technical Assistance Form

Word Limit: 2,500 words

## Connection to Energy Justice (engaging with, or developing solutions for, underserved communities)

- Describe if your team has team members or partners with diverse backgrounds.
  
- Does your technology have relevance to helping build solutions and capacity in underserved communities? If so, please describe how the technology will improve energy justice by expanding technology development, building capacity, or engaging people in underserved and underrepresented communities.

## Team Member Experience or Competency

- Provide a description of the related experience or competency of the team members relevant to this project.

## U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory Partnership History

- Describe any prior or current partnership with national laboratories on this work.

## National Laboratory Intellectual Property Commercial Potential/Innovation Acceleration (not to be answered if the request doesn't incorporate national laboratory intellectual property)

- If your voucher request incorporates laboratory intellectual property, how will this work accelerate the commercialization of national laboratory intellectual property and advance energy innovation? (Focusing not only on the technical aspect but, if successful, also explaining how this work will enable commercialization or advance innovation.)

WORD COUNT:

# Letters of Commitment or Support (optional)

- Attach one-page letters (of support, intent, or commitment) from other relevant entities to provide context. Letters of support from partners or others that are critical to the success of your proposed voucher will likely increase your likelihood of receiving a voucher. General letters of support from parties that are not critical to the execution of your voucher submission will likely not factor into your score.
- Please do not submit multipage letters. Please do not include letters of support from national laboratories. Again, we request that you **do not reach out to the national laboratories** about these voucher submissions.
- There is a section to attach letters of support in the Microsoft Form submission; please be sure to follow all instructions there. **If you do not attach the letters of support as described in the Microsoft Form, we will not consider them.**



# Resources – Power Connectors



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**CENTER FOR  
INNOVATION**





THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
**CENTER FOR  
INNOVATION**

## [Webinar: Open Voucher Call - How to Leverage the American-Made Network](#)

- Thursday, August 22

## [Meet With the UACI Team – Schedule 1 on 1 submission support](#)

- Weekly Availability



# We design, launch, and manage prize competitions, in close collaboration with federal partners.

Ensemble, an 8(a) small disadvantaged business, excels in open innovation, delivering end-to-end programs, tailored communications, and supporting STEM initiatives for agencies like the Department of Energy, NASA, and HHS. Renowned for our crowdsourcing expertise, we specialize in co-creating impactful solutions and pioneering new technologies through collaboration with niche innovators.



# Ensemble Application Support

**We are offering 15-minute sessions to assist those interested in applying for OVC!**


- Download & review the Application Support Checklist on the HeroX prize page under the 'Resources' tab
- Sign up for a 15-minute application support session with us through our Calendly link

**Sign up for an Application Support Session using the QR Code below!**



# Constantly Updating Resources

**AMERICAN-MADE** American-Made Challenges 8,999 Share Follow (318)



## Open Voucher Call

Accelerating technology commercialization while connecting the public with U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory facilities.

**Government** **Technology**

Stage: **Enter** Prize: **\$2,100,000**

**TCF Open Voucher Call** **OTT** **AMERICAN-MADE**  
Office of Technology Transitions U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE**

Summary Timeline Updates <sup>2</sup> Forum <sup>2</sup> Teams <sup>318</sup> **Resources** FAQ Submission Form

## Challenge Resources

[Application Assistance Calls with Ensemble](#)

June 7, 2024

[Application Support Checklist](#)

June 7, 2024

[Updated National Laboratory Capabilities List](#)

June 6, 2024

[TCF Open Voucher Call Official Rules](#)

May 22, 2024

[Instructions on Registering on HeroX as a Team or Individual](#)

March 8, 2024

# How to Register and Compete

1. Go to the HeroX prize page:  
<https://www.herox.com/openvoucherall>
2. Click “Solve this Challenge.” This indicates your interest in competing; it is not a commitment (yet).
3. Sign in or create a HeroX account
4. Go to the Submission Form tab and begin your submission.

## Overview

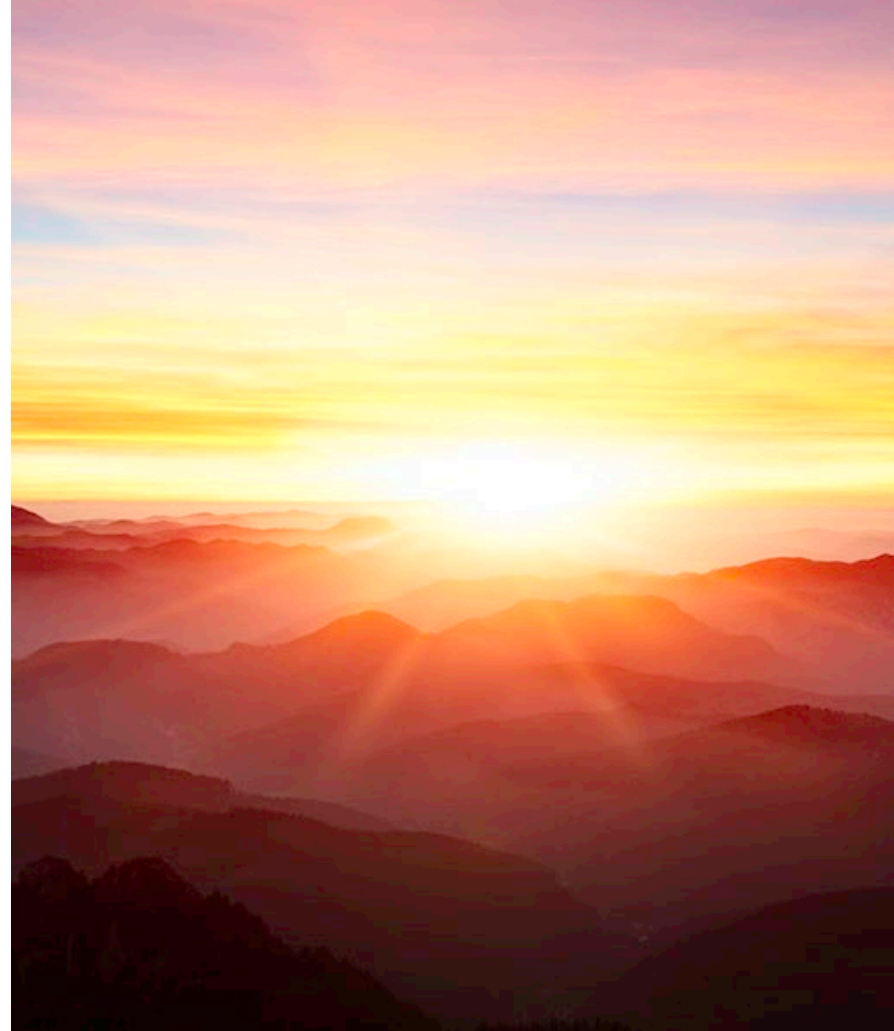
A new kind of American-Made opportunity created by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Technology Transitions, the Technology Commercialization Fund (TCF) Open Voucher Call, will provide the public with opportunities to receive technical assistance from researchers at DOE National Laboratory facilities.

The \$2.1 million TCF Open Voucher Call will help facilitate the commercialization of scientific discoveries by helping to identify pathways by which technological breakthroughs can make their way to market. Although a variety of technologies will be considered, applicants are encouraged to leverage the capabilities and initiatives of the National Laboratories when developing their ideas so they can further develop their technology alongside the National Lab.

Successful applicants will receive vouchers—valid for testing and validation, use of specialized equipment or software, simulation or modeling, consulting, or various other requests from a National Laboratory—which will ultimately allow them to advance their technologies. In this way, the call will foster a culture of curiosity and collaboration while bridging the gap between scientific expertise and public engagement.

# What's Next?

1. Follow the challenges on HeroX  
<https://www.herox.com/openvoucercall>
2. Read the rules  
<https://americanmadechallenges.org/challenges/open-voucher-call/docs/Open-Voucher-Call-Rules.pdf>
3. Start innovating
4. Submit by October 3, 2024 – 5 p.m. ET



## Questions?

Email us - [Openvouchercall@nrel.gov](mailto:Openvouchercall@nrel.gov)

To Follow the Voucher Call and learn more go to:

<https://www.herox.com/openvouchercall>