Digitizing Utilities Prize

Sarah Gomach
October 18, 2022
Topics

1. Digitizing Utilities Overview
2. Eligibility
3. Important Dates and Events
4. Submitting to the Prize
Digitizing Utilities Prize
Overview
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
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

- 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.

Submission Deadline: January 26, 2023
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

**Track 1 – 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
Read the Rules

Official Rules for the American-Made Digitizing Utilities Prize are available online

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?

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

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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested Content Competitor Provides</th>
<th>A single score on a scale of 1-6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Describe your team, the organizations that comprise your team, and the backgrounds and expertise of your team members.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Describe the unique past experience or combination of capabilities that your team brings to the table.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Describe the relevant algorithms, software models, or concepts that your team has developed and can leverage for this prize.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Describe if and how your approach could be applied to other utilities facing a similar problem.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The competitor has the relevant skills and expertise to solve the proposed problem.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The team has access to relevant resources that can be leveraged for this prize.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The team demonstrates a thorough understanding of the utility’s problem, its broader context, and the importance of solving this problem.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The team has sufficient interdisciplinary expertise to develop and integrate digital infrastructure and data analytics tools effectively.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
American-Made Challenges

Digitizing Utilities Prize

Connecting utilities with teams of software developers and data experts to transform digital systems in the energy sector for utilities.

Stage: Enter

SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE

Challenge Overview

The Digitizing Utilities Prize

The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE’s) Office of Electricity launched the $1.1-million Digitizing Utilities Prize...
What’s Next?

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

2. Read the rules

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

4. Start innovating

5. Submit by January 26, 2023