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**FRAUNHOFER CSE ANNOUNCES THERMOAURA AS WINNER OF
THE TECHBRIDGE EFFICIENT MANUFACTURING CHALLENGE**

Boston, MA – December 9, 2014 – The Fraunhofer Center for Sustainability Energy Systems CSE is pleased to announce ThermoAura as the winner of the TechBridge Efficient Manufacturing Challenge.

Sponsored by The Shell GameChanger Program, the TechBridge Efficient Manufacturing Challenge called for early-stage companies or teams to submit innovative technology solutions that significantly reduce energy, water, or material demands in manufacturing. Fifty-seven applicants from around the globe applied to this challenge and were evaluated based on the potential impact of their technology or solution to reduce resource demands during manufacturing. Only teams that have raised less than \$2M in private sector funding and have generated less than \$4 million in revenue were eligible to apply.

“The TechBridge Challenge goes beyond just identifying early-stage companies poised to solve industry challenges; it also helps prepare these technologies for market adoption,” said Johanna Wolfson, TechBridge Program Manager. “We received applications detailing technologies from wastewater treatment to data analytics, to energy efficient processes. Innovations in waste heat recovery emerged as a broad theme from the applicant pool.”

The Challenge winner, ThermoAura, is a nanomaterials manufacturing start-up focused on the commercialization of novel thermoelectric materials. ThermoAura’s goal is to address global energy concerns by opening the door to widespread adoption of thermoelectrics.

“The TechBridge program leverages Fraunhofer CSE’s expertise in product validation and market testing. Through the Challenge model, both early-stage companies and large industry leaders alike can benefit – the early-stage companies through hands-on product help, and the large corporates through the discovery of new opportunities and technologies in their market,” said Christian Hoepfner, Fraunhofer CSE Center Director.

By tapping into the deep industry knowledge at Fraunhofer, the Challenge builds on the Fraunhofer CSE TechBridge mission to help promising clean energy start-ups build, develop, and validate their technologies to accelerate commercialization. Over the past four years, TechBridge project awards supported 16 startups that have gone on to raise more than \$77 million in follow-on funding.



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About the Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE)

The Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE) is a not-for-profit applied R&D laboratory dedicated to the commercialization of technologies for a sustainable energy future. CSE engages in collaborative research with private companies, government entities, and academic institutions, and works with sustainable energy startups to help develop their technologies, bridging the gap from laboratory to production. Fraunhofer CSE is a subsidiary of Fraunhofer USA, a 501(c)(3) non-profit contract R&D organization, affiliated with Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, Europe's largest contract R&D organization.

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