



Cleantech Open Northeast Announces Collaboration with U-Launch

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts -- May 2nd, 2011 -- The Cleantech Open, the world's largest clean technology business competition, today announced that it would collaborate with U-Launch, a clean energy startup acceleration award administered by the Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems in collaboration with the New England Clean Energy Foundation, the Association of Cleantech Incubators of New England and an existing Cleantech Open sponsor, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. U-Launch will provide an additional package for a select Cleantech Open regional semifinalist valued at \$20,000. The "U-Launch Award" is funded through the US Department of Energy's Innovation Ecosystem Development Initiative. With this new partnership, the Cleantech Open expects to offer over \$80,000 in cash and prizes to contestants.

"I am delighted that we will be joining forces for the 2011 competition," said Rob Day, Chair of the CTO's northeast competition. "Developing an idea into a living, breathing company is never an easy task. Like the Cleantech Open, U-Launch awards help ensure that renewable energy companies get the help they deserve in making a dream a reality."

Both U-Launch and the Cleantech Open provide clean energy entrepreneurs and startup companies with mentorship and critical networking opportunities. U-Launch awards include validation, prototyping, and research and development services to clean energy start-ups through the Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems and its network of R&D partners. The New England Clean Energy Foundation provides executive-in-residence services and the ACTION network of incubators helps locate startups in regional incubators.

"This is a great partnership that will leverage additional resources in the New England clean energy community and create an even a greater concentration of efforts around building new cleantech businesses locally," said MassCEC Executive Director Patrick Cloney.

In order to be considered for both the Cleantech Open and U-Launch Award, please submit your application through the [Cleantech Open site](#). Entrants receive top training, access to one of the world's largest cleantech networks, complimentary participation in events and the opportunity to compete for prizes at both the regional and national level, with a grand prize of \$250,000 of investment and services.

About the Cleantech Open

The Cleantech Open runs the world's largest cleantech business competition and the first-ever global cleantech ideas competition. Its mission is to find, fund and foster entrepreneurs with big ideas that address today's most urgent energy, environmental and economic challenges. The

program provides the infrastructure, expertise and strategic relationships to turn ideas into successful global cleantech companies.

Since 2006, through its one-of-a-kind annual business competition and mentorship program, the Cleantech Open has helped hundreds of clean technology startups bring their breakthrough ideas to fruition, helping alumni contestants raise more than \$280M and creating an estimated 2,000 green collar jobs. Fueled by a network of more than 1,000 volunteers and sponsors, the Cleantech Open unites the public and private sectors in a shared vision for making America's cleantech sector a thriving economic engine. Cleantech Open website: www.cleantechopen.com - Facebook - LinkedIn - Twitter: @cleantechopen.

About U-Launch

U-Launch was founded in 2010 with the aim of supporting clean energy technologies in their transition from the laboratory to the market, and is partially funded by a three-year, \$1.1M award from the U.S. Department of Energy's Innovation Ecosystem Development Initiative. The program is administered by the Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE) in collaboration with the New England Clean Energy Foundation (NECEF), the Association of CleanTech Incubators of New England (ACTION) and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC). Each member of the U-Launch team provides critical early-stage resources for startups and spinouts. U-Launch grants are awarded to high-potential technologies, many spinning out of New England area research universities. Grants are comprised of funded services tailored to enhance the future market and funding potential of the individual awardee, and can include business model review or development, market analysis, technical feasibility studies, prototype development assistance, technology validation, executive-in-residence guidance, and incubation space.