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Fraunhofer CSE's TechBridge Challenge Seeks Efficient Manufacturing Solutions

With its TechBridge program, Fraunhofer CSE helps clean energy startups to bridge the gap from laboratory to commercialization.

Boston, MA – April 3, 2014 – The Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems is awarding technology validation and development services for innovative solutions that significantly reduce water, energy, and material demands in manufacturing processes. The deadline for submissions is April 23, 2014.

The Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems is now accepting applications for its newest TechBridge Challenge. The TechBridge program supports cleantech startups through technology development and validation projects that help companies reach commercialization milestones. As an independent third party, TechBridge helps startups de-risk their technologies, lowering barriers to private investment and strategic partnerships.

This TechBridge Challenge seeks proposals for technologies and solutions that will significantly reduce resource demands (e.g., energy, materials, and water) in manufacturing facilities. These innovations may be in the form of equipment, materials, software, or processes and should target large, resource-intensive industries (e.g., chemicals, refining, iron and steel, or pulp and paper) or cross-industry processes and applications (advanced heat and power generation, equipment improvements, etc.).

Applicants are invited to submit their proposals by April 23, 2014 via <http://cse.fraunhofer.org/TBmanufacturing2014>. Award selection will be based on the potential impact of the proposed technology and business model. Awardees' intellectual property is fully protected throughout this process.

Fraunhofer TechBridge is a commercialization program that leverages the worldwide Fraunhofer research network to support early-stage cleantech startups. The TechBridge Challenge is an open innovation platform that seeks emerging technologies as solutions to specific innovation challenges, and offers a development or validation project as a prize to the winning startup. Previous TechBridge projects have provided services including prototyping, demonstration, modeling, testing, and techno-economic roadmapping. Over the past 3 years, 16 startups who were TechBridge awardees have received over \$60M in follow-on funding.

About Fraunhofer CSE

The Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE) is a non-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.