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Fraunhofer CSE's TechBridge Challenge Seeks Innovative Microgrid Solutions
Sponsored Contract R&D Awards Available for Start-Ups, Entrepreneurs

Boston, MA – October 7, 2013 – The Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for the first in a series of TechBridge Challenges – solicitations intended to uncover, screen, and validate technologies from promising early-stage sustainable energy companies. Awardees will receive contract R&D services from the world-renowned Fraunhofer network.

The first solicitation seeks innovative microgrid technology solutions in the context of current or new business models. Start-ups and entrepreneurs are invited to submit their proposals by November 6, 2013. Selection will be based on the potential impact of the technology and business model. Interested applicants can find full details and instructions at techbridge-microgrid2013.istart.org.

The Challenge is being administered by Fraunhofer TechBridge, a commercialization program that leverages the worldwide Fraunhofer research network to support early-stage clean energy startups. “TechBridge has a substantial track record identifying and nurturing promising startups in a variety of technology sectors,” said Nolan Browne, Fraunhofer CSE’s Managing Director. “The microgrid sector is rich with potential innovation so it’s a natural area of exploration for the first TechBridge Challenge solicitation.”

Distributed energy resources and microgrids can improve energy reliability, increase efficiency, and reduce costs. Analysts predict that the microgrid market could reach \$15 billion by 2020. The first TechBridge Challenge seeks innovative hardware and software solutions that can lead to value creation and drive broader adoption of microgrids. The Challenge builds on TechBridge’s previous award programs, which have supported over 20 start-ups over the past three years – companies that have raised more than \$36 million in follow-on funding to date.

About Fraunhofer 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.