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## **Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems Announces New Fellowship Program**

*Structured program provides industry-focused professional development opportunities for scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs*

**Cambridge, MA – September 19, 2012** – The Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE) today announced that it is expanding its industry-facing research training program to offer structured fellowships for those seeking to further their careers in the field of sustainable energy field. The initial national deadline for application is November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Fraunhofer CSE is a nationally recognized research laboratory and a member of the Fraunhofer Society, an internationally renowned research organization. At CSE, Fellows engage in cutting-edge research and development – designing test equipment, evaluating advanced materials, planning smart grid integration, and accelerating technology commercialization for new solar and energy-efficient building technologies. CSE's competitive, high-quality program allows young technologists to exchange ideas with and learn from leading international experts in their fields.

“Training the next generation of applied engineers and scientists is a well-known and appreciated mission of the Fraunhofer Society,” said Nolan Browne, Fraunhofer CSE's Managing Director. “At CSE, they not only gain the hands-on project experience needed to build a career in the clean energy sector, but have a chance to contribute to processes and technologies that will have a long-lasting impact.”

Fraunhofer CSE's fellows come from a variety of fields. Some are recent college graduates, others graduate students or post-docs seeking to build out their clean energy experience. Placements are available in PV technologies, building energy efficiency technologies, smart grid applications, and TechBridge, CSE's program for supporting early-stage clean energy companies. Mid-career professionals from the academic, industrial, financial, or government sectors are particularly encouraged to consider becoming a TechBridge Fellow.

By the end of 2012, CSE's program expects to graduate 95 participants. Many past Fellows have gone on to research at leading academic institutions and industry, while others successfully leveraged their CSE experience to launch careers in venture capital or in government organizations such as the US Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency

(ARPA-E). In several cases, participants went on to work for CSE's industrial partners on the strength of project work they performed for that partner while at CSE.

The expanded program builds on an already successful framework, adding a self-directed soft skills development program that encourages participants to master crucial transferable skills that will complement their technical expertise for future careers in industry, government, and academia.

"These changes enhance what is already a successful program," noted Fraunhofer CSE's Scientific Director, Dr. Christian Hoepfner. "Our new fellowships allow us to deliver a high-quality educational experience that benefits not only students, but the organizations who hire them as well. A CSE Fellow leaves the Center with concrete project management, research and technical skills that can immediately be applied to a full-time position at any number of clean energy organizations – the success of our graduates is a testament to that."

More information on the program and available positions can be found on the new program website at:

<http://cse.fraunhofer.org/fellowships>

### **About Fraunhofer CSE**

Based in Cambridge, MA, the Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE) is an applied R&D laboratory dedicated to the commercialization of clean energy technologies. CSE engages in collaborative research and development with private companies, government entities, and academic institutions, performing research that broadly benefits firms, industries, and society. These partnerships take a wide variety of forms, including confidential co-development programs, third-party technology validation, and joint applications for grant programs. Major lab and field testing initiatives focus on energy-efficient building technologies and solar PV module design and manufacturing. Additionally, CSE's TechBridge commercialization program helps emerging sustainable energy startups to develop their technologies, bridging the gap from laboratory to wide-scale production.