



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

# American-Made Geothermal Geophone Prize **GUIDELINES FOR CONNECTORS**

APRIL 2022

# INTRODUCTION

The American-Made Geothermal Geophone Prize is a prize competition designed to energize U.S. enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) stimulations innovation through a series of contests and support from the American-Made Network.

The Geophone Prize will spur innovation through a series of three progressive competitions that will incentivize the nation's innovators and entrepreneurs to rapidly discover, research, iterate, and deliver new high-temperature seismic sensor solutions with enhanced performance. This approach to rapid product development not only provides cash prizes, but also activates America's energy incubators, investors, universities, national laboratories, and others to help participants achieve their goals. This approach is designed to be flexible, scalable, and to include diverse resources extending beyond EGS to other technology domains and sectors. This will simultaneously enable the rapid development of technology while building connections that support commercialization.

Phase 1: Concept focuses on proposing the manufacturing concept of a high-temperature seismometer prototype. The Connector Guidelines below outline the Recognition Awards for working with a team.

## CONNECTORS

Connectors are the core component of the American-Made Network and are organizations that seek to support the efforts of competitors in the Geophone Prize. Connectors must be U.S.-based organizations (not individuals) that have the capacity to connect competitors to mentoring, business resources, manufacturing resources, or introduce them to possible sources of funding. Connectors that are successful in helping competitors win any of the Geophone Prize Contests will earn Recognition Rewards. Connectors can be incubators, universities, think tanks, philanthropists, fabrication facility managers, industry groups or any U.S.-based organization that provides support activities such as:

- Recruiting new and diverse competitors to apply for the Geophone Prize
- Helping competitors refine their innovations and connect them with investors and industry partners
- Assisting competitors in the preparation of their Submission Packages to the Prize Contests
- Raising non-federal funding to support this program and its participants
- Providing in-kind resources, tools, and facilities to accelerate competitors' abilities to innovate, test, and refine their solutions while reducing technology and business risks
- Connecting competitors to regional development, prototyping, validation, testing or manufacturing tools, facilities, and expertise.

Connectors who help mobilize and/or support participants that go on to win Phase 1: Concept, Phase 2: Make, or supported participants in Phase 3: Build are eligible for Recognition Rewards. Recognition Rewards are outlined by phase in the table below. Entities interested in participating as a Connector can visit the following site to sign up and apply: <https://network.americanmadechallenges.org/>. Connectors are encouraged to use the American-Made Network Matching Tool to create a profile highlighting your capabilities and to connect with competitors that could use your expertise. Connectors and competitors can visit the following site to use the Matching Tool: <https://network.americanmadechallenges.org/>.

Power Connectors under contract for work on the Geophone Prize are not eligible for Recognition payments.

Recognition Reward Name	Anticipated Number of Awards	Dollar Amounts	Details
<b>Mobilize</b>	Up to 1 per winning Concept competitor (8 competitors)	\$40,000 pool; \$5,000 per competitor	Distributed to Connectors for recruiting or mentoring a winning competitor in in the Concept Contest.
<b>Phase 2: Make Mentor</b>	Up to 1 per winning Phase 2: Make competitor (5 competitors)	\$37,500 pool; \$7,500 per competitor	Distributed to Connectors for mentoring a winning competitor in Phase 2: Make of the prize
<b>Phase 3: Build Mentor</b>	Up to 1 per non-winning Phase 3: Build competitor (3 competitors)	\$22,500 pool; \$7,500 per competitor	Distributed to Connectors for mentoring a team who competed in but did not win Phase 3: Build Phase.
	Up to 1 per winning Phase 3: Build competitor (2 competitors)	\$25,000 pool; \$12,500 per competitor	Distributed to Connectors for mentoring a winning competitor in Phase 3: Build.

## Mobilize

Connectors who significantly help a team during Phase 1: Concept may receive Mobilize Recognition Rewards if the following conditions are met:

The Connector must be on the list of approved Connectors on the American-Made Network website.

- To receive payment, the Connector must be listed in a winning competitor’s submission package for Concept Contest as a supporting organization.

It is the expectation of the Prize Administrator that competitors will identify Connectors that have significantly helped them win a contest. Such assistance may include mentoring, coaching, crafting their submission package, identifying SMART goals, exploring vouchers opportunities and introductions to investors, partners, researchers, experts, or potential customers.

A Connector may help multiple teams win and receive multiple Recognition Rewards.

The winning competitor will be asked to identify a single Connector who provided the most support. If a team works with multiple Connectors, only one may be identified to receive a Recognition Reward. After winning the contest, teams will be contacted by the Prize Administrator to confirm the Connectors listed in the submission.

If no Connector mentored a winning competitor in an impactful way, there is no obligation for a competitor to identify a Connector. A competitor should identify a Connector only if a Connector helped them win the contest. If a competitor does not designate a Connector, no recognition rewards will be disbursed. Power Connectors are ineligible to receive Mobilize payments, even if a winning team lists them on their submission.

## Phase 2: Make and Phase 3: Build Mentors

Connectors who significantly help a team during Phase 2: Make or Phase 3: Build may receive a Mentor Recognition Rewards if the following conditions are met:

- The Connector must be on the list of approved Connectors on the American-Made Geophone website.
- To receive payment, the Connector must be listed in a competitor's submission package for Phase 2: Make or Phase 3: Build as a supporting organization.

It is the expectation of the Prize Administrator that competitors will identify Connectors that have significantly helped them win a contest. Such assistance may include mentoring, coaching, crafting their submission package, identifying SMART goals, exploring vouchers opportunities and introductions to investors, partners, researchers, experts or potential customers.

Connectors may support multiple teams, but per team supported they can receive a maximum of:

- \$7,500 for helping a competitor win Phase 2: Make Contest
- \$7,500 for helping a competitor that competes in, but does not win, Phase 3: Build
- \$12,500 for helping a competitor win Phase 3: Build

Competitors may divide the Recognition Rewards among up to three connectors for each Contest. Thus, the total amount a Connector may receive, may be less than the amount above if a team chose to do this. Teams will indicate to the NREL Prize administrator how the designated funds should be split among up to three Connectors. There is a minimum payment of \$1,500 per Connector. After winning the contest, teams will be contacted by the Prize Administrator to confirm the Connectors listed in the submission and desired payment split if multiple Connectors are listed.

If no Connector mentored a winning competitor in an impactful way, there is no obligation for a competitor to identify a Connector. A competitor should identify a Connector only if a Connector helped them win the contest. If a competitor does not designate a Connector, no recognition rewards will be disbursed. Power Connectors are ineligible to receive Mentor payments, even if a winning team lists them on their submission.