



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

American-Made Geothermal Manufacturing Prize

GUIDELINES FOR CONNECTOR RECOGNITION REWARDS

1. INTRODUCTION

The American-Made Geothermal Manufacturing Prize, administered under the authority of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, consists of two parallel and integrated features: the Ready! Set! Make! Geo! **Contests** and the **American-Made Network**.

Competitors in the Ready!, Set!, Make!, and Geo! Contests participate in four escalating challenges. The contests provide a total of \$4.65 million in incentives—\$3.25 million in cash prizes, \$1 million in vouchers, and \$400,000 in field testing costs—to incentivize driving additively manufactured geothermal innovations from concept to prototype testing in two years through an accelerated schedule.

The American-Made Network continues to flourish in support of this and other American-Made Challenges by amplifying competitors' efforts through connections with: (1) the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) national laboratories and their world-class research facilities and expertise; and (2) a private-sector stakeholder community that actively assists entrepreneurs with bringing innovative ideas and concepts to market. This community includes incubators, investors, philanthropists, fabrication facility managers, and seasoned industry leaders, all of whom provide technical insight, marketing expertise, product validation, and other support. Throughout the competition, these diverse experts are labeled "Connectors" and comprise key components of the network.

2. CONNECTORS

Connectors are the core component of the American-Made Network and are organizations that seek to support Geothermal Prize competitors. Connectors must be U.S.-based organizations (not individuals) that can connect competitors to mentors, business resources, design and manufacturing resources, or introduce them to potential funding sources. Connectors that help competitors win any Geothermal Prize Contests will earn Recognition Rewards.

Connectors can be incubators, universities, think tanks, industry groups or any U.S.-based organization can assist competitors with:

- Mentorship- refining their innovations, developing business plans, assisting in Submission Packages preparation for the Prize Contests;
- Funding- connecting teams with investors and industry partners and raising non-federal funding to support this program and its participants,;
- Tools- in-kind resources, tools, and facilities to accelerate competitors' abilities to innovate, test, and refine their solutions while reducing technology and business risks; connections to regional development, prototyping, validation, testing or manufacturing tools, facilities, and expertise.

Connectors supporting winning competitor in any of the Ready!, Set!, Make!, or Geo! Contests earn payments outlined the table below. Entities interested in participating as a Connector can visit the following site to sign up and apply: <https://americanmadechallenges.org/connect.html>.

Power Connectors are not eligible for Connector Recognition Reward payments.¹

Connector Recognition Reward Opportunities:

Anticipated Number of Awards	Dollar Amounts	Details
Up to 20	\$50,000 pool	Distributed to Connectors for recruiting or mentoring a winning competitor into in the Ready! Contest.
Up to 15	\$75,000 pool	Distributed to Connectors that mentor competitors and facilitate partnership agreements of Set! and Make! Contest winners.

Ready! – Connectors who recruit a winning competitor into the Ready! Contest may receive a Recognition Reward if the following conditions are met:

- The Connector must be on the list of approved Connectors on the American-Made Network website or must have submitted an application to be a Connector in the American-Made Network before the Geothermal Prize Ready! submission deadline.
- To receive payment, the Connector must be listed in a winning competitor’s submission package for the Ready! Contest in the Key Partners, Affiliates, or Connectors section.

Connectors may receive a \$2,500 payment for each Ready! Contest winner that lists them as the referral source or who served as a mentoring resource. A Competitor may list multiple Connectors, but will be asked to designate a single Connector to receive the Recognition Reward. Connectors may refer multiple teams and receive multiple Recognition Rewards.

If a Competitor does not designate a Connector, no recognition rewards will be disbursed. Power Connectors and National Labs are ineligible to receive Connector Recognition Reward payments, even if a winning team lists them as a Connector on their submission.

¹ Power Connectors are a subset of Connectors that play a more substantial role in the competition and receive funds to expand and amplify prize activities. Power Connectors are eligible to receive a contract with NREL valued at up to \$50,000. Refer to the Official Prize Rules: https://americanmadechallenges.org/geothermalmanufacturing/Geothermal_Manufacturing_Prize_Official_Rules.pdf

Set! – Connectors who support a winning competitor into the Set! Contest may receive a Recognition Reward if the following conditions are met:

- The Connector must be on the list of approved Connectors on the American-Made Network website or must have submitted an application to be a Connector in the American-Made Network before the Geothermal Prize SET! submission deadline.
- To receive payment, the Connector must be listed in a winning [competitor's submission package for the SET! Contest](#) in the Key Partners, Affiliates, or Connectors section.

Connectors may receive a \$5,000 payment for each Set! Contest winner that lists them as the referral source or who served as a mentoring resource. A Competitor may list multiple Connectors, but will be asked to designate a single Connector to receive the Recognition Reward. Connectors may refer multiple teams and receive multiple Recognition Rewards.

If a competitor does not designate a Connector, no recognition rewards will be disbursed. Power Connectors and National Labs are ineligible to receive Connector Recognition Reward payments, even if a winning team lists them as a Connector on their submission.