



American-Made Solar Prize



The American-Made **Solar Prize** is a \$3 million prize competition designed to accelerate and sustain American solar innovation through a diverse and powerful support network that leverages national laboratories, energy incubators, and other resources from across the United States.

The Solar Prize is a series of three progressive competitions that will incentivize the nation's innovators and entrepreneurs to rapidly discover, research, iterate, and deliver new solutions to market that will expand solar manufacturing in the United States. The American-Made Solar Prize is directed and administered by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office.

GET INVOLVED

IDEATE

An ongoing ideation process to crowdsource knowledge and accelerate the exchange of ideas will enable the public to propose, discuss, and rate potentially transformational solutions. **Sign up to ideate** ▶

COMPETE

Entrepreneurial individuals and teams will work with these ideas and participate in a series of Ready! Set! Go! Contests for the chance to win prize money, vouchers, and valuable industry and investor connections. **Sign up to compete** ▶

CONNECT

Connectors and partner organizations will comprise a significant portion of the American-Made Network. They will connect competitors to resources to rapidly develop product solutions and help fund successful innovations. Benefits include the potential to win performance payments for assisting successful teams.

Apply to become a connector ▶

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

There are two primary ways to participate in the challenge: as a competitor or as part of the American-Made Network.

Competitors

Competitors are entrepreneurial individuals and teams, based in the United States. These may be members of one or multiple organizations, students, university faculty members, small business owners, researchers, or anyone with the desire and drive to transform ideas into impactful new products. They will compete for a total of \$3 million in cash prizes in three competitions. Competitors can also win a total of \$525,000 in vouchers, which can be used at national laboratories and other fabrication facilities to test and validate competitor solutions.

American-Made Network

The American-Made Network is designed to strengthen and scale critical connections to support the progress and success of competitors. It includes national labs, incubators, investors and seasoned industry mentors. Members can win performance payments for recruiting, mentoring, and helping to advance Solar Prize competitors.

- **Connectors:** DOE and NREL will partner with national labs, accelerators, incubators, universities, industry organizations, and other entities to help entrepreneurs navigate the innovation process. Connectors will provide technical insight, product validation, and strategic support throughout the competition.
- **Power Connectors:** A core group of participating Connectors will be selected to have a more substantial

role in expanding the Solar Prize. They are eligible to receive a contract with NREL valued up to \$100,000 to ensure replicability and long-term sustainability, and a supplemental \$25,000 if selected to host a national demo day. They are also eligible for cash payment awards.

- **Vouchers and Industry Partners:** Facilities and other industry members will partner with competitors to provide access to tools and expertise, as well as additional funding, manufacturing, and fabrication support. Competing teams can win a total of \$150,000 in vouchers—from a pool of \$525,000—to be used at national labs and qualified facilities to rapidly produce, develop, test, or validate solutions and product prototypes. Facilities can register to qualify for voucher payments at americanmadechallenges.org.

HOW IT WORKS

The **Ready! Set! Go!** Contests will fast-track efforts to identify, develop, and test disruptive solutions to solar industry needs for a total of \$3 million in cash prizes.

Competitors can also win a total of \$525,000 in vouchers, which can be used at national laboratories and other fabrication facilities to test and validate competitor solutions. Each stage will have a 90-day performance period to advance solutions.

Ready! Contest (up to \$50,000 prize per winner): Winners will be selected after identifying an impactful idea or solution addressing a critical need in the solar industry and will then be eligible to compete in the Set! Contest and Go! Contest.² Anyone can submit a package to compete in the Ready! Contest.³ A panel of expert judges from industry, national labs, and government will evaluate submissions.

	CONTEST	WINNERS	PRIZES
1	Ready!	20 to 40	\$1,000,000 distributed equally with a range of \$25,000 to \$50,000 in cash per winner
2	Set!	5 to 10	\$1,000,000 in cash and \$375,000 in vouchers distributed within a range of \$100,000 to \$200,000 in cash and \$37,500 to \$75,000 in vouchers per winner
3	Go!	2	\$500,000 in cash and up to \$75,000 in vouchers per winner

DOE invites anyone based in the United States, individually or as a team, to compete to transform a conceptual solution into product reality. Learn more and apply early at americanmadechallenges.org.¹

Set! Contest (up to \$200,000 prize and up to \$75,000 in vouchers per winner): Competitors will work to substantially advance their technology solution toward a viable and promising proof of concept. Winners will be chosen by a panel of judges after a live demo day event.

Go! Contest (\$500,000 prize and up to \$75,000 in vouchers per winner): Competitors will work to substantially advance their solution from proof of

concept to a refined prototype and find a partner to perform a pilot test of the prototype. Both winners will again be chosen by a panel of judges after a live demo day event.

The final two winners can receive up to \$750,000 in cash and \$150,000 in vouchers throughout the course of the competition.

1. All cash prize amounts are subject to change.
2. Competitors must legally reside in the United States. Further eligibility requirements appear in the prize rules document.
3. See footnote 2.



UP FOR THE CHALLENGE? Learn more and apply early at americanmadechallenges.org

The **American-Made Challenges: Solar Prize** is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) and administered by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). This challenge is the inaugural prize competition of the American-Made Challenges through DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.