

The Energy Department's ITEAM Prize Competition

INDIVIDUALS TAKING ENERGY ACTION IN MANUFACTURING

OFFICIAL RULES

The *ITEAM* Prize seeks to recognize individuals who were responsible for creative, specific, and innovative ideas and practices that led to measurable energy savings at their manufacturing facilities, and identify and attract attention to a wide range of ideas and practices that are driving measurable energy savings at U.S. manufacturing plants to encourage innovation at other facilities.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

A. Program Summary	1
1. Overview and Introduction.....	1
2. Background	1
3. <i>ITEAM</i> Prize Objectives	2
4. <i>ITEAM</i> Prizes to Win	2
5. Submissions: Your Best Energy Action Ideas and Practices	3
6. Important Dates and Deadlines	4
7. Questions.....	4
B. <i>ITEAM</i> Prize Official Rules	5
1. How to Enter Prize Competition	5
2. Submission Specifics	5
3. Evaluation Criteria	6
4. Program Policy Factors	7
5. Terms and Conditions	7
Appendix A: Terms and Conditions	8
1. Eligibility	8
2. Participant Representations and Warranties	9
3. Verification for Payments	10
4. Government Representations and Warranties	10
5. Records Retention and FOIA.....	10
6. Use of Data.....	11
7. Intellectual Property Ownership	11
8. Relationship of the Parties.....	11
9. Liability and Insurance.....	11
10. Judges	11
11. Resolution of Disputes.....	12
12. Publicity.....	12
13. General Conditions.....	12

A. PROGRAM SUMMARY

1. OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Individuals Taking Energy Action in Manufacturing (*ITEAM*) Prize competition seeks to:

- (1) Recognize individuals who were responsible for creative, specific, and innovative ideas and practices that led to significant, measurable energy savings at their manufacturing facilities; and
- (2) Identify and attract attention to a wide range of ideas and practices that are driving measurable energy savings at U.S. manufacturing plants to encourage innovation at other facilities.

Through the *ITEAM* Prize competition, DOE is seeking the ideas and best practices from employees on the plant floor all around the country who not only recognize the importance of saving energy but are making it happen, strengthening their company's competitiveness and driving cost savings in the process. By sharing successful strategies and examples of leadership, more manufacturers can drive energy productivity improvements and accelerate the adoption of energy efficient technologies.

2. BACKGROUND

Manufacturing is important for America's prosperity. It is estimated that for every dollar spent in U.S. manufacturing, another \$1.89 is added to the economy; the highest multiplier effect of any economic sector¹. Manufacturing accounts for millions of jobs and about 12% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product². With all that economic activity, the industrial sector accounted for about one-third of total U.S. energy consumption in 2017³. Making smart energy investments will enhance our nation's security, productivity, and energy independence. For manufacturers, every dollar saved allows for investment in production, facilities, and jobs that ultimately makes U.S. companies more competitive and resilient. Improving the energy performance of manufacturing facilities has a broad impact; savings from reduced operating expenses can be reinvested in technology upgrades and new jobs.

Finding ways to cut costs through energy savings seems like an obvious strategy; however, many times these opportunities go unrealized due to competing demands for capital, plant personnel, lack of information, or lack of attention/prioritization. Nevertheless, all across America, manufacturers are showing real leadership, stepping up as champions of energy savings and sustainability. The success of these efforts do not happen without strong leadership from individuals working in the manufacturing facilities, who step up to

¹ <http://www.nam.org/Newsroom/Top-20-Facts-About-Manufacturing/>

² <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.IND.MANF.ZS>

³ Source: https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.php?page=us_energy_industry For clarity, industrial energy consumption includes manufacturing, agriculture, non-manufacturing and line losses per EIA.

recognize and implement energy saving opportunities, and who find innovative approaches to push through barriers they encounter along the way.

3. *ITEAM* PRIZE OBJECTIVES

The goal of this prize competition is two-fold. First, through this prize competition, DOE is seeking to recognize leaders who are responsible for creative, specific, and innovative projects to drive measureable energy savings in their manufacturing plants. Energy efficiency is contagious; through this prize, DOE will recognize their leadership and amplify the success of their projects. By doing so, DOE expects to motivate other individuals and manufacturing facilities to find innovative approaches to improve energy performance at their manufacturing facilities.

Second, this prize competition is intended to catalyze the implementation of industrial energy efficiency projects by identifying and promoting a range of ideas and practices that are driving measureable energy savings in at U.S. manufacturing plants and providing a mechanism to ensure these ideas and practices are widely shared. For purposes of this prize competition, DOE wants to identify individuals who are instrumental in making these ideas and practices a reality and bring attention to a wide range of solutions that help shape energy efficiency and sustainability in manufacturing facilities. By attracting attention to these ideas and practices and the people responsible for making them happen, DOE expects to catalyze similar innovation and best practices by other individuals and manufacturing facilities that can learn and build upon the ideas and practices to generate energy savings at their facilities

Entries will be evaluated on demonstrated energy savings, initiative/leadership, and innovation, with additional credit being given for successful strategies to engage other workers on the manufacturing floor.

This prize competition is authorized under the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, as amended by the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 and the 2017 American Innovation and Competitiveness Act, as codified at 15 U.S.C. 3719.

For the purposes of this prize competition, “Participant” refers to individuals and entities that apply to the prize competition and “Winner” refers to individuals selected to receive a cash prize under this prize competition.

4. *ITEAM* PRIZES TO WIN

The total prize purse is up to \$75,000. Entries will be divided into three separate categories based on the size of the manufacturer (small, medium, and large). DOE will select up to five (5) winners from each category and each winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$5,000. Therefore, up to fifteen individuals may receive cash prizes under the *ITEAM* Prize competition.

Prize Categories

- Small Manufacturer: up to five (5) winners

- Medium Manufacturer: up to five (5) winners
- Larger Manufacturer: up to five (5) winners

In addition to the cash prize, the winners will be recognized and given an opportunity to present their submissions at the annual Better Buildings Summit and/or the World Energy Engineering Congress or a similar event. They will have their winning ideas and practices highlighted on DOE's Better Buildings Solutions Center website. Further, to attract attention to a wide range of ideas and practices, the winners will have an opportunity to participate in webinars and other events to share their ideas and practices with other organizations. DOE may also invite Participants who demonstrated innovative ideas, but were not selected for cash prizes, to share their projects as well.

Applicants will have the option to decline the cash prize if selected and still be recognized as a winner and participate in the events and activities described above.

5. SUBMISSIONS: YOUR BEST ENERGY ACTION IDEAS AND PRACTICES

These prizes will be made to individuals employed by U.S. manufacturers for outstanding accomplishments in implementing industrial energy efficiency projects that make U.S. manufacturers more energy efficient, competitive and productive. The contributions of individual employees can be instrumental to implementing energy savings at manufacturing facilities. As such, this prize competition is intended to identify the energy saving ideas and best practices of employees who are making an energy difference, in a hands-on way, at their respective manufacturing facility.

Leadership is contagious; this prize will showcase successful strategies and practices that can be replicated across the factory floors of this country. The Energy Department, through this prize competition, will amplify the submissions and winning entries to produce knowledge-sharing so that all manufacturers can learn and benefit.

DOE intends to award individuals representing a variety of different manufacturer sizes (small, medium, and large in terms of number of employees across the company). To be eligible, projects need to be discrete, have strong energy savings and be replicable in similar industrial facilities. Eligible projects and practices must have been completed after October 5, 2018. Examples of projects in the following sample categories include:

1. Traditional industrial energy systems (e.g., process heating, process cooling/refrigeration, compressed air, steam, fan, motor, and pumping);
2. Innovative and advanced technology (e.g., smart manufacturing, additive manufacturing, and reactive distillation); and
3. Creative and new ways to engage co-workers/colleagues/teams at a facility; to catalyze greater energy savings.

Up to five individuals for each size manufacturing category (small, medium, large) will be recognized and awarded a \$5,000 prize. The entry must also present energy savings at the plant (normalized) over the past 12 months (to show improvement compared to last year) and how specific employee efforts have driven energy and cost savings.

Metrics of evaluation will include the impact in terms of percentage of plant energy savings, initiative/leadership demonstrated by the applicant, and the innovation of the project. Additional credit being given for successful strategies to engage other workers on the manufacturing floor.

This is only a summary of each prize. For more information, please review the official *ITEAM* Prize Rules and Terms and Conditions as provided below.

6. IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Entries must be submitted to Challenge.gov by 11:59 PM Eastern time May 15, 2020.

Prize Competition Announced:	October 5, 2018
Prize Rules Available Online:	November 1, 2018 at 11:00 AM ET
Window for Completion Date of Eligible Projects:	October 5, 2018 to May 15, 2020
Submission Entry Deadline:	May 15, 2020 at 11:59 PM ET
Winners Announced:	July 2020
Cash Awards Disbursed:	August 2020
Prize Awardees Projects Displayed:	September 2020

All dates are subject to change including prize competition openings, deadlines, and announcements.

Sign up for updates at <https://betterbuildingsinitiative.energy.gov/individuals-taking-energy-action-manufacturing-prize>

7. QUESTIONS

For questions about the prize competition, contact: iTeam@hq.doe.gov

B. OFFICIAL ITEAM PRIZE RULES

Through the Individuals Taking Energy Action in Manufacturing (*ITEAM*) Prize competition, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) seeks to:

1. Recognize individuals who were responsible for creative, specific, and innovative ideas and practices that led to significant, measurable energy savings at their manufacturing facilities; and
2. Identify and attract attention to a wide range of ideas and practices that are driving measurable energy savings in at U.S. manufacturing plants to encourage innovation at other facilities.

1. HOW TO ENTER PRIZE COMPETITION

- Entries must be submitted to Challenge.gov by 11:59 PM ET by May 15th, 2020.
- When applying for the competition, Participants must certify that they meet the eligibility requirements required by the prize competition statute. (See Section C, Terms and Conditions for the eligibility requirements.)
- When submitting an entry for the competition, Participants must agree to the liability, indemnification, and intellectual property requirements under the prize competition statute. (See Section C, Terms and Conditions for those requirements.)

2. SUBMISSION SPECIFICS

Mandatory Information. The entry must include:

- A narrative of no more than three pages addressing the entry specifics outlined on the following pages. The narrative should not include any Personally Identifiable Information (PII) beyond applicant name and email address.
- Documented energy savings from the project (including percentage of plant energy savings), metered and signed by a senior executive at the manufacturer.
- Documented energy savings at the plant (normalized) over the past 12 months (to show improvement in percentage terms compared to the previous year) and how specific employee efforts have driven energy and cost savings.

Recommended Information. The entry may include:

- Up to two letters that support the data/operations of improvement, or the leadership exemplified. Letters of support do not count toward the page limit.

Participants must address the following items in their narrative:

- All of the outcomes and benefits of your project to improve energy efficiency at your facility, e.g., energy savings & energy cost savings, energy generation (in the case of renewable and distributed generation technologies), water savings/risk mitigation, productivity improvements, maintenance savings, improved safety, etc. Also, include the key success metrics, how your organization is assessing these metrics, and how your organization is encouraging further deployment of the technology. The submission should showcase, on a project level, the metered

- savings on a quarter-by-quarter basis. The submission should show, on a percentage basis, the cost and Btu savings from the project, normalized with actual data.
- The submission should describe the role played by the individual to execute this project and achieve savings. How the nominee's actions have led to plant, corporate or industry replication and have resulted in significant energy savings, improved productivity or advancement of technology. If possible, please provide quantitative/qualitative measures of these impacts.
 - The timeline to develop/create and implement the project, process changes, the estimated cost/budget to implement, and the staff or outside support required to implement. Please also describe the savings of the implemented project, as well as other relevant technical details, and any outreach efforts or tools/resources required to implement the project.

Size of Manufacturer:

Participants must designate whether their company is a small, medium or large manufacturer on the first page of the entry. Include the number of employees. For the purposes of this competition small, medium and large energy-using manufacturers are defined thusly by number of employees across the enterprise:

1. Small: 500 employees or less
2. Medium: between 500-1500 employees
3. Large: 1500 or more employees

3. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Entries will be screened for compliance with the Official Rules. The eligible entries will then be scored by a panel of judges on a scale of 0-100 points (one hundred being the highest) in the categories described below. The average score in each category will be computed, and the average scores will be combined to compute a total score. The final determination of the winners will take judges' scores and program policy factors listed in B.4 into account.

Participants will be scored based on their responses to the following:

Energy Savings and Impact (50/100 points)

Engineering-based results are acceptable, but true metered data is preferred. The submission will be evaluated, in part, on the magnitude of the energy and energy cost savings. Please detail any impacts beyond the direct energy savings from the projects (increased awareness and engagement, replicability for other plants, auxiliary benefits beyond energy savings).

Initiative/Leadership (30/100 points)

Participants should show how their actions made the process or facility more energy efficient or increased productivity since when the project was completed (no earlier than October 5, 2018). Participants are encouraged to add in personal anecdotes such as how working with and engaging other plant manufacturing staff increased energy savings were realized and how the action will continue to lead to savings. In addition, please share

content about the facility and the energy-related components of the project (e.g., why it was selected/implemented? How does it fit into a broader sustainability strategy?), what was the process for identifying the opportunity, defining the project, and deciding to proceed? Also, describe what your organization's goal or desired outcomes for the project, barrier(s) to implementation and what were your solution(s) to implementing the project? Please detail the extent to which the individual had to overcome significant obstacles (e.g., economic, technological, management support, etc.) to implement the project. Please explain, to the extent possible, how the project or practice described in the submission catalyzed greater engagement amongst other employees at the company.

Innovation (20/100 points)

Please articulate how this represents a new way of doing business for the individual, plant or the manufacturer. Where applicable, please describe the new technology and the impact it is having. How imaginative or creative is the practice or project? How replicable is the project?

4. PROGRAM POLICY FACTORS

While the scores of the judges will be carefully considered, it is important to maximize the impact of the prize competition. Some factors outside the control of the Participants and beyond the scope of the judges' review may be needed to accomplish this goal. The following is a list of such factors. In addition to the judges' scores, the below program policy factors may be considered in determining winners.

- The extent the ideas or practices have the potential to accelerate positive economic impact in a variety of manufacturers;
- The degree to which the projects represent a diversity of technologies employed in the projects, diversity of types of manufacturers, and/or geographic diversity; and
- The degree to which the project and/or the individual's efforts have the potential to attract widespread attention and to encourage third parties to further develop the ideas or practices.

5. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All Participants and entries are also subject to the Terms and Conditions detailed in Section C.

C. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By submitting an entry in the *ITEAM* Prize competition, the Participant acknowledges and agrees to the following Terms and Conditions. Participant acknowledgement of these Terms and Conditions will be made upon submission of the entry and may require documentation. DOE reserves the right to require additional documentation demonstrating a Participant's compliance with the official *ITEAM* Prize Rules, including the Terms and Conditions, of this prize competition at any time and to disqualify those Participants who are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate compliance to DOE.

1. ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is subject to verification before monetary prizes are awarded. To be eligible to win an *ITEAM* Prize, Participants must comply with the following eligibility requirements,

- 1) Participants must have complied with all requirements set forth in the Official Rules for *ITEAM*.
- 2) Individuals must be a United States citizen or a U.S. permanent resident, and be 18 years or older.
- 3) The manufacturing facility where the idea or practice is being implemented must be located in the U.S. This includes the 50 U.S. states and 6 territories.
- 4) The manufacturer/entity must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States.
- 5) DOE employees and DOE support service contractors, individuals who have been employed by DOE, or working for DOE as a support service contractor within six months prior to the submission entry deadline are not eligible to participate.
- 6) Non-DOE Federal entities and Federal employees are also not eligible to participate.
- 7) Employees of any co-sponsor organization for the *ITEAM* Prize competition are not eligible to participate.
- 8) Participants may not be a Federal grantee using Federal funds to participate.
- 9) Federal contractor Participants may not use Federal funds from a contract to participate in the *ITEAM* Prize competition or to fund efforts in support of an *ITEAM* Participant.
- 10) Prize Administrator employees directly involved in the administration of this prize competition are not eligible to participate.

A Participant will not be disqualified for using Federal facilities or consulting with Federal employees during a competition if the facilities and employees are made available to all entities participating in the competition on an equitable basis.

Eligibility is not limited to individuals employed by manufacturers participating in DOE technical assistance programs like Better Plants, 50001 Ready, Industrial Assessment Centers, etc.

Individuals may submit an entry on their own behalf. DOE will also accept an entry from a U.S. manufacturing facility that identifies an individual employee taking energy action at its manufacturing facility. However the prize itself will only be issued to the individual responsible for the winning ideas and practices that led to significant, measurable energy savings at the manufacturing facility, and not to the manufacturing facility.

Applicants will have the option to decline the cash prize if selected and still be recognized as a winner and participate in the events and activities described above.

By uploading an entry, a Participant certifies that it complies with the eligibility requirements described above. As soon as DOE becomes aware that a Participant is not eligible to win the *ITEAM* Prize, the Participant may be disqualified.

2. PARTICIPANT REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

Upon submission, the Participant hereby represents and warrants that:

- a) it is the sole author and copyright owner of the submission; that the submission is an original work of the Participant and that the Participant has sufficient rights to use and to authorize others, including DOE, to use the submission, as specified throughout the Official Rules; that the submission does not infringe upon any copyright or upon any other third party rights of which the Participant is aware; and that the submission is free of malware;
- b) the submission, and any use thereof by DOE is not defamatory or libelous in any manner; does not constitute or result in any misappropriation or other violation of the publicity rights or right of privacy of any person or entity, or infringe, misappropriate or otherwise violate any intellectual property rights, privacy rights or any other rights of any person or entity;
- c) it is free to enter into this competition without the consent of any third party and has the capability to fully perform its obligations as stipulated by the *ITEAM* Prize Rules;
- d) (in the case of a submission from an individual) he/she is a United States citizen or a U.S. permanent resident, and 18 years or older;
- e) (in the case of a submission from a manufacturing facility, on behalf of an individual employee) it is validly existing and duly organized in the state or jurisdiction of its incorporation;
- f) the manufacturing facility where the idea or practice is/was being implemented is located in the U.S. and it is validly existing and duly organized in the state or jurisdiction of its incorporation;
- g) it is not a party to (and it agrees that it shall not become a party to) any agreement, obligation, or understanding that is inconsistent with the *ITEAM* Terms and Conditions or might limit or impair the DOE's rights or the Participant's obligations under the *ITEAM* Prize Rules or Terms and Conditions;

- h) there is no suit, proceeding, or any other claim pending or threatened against the Participant, nor does any circumstance exist, to its knowledge, which may be the basis of any such suit, proceeding, or other claim, that could limit or impair the Participant's performance of its obligations pursuant to the *ITEAM* Prize Rules or Terms and Conditions;
- i) it will not infringe, violate, or interfere with the intellectual property, publicity, privacy, contract or other right of any third party in the course of performance of this agreement or cause the DOE to do any of the same;
- j) it will comply with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations in performing under these Terms and Conditions; and
- k) it otherwise meets the eligibility requirements set forth by the prize competition statutory authority, and provided in Section C.1.

3. VERIFICATION FOR PAYMENTS

DOE will verify the identity and the role of a participant potentially qualified to receive the prizes. Receiving a prize payment is contingent upon fulfilling all requirements contained herein. DOE will notify each winner using provided email contact information after the date that results are announced. Each winner, will be required to sign and return to DOE, within 30 days of the date the notice is sent, a completed Request for ACH Banking Information form, and a completed W9 form (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>). At the sole discretion of DOE, a winning participant will be disqualified from the competition and receive no prize funds if:

- i) the person/entity cannot be contacted;
- ii) the person/entity fails to sign and return the required documentation within the required time period;
- iii) the notification is returned as undeliverable;
- iv) the submission or person/entity is disqualified for any other reason.

4. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

Any and all information provided by or obtained from the Federal Government is without any warranty or representation whatsoever, including but not limited to its suitability for any particular purpose.

5. RECORDS RETENTION AND FOIA

The use of protective markings such as "Do Not Publicly Release – Trade Secret" or "Do Not Publicly Release – Confidential Proprietary Business Information" in the Header or Footer of the Submission is strongly encouraged where appropriate. However, Participants should be aware that the use of protective markings is not dispositive as to whether information will be released publicly pursuant to a request for records under the Freedom of Information Act, (FOIA) 5 U.S.C. §552, *et. seq.*, as amended by the OPEN Government Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-175. Any information received from the Participant is considered to be a federal agency record, and as such, subject to public release under FOIA. Decisions to disclose or withhold information received from a Participant are based on the applicability of one or more of the nine FOIA exemptions, not on the existence or nonexistence of protective markings. Only the agency's designated FOIA Officer may

determine if information sought under a FOIA request will be withheld pursuant to one or more of the nine FOIA exemptions. All FOIA requests received by DOE are processed in accordance with 10 C.F.R. Part 1004.

Participants will be notified of any FOIA requests for their submissions in accordance with 29 C.F.R. § 70.26. Participants may then have the opportunity to review materials and work with a DOE FOIA representative prior to the release of materials.

6. USE OF DATA

All data submitted to under the *ITEAM* Prize Competition via Challenge.gov will be made available to the DOE and parties authorized to act on behalf of the DOE. By accepting these Terms and Conditions, the Participant consents to the use of data submitted to DOE consistent with these rules. All materials submitted to DOE as part of a submission become DOE records and cannot be returned.

7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

DOE *ITEAM* may not gain an interest in the intellectual property submitted to the *ITEAM* Prize without the written consent of the Participant.

8. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES

Nothing contained in these Terms and Conditions is intended to create or constitute a relationship between DOE with the Participants. Participation in the *ITEAM* Prize does not imply any form of sanction, endorsement or support of the Participant by the DOE, nor does it grant either party any authority to act as agent, nor assume or create any obligation, on behalf of the other party. Participant may not use the DOE logo or official seal in their submission.

9. LIABILITY AND INSURANCE

Upon registration at Challenge.gov, all Participants agree to assume and, thereby, have assumed any and all risks of injury or loss in connection with or in way arising from participation in this competition, or development of any submission. Upon registration, except in the case of willful misconduct, all Participants agree to and, thereby waive and release any and all claims or causes of action against the Federal Government and its officers, employees and agents for any and all injury or damage of any nature whatsoever (whether existing or thereafter arising, whether direct, indirect, or consequential and whether foreseeable or not), arising from their participation in the competition, whether the claim or cause of action arises under contract or tort.

Based on the subject matter of the *ITEAM* Prize competition, the type of work that it will require, as well as the unlikelihood of claims for death, bodily injury, property damage, or loss potentially arising from or related to participation in the *ITEAM* Prize competition, no individual or entity participating in the prize competition is required to obtain liability insurance or demonstrate financial responsibility in order to participate in this prize competition.

10. JUDGES

Each submission will be judged by a qualified panel of experts selected by DOE at its sole discretion. Judges may not (A) have personal or financial interests in, or be an employee, officer, director, or agent of any entity that is a registered Participant in a competition; or (B) have a familial or financial relationship with a registered Participant.

The panel will judge the submissions based on the evaluation criteria identified above and determine a final score for each submission. The final determination of winners will take judges scores and program policy factors listed earlier in the prize rules document into account.

11. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

Participation constitutes each Participant's full and unconditional agreement to these Official Rules and Terms and Conditions, which are final and binding in all matters related to the competition. The final scores and final determination of winners, is final and binding on all Participants. The final scores of the Judging Panel and the final determination of winners may not be challenged by the Participants.

12. PUBLICITY

The winners of these prizes may be featured on DOE's Better Buildings Solution Center website, DOE social media sites, newsletters and other similar forms of media. Except where prohibited by law, participation in the competition constitutes each winner's consent to DOE's and its agents' use of each winner's name, likeness, photograph, voice, opinions, and/or hometown and state information, and public description of each winner's submission for promotional purposes through any form of media, worldwide, without further permission, payment or consideration.

13. GENERAL CONDITIONS

DOE reserves the right to cancel, suspend, and/or modify the competition, or any part of it, if any fraud, technical failures, or any other factor beyond DOE's reasonable control impairs the integrity or proper functioning of the competition, as determined by DOE in its sole discretion. DOE is not responsible for, nor is it required to accept, incomplete, late, misdirected, damaged, unlawful, or illicit submissions.

ALL DECISIONS BY DOE ARE FINAL AND BINDING IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE PRIZE COMPETITION.