# American-Made Solar Prize Round 6 Go! Contest Submission

## Project Name

### Innovation tagline (e.g., your mission in a few words)

#### *Keyword tags*

## Team

Names, geographic locations, contact info, and LinkedIn profiles

## Partners and American-Made Network

Key project partners and organizations (if any)

The Connectors that significantly helped you advance your solution and the major items they helped with (if applicable)

## Whether you would like to compete in the JEDI Contest.

Link to your Pitch and Demo Video

## Video Pitch: 6 Minute Pitch and Demo Video (Public)

Post your publicly accessible video online (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo). Be creative and produce a video that conveys the required information in exciting and interesting ways, but do not focus on time-consuming activities that only improve production values (i.e., technical elements such as décor, lighting, and cinematic techniques). Assistance from others with experience in this area may be helpful. Members of the American-Made Network may be able to help you create your video.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pitch and Demo Video (public)**  6-Minute Pitch on Your Innovation, Company, and Prototype Demonstration (public) If you opted in for JEDI Contest consideration, add up to 1 minute to your pitch (7 minutes total). | |
| **Suggested content you provide**   * Describe the real-world problem you are solving. * Describe your solution and why it is transformational compared to existing solutions. * Explain the features of your prototype and how it works. Demonstrate its functionality or testing of its known possible failure modes. * What progress has been made over the competition period? * What is the scale of the opportunity, and what is your target market? * Who are you, and why do you have a competitive edge? * [Optional, for JEDI Contest consideration] Describe the how your organization is integrating JEDI principles into your innovation; mission, policies, and processes; and/or geography. | **A single score is provided, taking the following statements into consideration**   * The video explains a compelling real-world problem and solution. * The video demonstrates a prototype for an exciting innovation. * The prototype has retired significant technical risk. * Progress has been demonstrated during the competition period. * The video identifies a reasonable target market and a path to making a significant impact on the U.S. solar industry. * The video shows a knowledgeable and skillful team. * [Optional, for JEDI Contest consideration, scored separately] The video describes a compelling solution to stated JEDI barrier(s), and the team has made progress toward their JEDI goals. |

## Cover Page

|  |
| --- |
| **Cover page – List basic information about your submission Template[[1]](#footnote-1)** |
| * Project name * Innovation tagline (e.g., your mission in a few words) * Link to your online pitch video * Key project members (names, contacts, and links to their LinkedIn profiles) * Keywords that best describe your solution (e.g., agrivoltaics, microinverters, solar financing) * Your city, state, and nine-digit zip code * The partner(s), affiliate(s), and Connector(s) that significantly helped you advance your solution and the major items they helped with (if applicable) * Whether you would like to compete in the JEDI Contest. |

#### Four Question Written Narrative

Answer each of the following four questions:

1. **Problem & Solution** - What is the problem and how are you solving it?
2. **Innovation** - What progress have you made to prove your solution will be successful?
3. **Team** - What qualities give you a competitive edge, and how have you grown?
4. **Plan** – What is your plan to achieve your goals?

For convenience, these questions are provided in the headings of the tables on pages 4-9 along with suggested content (and corresponding judging statements) to help guide your responses. You decide where to focus your answers.

You should answer each of the following four questions. The content bullets are only suggestions to guide your responses. You decide where to focus your answers. The individual answers to the four questions do not have a word limit; however, **the aggregate response to these four questions must not exceed 2,500 words, or 3,000 words if you opted in for JEDI Contest consideration**, not including captions, figures/graphs, and references. A word count must be included at the end of your submission. You may also include up to **five supporting images, figures, or graphs**. The reviewers will score the questions based on the content you have provided.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question 1: Problem & Solution – What is the problem, and how are you solving it?** | |
| **Suggested content you provide**   * Describe the problem, being specific to the problem space that your innovation addresses, and why existing solutions are inadequate. * Describe your innovation and how it is better than existing products or emerging solutions. Show how you know this using evidence-based validation (e.g., interviews with users and experts). * Describe your innovation’s unique value propositions and how these will lead to a sustainable business with paying customers. * [Optional, for JEDI Contest consideration] Describe your organization’s integration of JEDI principles, unique value proposition(s) to underserved communities, how these propositions will lead to a sustainable business with paying customers, and how you validated your assumptions. | **A single score is provided, taking the following statements into consideration**   * The competitor quantifies a critical problem, and their assessment of current solutions shows a comprehensive understanding of the problem-solution space. * The solution represents an innovative approach built on reasonable assumptions, a valid technical foundation, and lessons learned from experience gained. * The competitor is pursuing an innovative and compelling solution, which will lead to a sustainable business with paying customers. * [Optional, for JEDI Contest consideration, scored separately] The competitor quantifies a critical JEDI problem and plans to develop a compelling solution to expand solar access in underserved communities. |

**Response to Question 1:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question 2: Innovation – What progress have you made to prove your solution will be successful?** | |
| **Suggested content you provide**   * Describe the current state of development of your prototype, its technical specifications, and sufficient underlying details on how it works to facilitate external evaluation of the performance claims you make. For software solutions, provide instructions on how to access and use the software. * Describe the progress made over the contest period and highlight key engagements, relationships, and milestones. * Describe how you have validated your technical performance assumptions. * Describe how you utilized the voucher to get feedback on your prototype, why it is important, and the changes you made as a result of that feedback. * Describe your business model, cost model, and potential price points. * Describe your committed pilot test partner(s), their interest in your solution, their level of commitment, and expected pilot testing outcomes. * [Optional, for JEDI Contest consideration] Describe how your innovation expands solar access in underserved communities and why your business model is sustainable. | **A single score is provided, taking the following statements into consideration**   * Sufficient technical detail was provided to understand the underlying principles of operation of the innovation. * The prototype is grounded in real-world assumptions and resolves critical technical risks. * A considerable amount of high-quality effort was put into building a prototype and advancing the innovation. * The voucher was effectively utilized to uncover key insights and provide relevant feedback on the prototype. * The assumptions around the business model and pricing are reasonable, achievable, and competitive. * The committed pilot test partner has the need for, and capability to, pilot test and potentially utilize this innovation. * [Optional, for JEDI Contest consideration, scored separately] The innovation shows strong potential to expand solar access in underserved communities and support the growth of a sustainable business. |

**Response to Question 2:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question 3: Team – What qualities give you a competitive edge, and how have you grown?** | |
| **Suggested content you provide**   * Introduce your team and highlight the diversity, knowledge, and skills that make the team uniquely capable of achieving success. * Describe how you identified your committed pilot test partner and discuss the rationale behind working with this partner versus others. * Explain why winning the Go! Contest will substantively change the likelihood of your success. * [Optional, for JEDI Contest consideration] Why is your team uniquely capable addressing issues of solar adoption in underserved communities? | **A single score is provided, taking the following statements into consideration**   * The team’s drive, diversity, knowledge, and complementary skill sets provide a strong competitive edge toward realizing this solution in the near future. * The committed pilot test partner is highly relevant to the identified path to market. * Winning the Go! Contest significantly increases the team’s chances of creating a viable business based on this solution. * [Optional, for JEDI Contest consideration, scored separately] The team is uniquely capable of addressing issues of solar adoption in underserved communities. |

**Response to Question 3:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question 4: Plan – What is your plan to achieve your goals?** | |
| **Suggested content you provide**   * Provide the previous contest goals and describe the actual outcomes. Define goals for the next 90, 180, and 365 days (see special instructions below). * Describe the discrete improvements and functionality to the prototype you plan to implement over the next 90 to 180 days. * Describe the details of the pilot test (strategy, timeline, outcomes, critical test, etc.). * Provide a high-level budget plan to meet your goals for the next 180 days, including how you will leverage program resources— specifically the voucher funds, members of the American-Made Network, or other entities. * Describe risks to the development plan and mitigation strategies (e.g., certification timelines or dependance on third parties). * [Optional, for JEDI Contest consideration] Report out on progress with respect to your previously submitted Go! Contest JEDI goals and update your forward-looking JEDI goals for the next 90, 180, and 365 days. | **A single score is provided, taking the following statements into consideration**   * The competitors are successfully meeting prior goals and demonstrating continued critical progress toward testing and validating the functionality and market demand of this innovation. * Stated 90-and 180-day goals are ambitious and risk-reducing, and they show a commitment to an accelerated solution development cycle. * The approach to complete the planned pilot test and advance the innovation forward beyond this contest is well-reasoned and feasible. * The competitors’ approach to complete their proposed plan is well-reasoned and makes good use of the program resources available to them (such as national laboratories and the American-Made Network). * Sufficient risks to the development plan have been identified and reasonable risk mitigation strategies have been described. * [Optional, for JEDI Contest consideration, scored separately] The competitors are successfully meeting prior JEDI goals, and the updated JEDI goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely. |

**Response to Question 4:**

## Supplementary Information

### Four question narrative word count: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ total words

### Technical Assistance Request

Upload the Technical Assistance Request generated from the American-Made Network Matching Tool. In the Matching Tool, you can identify the areas where you need assistance to realize your solution. The tool considers the unique capabilities that national laboratories, private facilities, and/or members of the American-Made Network could provide to help you overcome these barriers. Your request is then made broadly available through the tool, so members of the American-Made Network can understand your needs and assist you, with the potential to earn Network Recognition Awards for that assistance.

### Submission Summary Slide (a PowerPoint slide, will be made public)

Make your own public-facing, one-slide submission summary that contains technically specific details but can be understood by most people. There is no template, so feel free to present the information as you see fit. Please make any text readable in a standard printout and conference room projection.

### Voucher Work Slide (a PowerPoint Slide as a PDF)

Template: <https://www.herox.com/solarprizeR6/resources>

Using the Voucher Work Slide template, describe how you will use your voucher funds, including the entities you plan to engage and what they will do with the voucher funds. Provide one slide per entity— national laboratory and/or private facility—that you plan to engage. Include a maximum of two slides.

### Committed Partnership (mandatory) or Support (optional, as a PDF)

A committed partnership that demonstrates the commercial viability of the innovation is required and must be part of the submission package. A committed partnership could be a signed contract, purchase order, signed letter from a pilot partner with a guaranteed commitment to pilot test without contingencies, or evidence of credible customers in the form of executed customer agreements or payment receipts. The committed partnership must be from an entity that is not represented by a team member on the submission package or anyone that has personal, familial, or social ties to the competitor. Competitors should submit the strongest possible documentation to meet this requirement. DOE and NREL will not provide a preliminary review. A team will not be eligible to win the Go! Contest if this requirement is deemed unfulfilled.

### Demo Day Event

You are required to participate in a demo day event with a panel of reviewers that may involve a pitch, a closed-door question-and-answer session, and/or a technical demonstration. Reviewers review and score your submitted material before the demo day and then, based on your demo day performance and deliberation with the judges, they will finalize their recommendations for winners on the demo day. At least one representative from each team must be present at the demo day for the team to be considered for a Go! Prize.

**Please read and comply with additional requirements about your submission in** [**Appendix 1.**](https://www.herox.com/solarprizeround6/resource/1005)

**COMPETITORS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.**

1. Use of the template is optional; however, all components listed here must be included in your document if you chose to create your own. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)