

American-Made Solar Prize Round 7 Guidelines for Connectors

JUNE 2023

Introduction

The American-Made Solar Prize (Solar Prize) is a prize competition designed to energize U.S. solar innovation through a series of contests and the American-Made Network.

The Solar 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 solutions that will expand solar manufacturing in the United States. 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 solar to other technology domains and sectors. This will simultaneously enable the rapid development of technology while building connections that support commercialization.

Solar Prize Round 7 focuses on both hardware and software components.

Connectors

Connectors are the core component of the American-Made Network and are organizations that seek to support the efforts of competitors in the Solar 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 in the Solar Prize Contests may earn Recognition Rewards. Connectors can be incubators, universities, think tanks, industry groups or any U.S.-based organization that provides support actives such as:

- Attracting a diverse range of talented individuals to compete in the contest
- Helping competitors refine their innovations, develop business plans, work with mentors, and connect with investors and industry partners
- Raising nonfederal 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 prototyping and manufacturing expertise, facilities, and experts.
- Supporting competitors understanding of the needs of underserved communities and how to incorporate inclusive and justice-focused principles into the team.

Connectors who support participants that go on to win the Ready! Contest or compete in the Set! or Go! 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.

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/.

Connector Recognition Reward Opportunities

Recognition Reward Name	Anticipated Number of Rewards	Dollar Amounts	Details*
Mobilize[1]	Up to one per winning Ready! Competitor (20 competitors)	$5,000 per competitor	Distributed to Connectors who recruit and/or support competitors who go on to win the Ready! Contest.
	Up to one per winning Power Up competitor (10 competitors)	$2,000 per competitor	Distributed to Connectors who recruit and/or support competitors who go on to win the Power Up Contest.
Set! Mentor	Up to one per winning Set! Competitor (10 competitors)	$7,500 per competitor	Can be divided among up to three Connectors that are identified as significant supporters by Set! Contest winners.
	Up to one per non-winning Set! Competitor (10 competitors)	$3,000 per competitor	Can be evenly divided among up to three Connectors that are identified as significant supporters by competitors who competed in but did not win the Set! Contest.
Go! Mentor	Up to one per winning Go! competitor (2 competitors)	$10,000 per competitor	Can be divided among up to three Connectors that are identified as significant supporters by Go! Contest winners.
	Up to one per non-winning Go! Competitor (eight competitors)	$4,500 per competitor	Can be evenly divided among up to three Connectors that are identified as significant supporters by competitors who competed in but did not win the Go! Contest.
**Power Connectors and national labs are ineligible to receive Recognition Rewards.*			

Mobilize – Connectors who significantly help a team during the Ready! Contest may receive Mobilize Recognition Rewards if the following conditions are met:

[1] The total pool for Recognition Rewards in the Ready! Contest distributed between both Power Up Contest and Ready! Contest winners is $100,000.

- The Connector must be on the list of approved Connectors on the American-Made Solar Prize website.
- To receive payment, the Connector may be listed in a winning competitor's submission package for the Ready! Contest as a supporting organization or may self-nominate.

It is the expectation of the Prize Administrator that competitors will identify Connectors that have significantly helped them win a contest when they submit their application. 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 receive $5,000 for helping a Ready! competitor win the Ready! Contest or $2,000 for helping a competitor win the Power Up Contest. 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. Even if a team works with multiple Connectors, only one may be identified to receive a Ready! Recognition Reward. Connectors may also self-nominate. After winning the contest, teams will be contacted by the Prize Administrator to confirm the Connectors selected for the Recognition Reward.

If a competitor does not receive significant support from a connector, 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 and/or confirm a self-nominated Connector provided support, no recognition rewards will be disbursed. Power Connectors are ineligible to receive payments, even if a winning team lists them on their submission.

Set! Mentor and Go! Mentor – Connectors who significantly help a team during the Set! or Go! Contest 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 Solar Prize website.
- To receive payment, the Connector may be listed in a competitor's submission package for the Set! or Go! Contests as a supporting organization or may self-nominate.

It is the expectation of the Prize Administrator that competitors will identify Connectors that have significantly helped them compete in a contest when they submit their application. 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 the Set! Contest;
- $3,000 for helping a competitor that competes in but does not win the Set! Contest;
- $10,000 for helping a competitor win the Go! Contest;
- $4,500 for helping a competitor that competes in but does not win the Go! Contest.

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 chooses to do this. Winning teams will indicate to the NREL Prize administrator how the designated funds should be split among up to three Connectors, while up to three Connectors identified by non-winning teams will receive a fixed award amount. There is a minimum payment of $1,500 for a Connector helping a team that wins. Connectors who support a non-winning team will evenly split the prize pools of $3000 and

$4500 per competitor for Set! and Go!, respectively. After winning the contest, teams will be contacted by the Prize Administrator to confirm the selected and/or self-nominated Connectors and desired payment split if multiple Connectors are identified.

If a competitor does not receive significant support from a connector, there is no obligation for a competitor to identify a Connector. A competitor should identify a Connector only if a Connector helped them compete in the contest. If a competitor does not designate a Connector and/or confirm a self-nominated Connector provided support, no recognition rewards will be disbursed. Power Connectors are ineligible to receive payments, even if a winning team lists them on their submission.



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