

Capacity Accelerator for Tribal Offshore Wind Engagement

Official Rules

JANUARY 2025

Preface

The U.S. Department of Energy's Capacity Accelerator for Tribal Offshore Wind Engagement will be governed by 15 U.S.C. §3719 and this Official Rules document. This is not a procurement under the Federal Acquisitions Regulations and will not result in a grant or cooperative agreement under 2 CFR 200. The Prize Administrator reserves the right to modify this Official Rules document if necessary and will publicly post any such notifications as well as notify registered Prize participants.

Date	Modification

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Executive Summary

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Wind Energy Technology Office is launching the Capacity Accelerator for Tribal Offshore Wind Engagement. This prize aims to foster the vital role of Tribes in offshore wind energy decision-making processes and elevate the importance of self-determination by providing direct cash awards and technical insights to Tribes and Tribal collaboratives.

Up to \$7.1 million in cash prizes, supplemented with technical assistance will be provided to winning teams across the three-phase capacity accelerator.

Table ES 1. Summary of Phases

Phase	Number of Winners	Award per Winner	Technical Assistance
Phase 1—Capacity Needs	Up to 20 winners	\$40,000	40 hours
Phase 2—Capacity Development	Tribal Collaborative Pathway: Up to seven winners	\$350,000	150 hours
	Individual Pathway: Up to nine winners	\$200,000	
Phase 3—Engagement	Tribal Collaborative Pathway: Up to six winners	\$175,000	No direct technical assistance
	Individual Pathway: Up to eight winners	\$125,000	

Key (* anticipated) dates include when the:

- **Phase 1 Submission Period Opens:** Jan. 14, 2025
- **Phase 1 Submission Period Closes:** 5 p.m. ET on April 1, 2025
- **Phase 1 Winners Announced:** May 13, 2025*
- **Phase 2 Submission Period Opens:** June 5, 2025*
- **Phase 2 Submission Period Closes:** Aug. 19, 2025*
- **Phase 2 Winners Announced:** Sept. 30, 2025*
- **Phase 3 Submission Period Opens:** March 16, 2027*
- **Phase 3 Submission Period Closes:** April 13, 2027*
- **Phase 3 Winners Announced:** May 25, 2027*

The capacity accelerator is open to federally recognized Tribes as well as Tribal collaboratives.

Awards will be made to both individual Tribal applicants and Tribal collaboratives. This ensures support is available for Tribes who may be isolated in either geography or priorities, while still enabling the broader potential for Tribes and other relevant organizations to work together.

Additional requirements that must be met to compete in the capacity accelerator include:

- Federally recognized Tribes, or "Indian Tribe," is as defined in 25 U.S.C. 5304. The term "Indian Tribe" means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688) [43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.], which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.
- A Tribal collaborative must be led by a federally recognized Tribe, and potential members may include non-federally recognized Tribes, Tribal-supporting organizations, Tribal business entities, nongovernmental organizations, and academic institutions.
- Private entities participating in a Tribal collaborative must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States.
- Other organizations participating in a Tribal collaborative must be based in the United States.
- DOE employees, employees of sponsoring organizations, members of their immediate families (e.g., spouses, children, siblings, or parents), and persons living in the same household as such persons, whether or not related, are not eligible to participate in the prize.
- Individuals who worked at DOE (federal employees or support service contractors) within six months prior to the submission deadline of any contest are not eligible to participate in any prize contests (phases) in this program.
- Federal entities and federal employees are not eligible to participate in any portion of the prize.
- DOE national laboratory employees cannot compete in the prize.
- Entities and individuals publicly banned from doing business with the U.S. government such as entities and individuals debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participating in Federal programs are not eligible to compete.
- Individuals participating in a foreign government talent recruitment program^[1] sponsored by a country of risk^[2] and teams that include such individuals are not eligible to compete.
- Entities owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a government of a country of risk are not eligible to compete.
- To be eligible, an individual authorized to represent the competitor must agree to and sign the following statement upon registration with HeroX:
I am providing this submission package as part of my participation in this prize. I understand that the information contained in this submission will be relied on by the federal government to determine whether to issue a prize to the named competitor. I

¹ Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program is defined as an effort directly or indirectly organized, managed, or funded by a foreign government, or a foreign government instrumentality or entity, to recruit science and technology professionals or students (regardless of citizenship or national origin, or whether having a full-time or part-time position). Some foreign government-sponsored talent recruitment programs operate with the intent to import or otherwise acquire from abroad, sometimes through illicit means, proprietary technology or software, unpublished data and methods, and intellectual property to further the military modernization goals and/or economic goals of a foreign government. Many, but not all, programs aim to incentivize the targeted individual to relocate physically to the foreign state for the above purpose. Some programs allow for or encourage continued employment at United States research facilities or receipt of federal research funds while concurrently working at and/or receiving compensation from a foreign institution, and some direct participants not to disclose their participation to U.S. entities. Compensation could take many forms including cash, research funding, complimentary foreign travel, honorific titles, career advancement opportunities, promised future compensation, or other types of remuneration or consideration, including in-kind compensation.

² DOE has designated the following countries as foreign countries of risk: Iran, North Korea, Russia, and China. This list is subject to change.

certify under penalty of perjury that the named competitor meets the eligibility requirements for this prize competition and complies with all other rules contained in the Official Rules document. I further represent that the information contained in the submission is true and contains no misrepresentations. I understand false statements or misrepresentations to the federal government may result in civil and/or criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and § 287, and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3801-3812.

Any Tribe or Tribal collaborative that meets the general eligibility requirements is eligible to compete in Phase 1. Only winners of Phase 1 are eligible to compete in Phase 2. Only winners of Phase 2 are eligible to compete in Phase 3.

1 Background

1.1 Background

As offshore wind energy advances in the United States, many Tribal Nations have called for additional resources to support Tribal capacity to engage in offshore wind energy decision-making processes. In response, The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) seeks to recognize the vital work that Tribal Nations and Tribal-supporting organizations do to support Tribal participation in offshore wind energy decision-making processes that affect their communities, cultural resources, economic opportunities, and the homelands and ocean spaces that they steward.

The Capacity Accelerator for Tribal Offshore Wind Energy Engagement (the capacity accelerator or the prize) is part of the American-Made program, funded by DOE. This capacity accelerator aims to support the vital role of Tribal Nations and Tribal collaboratives in offshore wind energy decision-making processes. Participation in the capacity accelerator is not an indication of support for offshore wind energy but rather an opportunity to build up resources and capabilities to engage in decision-making processes.

Although offshore wind energy has the potential to fill a critical niche in the pursuit of the future energy grid and in filling growing energy needs, energy deployment is a complex topic that balances competing needs of sustainability, availability, technology, economy, environment, and society. It is important that Tribal perspectives are represented and heard during offshore wind planning efforts. However, the number of processes and projects have strained Tribal resources and there is an urgent need within Tribes to build internal capacity to meaningfully engage in the decision-making process.

In designing the capacity accelerator, Tribes, Tribal-supporting organizations, and organizations working with Tribes on offshore wind energy were consulted to better understand the needs and challenges that they face in participating in the exploration of offshore wind energy. Some of the key areas of capacity building that may be pursued as part of this capacity accelerator include:

- Building capacity and expertise to participate in existing environmental monitoring and research as well as to incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into offshore wind research and deployment processes.
- Developing greater capacity to participate in permitting and National Environmental Policy Act processes for offshore wind energy projects and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau for Ocean Energy Management's offshore wind planning processes for siting and leasing of areas for offshore wind energy.
- Increasing understanding and developing resources to ensure that potential economic benefits of offshore wind energy will flow to Tribal communities, including through Tribal Benefit Agreements.
- Developing Tribal offshore wind energy education and workforce training programs, including setting up or attaining registered apprenticeship standard and expanding apprenticeship readiness training opportunities for Tribal members.

It is recognized that only a sampling of needs and priorities were identified through the initial engagement process associated with the capacity accelerator and that there is a diversity of needs that Tribes may want to address. Therefore, this capacity accelerator is intended to increase internal capacity within Tribes to enhance effective participation in offshore wind energy decision making. The capacity accelerator can be used by Tribal organizations from all geographies where offshore

wind is being considered and can include associated activities and infrastructure development related to offshore wind development, such as but not limited to cable landing, onshore substations, and port development.

The capacity accelerator is designed to build or develop Tribal capacity to engage in offshore wind energy decision making in ways that reflect the needs and priorities of awardees. Increased internal capacity within Tribes can be pursued in a myriad of ways, including but not limited to direct hiring, employing trusted subcontractors, attending conferences, supporting environmental research, developing workforce training, and engaging in offshore wind development processes. It is also designed to facilitate participation in regulatory processes and government-to-government consultation; however, the capacity accelerator is independent from those processes.

The capacity accelerator is not connected to any community or Tribal benefit agreement, though proposed solutions may align with or be similar to those supported by proposed or existing community and Tribal benefits agreements. The capacity accelerator is also independent from all offshore wind energy projects, though the funds distributed can be used to engage on specific projects. Participation in the capacity accelerator does not imply support for Offshore Wind Development, only the intent to build capacity to allow Tribal engagement in the offshore wind development process.

Technical assistance will be made available to ensure qualifying Tribes have access to experts and the best available information to support their work. The technical assistance is designed to be flexible and meet the specific needs of each awardee but will include opportunities for peer-to-peer learning amongst the Tribes and Tribal collective awardees, access to technical and subject-matter experts from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and support in planning and developing submissions.

1.2 Prize Phases

The Capacity Accelerator for Tribal Offshore Wind Engagement contains three phases: Capacity Needs, Capacity Development, and Engagement, respectively (Figure 1).

1.2.1 Phase 1—Capacity Needs

Applicants will submit a short summary of areas of highest-priority need or concern to the Tribe(s) related to offshore wind engagement, current capabilities to implement engagement efforts, identify current or potential partners for the efforts, and expected ways to implement anticipated internal capacity building efforts. On this basis, selected applicants will be awarded funds and offered 40 hours of technical assistance, which the awardee can use to foster more detailed engagement, build or investigate capacity in areas of interest, and develop plans related to the second phase of this effort. Phase 1 winners will also be invited to apply to Phase 2, which will focus on developing and implementing a capacity development plan.

1.2.2 Phase 2—Capacity Development

Applicants will develop a more detailed capacity development and offshore wind engagement plan in alignment with the needs identified in Phase 1. In support of this plan development, applicants will refine possible impact(s) and priority focus areas related to offshore wind development through engagement with Tribal and other community members. They will also further define what types of capacity building will enable Tribe(s) to effectively engage in the consideration of offshore wind energy and develop an integrated plan for expanded efforts in these areas. Activities may also

include but are not limited to conducting assessments to prioritize needs and impact of potential solutions, engaging within Tribal communities, and developing partnerships. On the basis of the capacity development and offshore wind engagement plan, Phase 2 winners will be awarded funds and offered 150 hours of technical assistance to implement further capacity building and continue direct engagement with offshore wind.

1.2.3 Phase 3—Engagement

Applicants will implement their capacity development and engagement plan, building capacity to engage in proposed or future offshore wind development. Activities during this phase may include but are not limited to:

- Participation in environmental monitoring and research efforts, including the incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge into offshore wind research and deployment processes.
- Participation in permitting and the National Environmental Protection Act processes for offshore wind energy projects and the Bureau for Ocean Energy Management’s offshore wind planning processes for siting and leasing of areas for offshore wind energy
- Efforts to ensure that potential economic benefits of offshore wind energy will flow to Tribal communities.
- Offshore wind energy education and workforce training focusing on relevant topics, such as environmental monitoring and permitting.

Phase 3 awardees will update their long-term offshore wind engagement strategy. Technical assistance will be offered along with opportunities to connect and learn from other awardees. A final award will be made based on the success of capacity development, their engagement strategy, and results of initial engagement efforts.

It is expected that, over time and throughout the three phases, capacity building needs, plans, and engagement will evolve and be refined as they are implemented.

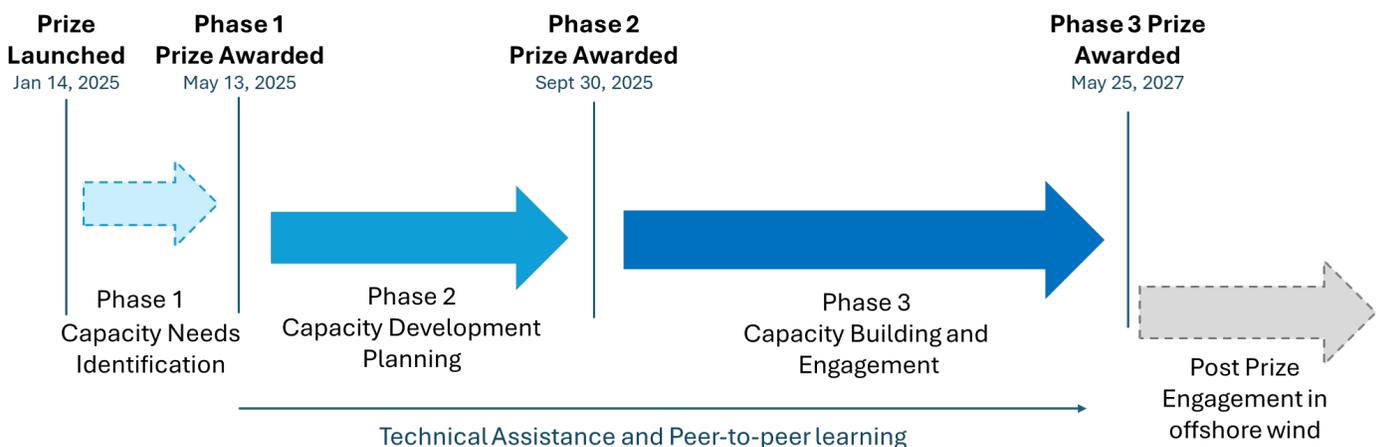


Figure 1. The capacity accelerator follows a timeline of three phases with winners from each one invited to join the subsequent.

1.3 Prize Program Goal Requirements

The capacity accelerator is designed to support Tribal sovereignty and self-determination and, therefore, is structured to be flexible and broad in its goal requirements to allow for Tribes to address the specific needs of their communities and realize their vision for their future. However, only submissions relevant to the goals of this program are eligible to compete. The Prize Administrator must conclude that all the following statements are true when applied to your submission:

- The proposed solution addresses key capacity needs/gaps in Tribes engaging or seeking to engage in offshore wind energy decision-making processes.
- The majority of activities that are described in and support the submission package are performed on Tribal Lands, or other parts of the United States.
- The proposed solution is not dependent on new, pending, or proposed federal, state, or local government legislation, resolutions, appropriations, measures, or policies.
- The proposed solution does not involve the lobbying of any federal, state, or local government office.
- The proposed solution does not include the support of lawsuits, though it may provide for other forms of legal counsel.
- The information provided in the proposal narrative and technical assistance request described below will not be made public but should not contain proprietary or sensitive information. Outside of the proposal narrative there are no additional deliverables, reports, or requirements to share information or data associated with the capacity accelerator.

1.4 Find Help

The capacity accelerator is part of a network that cultivates resources and builds connections that enhance, accelerate, and amplify competitors' efforts. The objective is to link participants with the people, resources, perspectives, and expertise necessary for long-term success.

The network is comprised of the following elements:

- **Prize Administrator.** As the Prize Administrator, NREL will host an informational webinar at each phase of the capacity accelerator, monitor and engage on the HeroX forum page, and be available to participants via email at OSWTribalCapacity@nrel.gov. NREL will also work with participants to provide technical assistance and opportunities for networking and learning amongst the participants.
- **HeroX.** This forum provides resources and updates related to the capacity accelerator as well as being a space where parties interested in collaboration can post information about themselves and learn about others who are interested in partnering.

1.5 Additional Requirements

Please read and comply with additional requirements in Appendix A.

COMPETITORS WHO DO NOT COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.

2 Phase One—Capacity Needs

2.1 Goal

The goal of Phase 1 of the capacity accelerator is for applicants to identify areas of highest priority offshore wind engagement need or concern to the Tribe(s), outline expected ways to implement anticipated internal capacity building to effectively engage around *these impacts* and assess current capabilities to implement engagement efforts.

2.2 Prizes

In Phase 1, up to 20 winners will receive \$40,000 each on the basis of their capacity concept. Up to 40 hours of technical assistance will also be provided to each winner. The award and technical assistance can be used to develop a detailed capacity development and offshore wind engagement plan.

2.3 How To Enter

Go to [HeroX](#) and follow the instructions for registering and submitting all required materials before the deadline. Participants also have the ability to form teams or find partners through the HeroX platform.

2.4 Important Dates

Refer to the timeline on HeroX for relevant dates and deadlines.

2.5 Process Overview

Phase 1 consists of the following steps:

1. **Submission.** Participants take action to summarize areas of potential impact from offshore wind development, likely capacity building needs to effectively engage around these impacts and their team’s ability to engage in developing a capacity building and engagement plan. Competitors complete their submission packages and submit online before the Phase closes.
2. **Assessment.** The Prize Administrator screens submissions for eligibility and completion and assigns subject-matter expert reviewers to independently score the content of each submission. The reviewer criteria assess the following competitor activities:
 - a) **Capacity and Engagement.** Identify credible capacity development needs to address defined real-world priorities of the Tribe(s) in considering offshore wind development.
 - b) **Team Capabilities.** Form a committed team, including the identification of relevant partners, that can lead or support near-term offshore wind capacity building and engagement.
3. **Announcement.** After the winners are publicly announced, the Prize Administrator notifies them and requests the necessary information to distribute cash awards. After winning Phase 1, participants may develop their solutions in accordance with their plan to compete in Phase 2.

2.6 What To Submit

A complete submission package for Phase 1 should include the following items:

- Cover page and proposal narrative
- Technical assistance request.

The following details provide more guidance on what information to provide and how reviewers evaluate and score your submission on a scale of 0–6 (Table 1). Reviewers will evaluate your submissions by assigning a single score for each scored submission section, based on their overall agreement or disagreement with a series of statements.

Table 1. Possible Scores

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Nonresponsive	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree

2.6.1 Cover Page Content

List basic information about your submission, including:

- Project title
- Team name
- Short description
- Key project members (names, contacts, and links to their professional online profiles)
- Other partners (if any)
- Your city, state, and nine-digit zip code.

2.6.2 Proposal Narrative

You should answer each of the following three questions. The content bullets are only suggestions to guide your responses. You decide where to focus your answers. The individual answers to the three questions do not have a word limit; however, **the aggregate response to these three questions should not exceed 1,500 words**, not including captions, figures/graphs, or references. A word count must be included at the end of your submission (see Table 2).

Table 2. Phase 1 Proposal Narrative

Use a maximum of 1,500 words and five supporting images or figures (PDF).	
Question 1. Likely Impacts	
How do you anticipate your Tribe being impacted by offshore wind development?	
<p>Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:</p> <p>Describe the potential impacts that the Tribe is considering in relation to the potential or current development of offshore wind energy in their area.</p>	<p>Suggested content the competitor can provide includes:</p> <p>Describe the potential impacts that the Tribe is considering in relation to the potential or current development of offshore wind energy in their area.</p>

<p>Question 2: What Are the Capacity-Building Needs?</p> <p>In what areas would your team like to build capacity to allow better engagement in local offshore wind energy development?</p>	
<p>Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate what areas the applicant would like to build capacity to allow better engagement in offshore wind energy development. • Describe the challenges your team faces when trying to build capacity or proactively engage around offshore wind development. 	<p>A single score on a scale of 0–6 is provided for each of the following statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant identifies capacity building that aligns with the impacts identified in question 1. • The applicant’s identification of capacity building aligns with likely engagement needs for offshore wind development. • DOE funding and technical assistance would significantly improve the ability of the team to proactively engage around offshore wind development.
<p>Question 3: Team</p> <p>What staff or partners are available to support implementation of future project phases?</p>	
<p>Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe your team, the organizations that comprise your team, and the backgrounds and expertise of your team members. • Identify partner organizations that you plan to engage with as part of your efforts. 	<p>A single score on a scale of 0–6 is provided for each of the following statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team has the relevant skills and expertise to manage and engage in the capacity building process. • The team contains sufficient administration, communications, outreach, and project development experience.

Table 3. Phase 1 Reviewer Recommendations

<p>Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no direct corresponding submission requirement for this score. Rather, it is an overall assessment of all materials submitted in HeroX. 	<p>A single score of either 0 or 6 on a scale of 0–6 is provided, taking the following statement into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts, team, need, and overall motivation of the Tribe should be strongly considered for a Phase 2 award.
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2.6.3 Technical Assistance Request

The Prize Administrator will connect teams with direct technical assistance and will also provide general resources, assistance, and networking and learning opportunities for all awardees. Following a review of the Capacity Accelerator for Tribal Offshore Wind Energy Engagement technical assistance voucher capabilities profile, applicants should complete and provide the Prize

Administrator with a voucher request form on which they identify the areas where they need assistance. Requests will be reviewed and matched with technical experts.

2.7 How We Determine and Award Winners

The Prize Administrator screens all completed submissions and ensures that the teams are eligible. Then the Prize Administrator, in consultation with DOE, assigns subject-matter-expert reviewers who independently score the content of each submission. The reviewers will be composed of federal and nonfederal subject-matter experts and representatives from American Indian, Native Alaskan or Native Hawaiian partners with expertise in areas relevant to the competition. They will review the competitor's submission package according to the criteria above.

2.7.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring

The scoring of submissions will proceed as follows:

1. Experts will review each submission individually and assess the response from the applicant to each statement in the three criteria described in Table 2 and Table 3.
2. Reviewers will score each section 0–6, depending on the degree to which the reviewer agrees that the submission reflects the statements for consideration.
3. Each section score will be added together to generate a total score for the submission.
4. The total scores from each reviewer will be averaged to produce a final score for the competing team/organization. This score will inform the judge's decisions on awards.

2.7.2 Final Determination

DOE will designate a federal employee as the judge before the final determination of the winners. Final determination of the winners by the judge will take into account the reviewers' feedback and scores and application of program policy factors.

2.7.3 Announcement

Approximately 60 days after the contest closes, the Prize Administrator will notify the winners and request the necessary information to distribute the awards. The Prize Administrator will then publicly announce the winners.

2.8 Additional Terms and Conditions

See Appendix A for additional requirements.

COMPETITORS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN Appendix A MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.

3 Phase Two—Capacity Development

3.1 Goal

In Phase 2 teams will work to develop a more detailed capacity development and offshore wind engagement plan aligned with the needs identified in Phase 1. This will include refining the needs assessment related to offshore wind development through engagement with Tribal and other community members, further defining what types of capacity building will be required to enable Tribe(s) to effectively engage in the consideration of offshore wind energy and development of an

integrated plan for expanded efforts in these areas. Applicants are encouraged to consider the capacity for proposed development in this Phase. This can be done by Tribal members or with the help of outside organizations and can include public or focused meetings with key voices across the community. Applicants will need to identify if they plan to apply as a single Tribe or through a consortium of Tribes or other aligned groups addressing similar impacts or projects.

3.2 Prizes

This phase will award up to 16 winners along two pathways. Nominally, seven will receive \$350,000 each for Tribal collaborative, and up to nine winners will receive \$220,000 each in the individual Tribe capacity development pathway. Up to 150 hours of technical assistance will be provided to each winner.

3.3 How To Enter

Go to [HeroX](#) and follow the instructions for registering and submitting all required materials before the deadline. Applicants also have the ability to form teams or find partners through the HeroX platform.

3.4 Important Dates

Refer to the timeline on HeroX for relevant dates and deadlines.

3.5 Process Overview

Phase 2 consists of the following steps:

1. **Progress and submission.** Participants take action to develop a detailed capacity development and offshore wind engagement plan. The plan will be built from an updated statement of the proposed area of focus and then describe what capacity building is required to better engage with offshore wind development around the areas of focus, tailored to capacity building relating to either a single or multiple Tribes. This will include updating the introductory needs assessment and identifying important voices and participants that will be engaged in potential future prize phases. Applicants must choose an individual Tribe or Tribal collaborative pathway, complete their submission packages and submit online before the Phase closes.
2. **Assessment.** The Prize Administrator screens submissions for eligibility and completion and assigns subject-matter expert reviewers to independently score the content of each submission. The reviewer criteria assess the following competitor activities:
 - a) **Capacity and engagement.** Identify credible capacity development needs to address defined priorities of the Tribe(s) in considering offshore wind development. Perform sufficient due diligence on proposed development needs and validate what capacity building will allow the Tribe(s) sufficient knowledge or information to engage constructively to address the identified impacts relating to offshore wind development. These capacity needs have been developed into a development plan that can be implemented by the Tribe(s). Applicant will have completed enough direct engagement to support the development of an offshore wind engagement plan.
 - b) **Team capabilities.** Team has demonstrated competency in Tribal community engagement relating to offshore wind, including the identification of partners who can support capacity building and engagement if needed.

- c) **Network engagement.** Cultivate relationships with other Tribal organizations engaging in offshore wind development, public or private organizations working in offshore wind development and/or other entities to maximize the likelihood of identifying Tribal information and capacity building needs relating to offshore wind development.
3. **Announcement.** After the winners are publicly announced, the Prize Administrator notifies them and requests the necessary information to distribute cash awards. After winning Phase 2, competitors develop their solutions in accordance with their plan to compete in Phase 3.

3.6 What To Submit

A complete submission package for Phase 2 should include the following items:

- Cover page and proposal narrative
- Summary PowerPoint slide (update)
- Technical assistance request
- Letters of commitment or support.

The following details provide more guidance on what information to provide and how reviewers evaluate and score submission. Reviewers will evaluate submissions by assigning a single score on a scale of 0–6 (Table 1) for each scored submission section, based on their overall agreement or disagreement with a series of statements.

3.6.1 Cover Page Content

List basic information about your submission, including:

- Project title
- Team name
- Short description
- Key project members (names, contacts, and links to their professional online profiles)
- Other partners (if any)
- Your city, state, and nine-digit zip code.

3.6.2 Proposal Narrative

Competitors should answer each of the four questions in Table 4. The content bullets are only suggestions to guide responses. Competitors decide where to focus their answers. The individual answers to the four questions do not have a word limit; however, **the aggregate response to these four questions should not exceed 2,500 words**, excluding captions, figures/graphs, or references. A word count must be included at the end of the submission (see Table 4). The narrative can also include **up to five supporting images, figures, or graphs**. The reviewers will score the questions based on the content provided.

Table 4. Phase 2 Proposal Narrative

Use a maximum of 2,500 words and five supporting images or figures (PDF)
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Question 1: Impacts

How do you anticipate your Tribe being impacted by offshore wind development?

Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:

- Describe the impacts that the Tribe is considering in current or future development of offshore wind energy in their area.
- Identify the areas of focus that will be the basis of capacity building efforts.

A single score on a scale of 0–6 is provided for each of the following statements:

- The applicant identifies potential impacts of offshore wind development that can be considered through targeted capacity development.
- The applicant’s assessment of the impacts shows an understanding of the offshore wind development space.

Question 2: Community Engagement

How did you arrive at the impacts that have been identified by the Tribe(s) as being important for further consideration?

Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:

- Describe the engagement efforts that were undertaken to identify the impacts and focus areas that will be the focus of capacity building.
- Describe the engagement efforts undertaken relating to offshore wind development.

A single score on a scale of 0–6 is provided for each of the following statements:

- The applicant ensured that a diverse set of community voices were included in their needs assessment.
- The applicant has undertaken sufficient engagement in relation to offshore wind development to understand the engagement process.

Question 3: Capacity Development and Engagement Plan

How do you plan to build capacity within the Tribe(s) to address the offshore wind focus areas that have been identified by the Tribe(s)?

Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:

- Describe your proposed capacity development plan, including what skills and/or resources will be developed or further considered.
- Describe your proposed offshore engagement plan, including but not limited to the approaches that will be used to engage around identified focus areas.

A single score on a scale of 0–6 is provided for each of the following statements:

- Understanding that it will change as an organic part of further engagement, does the capacity development plan offered by the applicant align with the focus areas identified through community engagement.
- The type and depth of the capacity development proposed is reasonable and aligns with funding.
- The initial engagement plan shows an understanding of current offshore wind development pathways.

Question 4: Team

What staff or partners are available to support implementation of future project phases?

Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:

- Introduce changes to your team as compared to previous phases, explain how these changes will impact the project through thought diversity and experience.
- Describe the methodology of how the team will approach the implementation of the capacity development plan, understanding that all community development work needs to be responsive to changing needs, understanding and priorities.
- Highlight your team’s thought diversity, experience, and its track record that makes it likely to be successful.
- Describe the organizations that will support the capacity development called for within the capacity development plan.

A single score on a scale of 0–6 is provided for each of the following statements:

- The team has the relevant skills and expertise to solve the proposed problem(s).
- This team is diverse in their expertise and has the knowledge, experience, and determination to effectively engage in expanding the Tribes capacity and engagement in offshore wind development.
- The team has changed in appropriate ways to transition from planning to implementing capacity development and engagement.
- The team has access to relevant resources that can be used or leveraged to implement their capacity acceleration plan.
- The team contains sufficient administration, communications, outreach, and project development experience.

Table 5. Phase 2 Reviewer Recommendations

Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:

- There is no direct or corresponding submission requirement for this score. Rather, it is an overall assessment of all materials submitted in HeroX.

A single score on a scale of 0–6 is provided for each of the following statement:

- The impacts, team, need, and overall motivation of the Tribe should be strongly considered for a Phase 2 award.

3.6.3 Technical Assistance Request

The Prize Administrator will connect teams with direct technical assistance and will also provide general resources, assistance, and networking and learning opportunities for all awardees. Following a review of the Capacity Accelerator for Tribal Offshore Wind Energy Engagement technical assistance voucher capabilities profile, applicants should complete and provide the Prize Administrator with a voucher request form where they can identify the areas where they need assistance. Requests will be reviewed and matched to technical experts.

3.6.4 Letters of Support or Commitment

Attach one-page letters (of support, intent, or commitment) from other relevant entities to provide context. A letter of commitment from the appropriate Tribal government(s) or leadership organization must be provided, others may be provided as desired by the applicant. Letters of support from partners or others that are critical to the success of your proposed solution will likely increase your score. General letters of support from parties that are not critical to the execution of your solution will likely not factor in your score but does help demonstrate the importance of the proposed work. Please do not submit multipage letters.

3.7 How We Determine and Award Winners

The Prize Administrator screens all completed submissions and ensures that the teams are eligible. Then the Prize Administrator, in consultation with DOE, assigns subject-matter-expert reviewers who independently score the content of each submission. The reviewers will be composed of federal and nonfederal subject-matter experts and representatives from American Indian, Native Alaskan or Native Hawaiian partners with expertise in areas relevant to the competition. They will review the competitor's submission package according to the criteria above.

3.7.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring

The scoring of submissions will proceed as follows:

- Experts will review each submission individually and assess the response from the competitor to each statement in the four criteria described in Table 4 and Table 5.
- Reviewers will score each section 0–6, depending on the degree to which the reviewer agrees that the submission reflects the statements for consideration.
- Each section score will be added together to generate a total score for the submission.
- The total scores from each reviewer will be averaged to produce a final score for the competing team/organization. This score will inform the judge's decisions on prize awards.

3.7.2 Interviews

DOE may decide to interview a subset of competitors. The interviews would be held prior to the announcement of the winners and would serve to help clarify questions the reviewers may have. Participating in interviews is not required, and interviews are not an indication of a competitor's likelihood to win.

3.7.3 Final Determination

DOE will designate a federal employee as the judge before the final determination of the winners. Final determination of the winners by the judge will take into account the reviewers' feedback and scores, application of program policy factors, and the interview findings (if applicable).

3.7.4 Announcement

Approximately 60 days after the contest closes, the Prize Administrator will notify the winners and request the necessary information to distribute the awards. The Prize Administrator will then publicly announce the winners.

3.8 Additional Terms and Conditions

See Appendix A for additional requirements.

COMPETITORS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN Appendix A MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.

4 Phase Three—Engagement

4.1 Goal

In Phase 3, awardees will implement their capacity development and engagement plan, building capacity to engage in proposed or future offshore wind development. Activities during this phase may include but are not limited to participation in environmental monitoring and research efforts, engagement in permitting and the National Environmental Protection Act processes, or efforts to ensure that potential economic or workforce benefits flow to Tribal communities. Awardees will also update and implement their long-term offshore wind engagement strategy.

4.2 Prizes

Phase 3 will award up to 14 winners along two pathways. Nominally, six winners will receive \$175,000 each for Tribal collaboratives, and up to eight winners will receive \$100,000 each on the individual Tribe capacity development pathway. Up to 150 hours of technical assistance will be provided to each winner.

4.3 How To Enter

Go to [HeroX](#) and follow the instructions for registering and submitting all required materials before the deadline. Competitors also have the ability to form teams or find partners through the HeroX platform.

4.4 Important Dates

Refer to the timeline on HeroX for relevant dates and deadlines.

4.5 Plan Phase Process

Phase 3 consists of the following steps:

1. **Progress and submission.** Participants take action to implement their capacity development plan focusing on an individual or multiple Tribes based on an individual or Tribal collaborative pathway implemented in Phase 2. It is generally accepted that the capacity development needs identified in Phase 2 may change during implementation. Participants will also finalize and initiate their offshore wind engagement plan, collaborating with other partners and Tribes as appropriate. Applicants will also complete their submission packages and submit them online before the phase closes.
2. **Assessment.** The Prize Administrator screens submissions for eligibility and completion and assigns subject-matter-expert reviewers to independently score the content of each submission. The reviewer criteria assess the following competitor activities:
 - a) **Capacity.** Identify credible capacity development needs to address defined real-world problems faced by Tribe(s) in considering offshore wind development. Perform

sufficient due diligence on proposed development needs and validate what capacity addition will allow Tribe(s) sufficient knowledge, tools, and information to engage constructively on the Tribes behalf to address the identified questions relating to local offshore wind development.

- b) **Engagement.** Refine and implement an offshore wind engagement plan.
 - c) **Team capabilities.** Team has demonstrated competency in Tribal community engagement relating to offshore wind, including the identification of partners who can support capacity building and external engagement if needed. The team has demonstrated the ability to support capacity development and engage effectively in offshore wind development external to the Tribe(s).
 - d) **Network engagement.** Cultivate relationships with other Tribal, other public, or private organizations engaging in offshore wind development to support Tribal capacity building and the development of external engagement plans.
3. **Announcement.** After the winners are publicly announced, the Prize Administrator notifies them and requests the necessary information to distribute cash awards.

4.6 What To Submit

A complete submission package for Phase 3 should include the following items:

- Cover page and proposal narrative
- Summary PowerPoint slide
- Technical assistance request
- Letters of commitment or support (optional).

The following details provide more guidance on what information to provide and how reviewers evaluate and score each submission on a scale of 0–6 (See Table 1). Reviewers will evaluate submissions by assigning a single score for each scored submission section, based on their overall agreement or disagreement with a series of statements.

4.6.1 Cover Page Content

List basic information about your submission, including:

- Project title
- Team name
- Short description
- Key project members (names, contacts, and links to their professional online profiles)
- Other partners (if any)
- Your city, state, and nine-digit zip code.

4.6.2 Proposal Narrative

Competitors should answer each of the four questions in Table 6. 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 should not exceed 2,500 words**, not including captions, figures/graphs, or references. A word count must be included at the end of your submission (see Table 6). 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.

Table 6. Phase 3 Proposal Narrative

Use a maximum of 2,500 words and five supporting images or figures (PDF).	
Question 1: Impacts	
Have the areas of focus for the Tribe(s) changed as part of Phase 2 efforts?	
<p>Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the offshore wind development impacts that the Tribe expects to focus on during the next phase of work. Describe how the areas of focus have changed over the course of the project. 	<p>A single score on a scale of 0–6 is provided for each of the following statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant identifies impacts that can be considered through capacity development. The applicant articulates and appears open to the evolution of community thinking related to offshore wind development.
Question 2: Capacity Development	
How does the capacity development implemented address or assess the impact(s) that have been identified?	
<p>Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how the capacity development completed to date will help address the focus areas identified by the Tribe(s). How has the capacity development plan changed based on ongoing engagement with Tribal members. Outline the potential challenges you perceive in addressing the impact(s) identified in Question 1 and how they will be addressed. 	<p>A single score on a scale of 0–6 is provided for each of the following statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The capacity building completed by the Tribe is likely applicable to the impacts to be addressed. The approach described by the applicant is likely to be successful knowing that capacity development approaches will evolve. The applicant has identified likely challenges to addressing the desired impact(s) and proposed solutions to these challenges.
Question 3: Engagement Plan	
What staff or partners are available to support implementation of future project phases?	
<p>Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how the capacity development completed to date will help address the identified focus areas. Identify the Tribal and parties of importance who you feel are the most 	<p>A single score on a scale of 0–6 is provided for each of the following statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of a defined engagement strategy, the applicant has identified a core set of parties for engagement as a means to address identified focus areas. The approach described by the engagement strategy is based on capacity

<p>crucial to engage with around offshore wind development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline the potential challenges you perceive in engaging with these parties. • Articulate an engagement strategy to address identified focus areas. • Describe how to ensure that the engagement efforts are able to evolve throughout the capacity building and engagement process. 	<p>building efforts and previous engagement experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant has identified likely challenges in engaging with the parties of importance and proposed potential solutions to these challenges. • The capacity building identified in the capacity development plan aligns with the identified engagement efforts.
<p>Question 4: Team</p> <p>What staff or partners are available to support implementation of future project phases?</p>	
<p>Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce any changes to your team as compared to previous phases, explain how these changes will impact this project through thought diversity and experience. • Describe the methodology of how the team will approach implementing the engagement plan understanding that all engagement efforts need to be responsive to changing needs, understanding and priorities. • Identify any organizations that will support engagement efforts. 	<p>A single score on a scale of 0–6 is provided for each of the following statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team has the relevant skills and expertise to solve the proposed problem(s). • The team has changed in appropriate ways to transition from capacity building to engagement around the focus areas identified by the applicant. • The team has access to relevant resources that can be used or leveraged to address the focus area being considered. • The team contains sufficient administration, communications, outreach, and project development experience.

Table 7. Phase 3 Reviewer Recommendations

<p>Suggested content the competitor can provide includes that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no direct or corresponding submission requirement for this score. Rather, it is an overall assessment of all materials submitted in HeroX. 	<p>A single score on a scale of 0–6 is provided for each of the following statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts, team, need, and overall motivation of the Tribe should be strongly considered for a Phase 3 prize.
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4.6.3 Technical Assistance Request

No direct project specific technical assistance will be provided in Phase 3. DOE will continue to provide general resources, assistance, and networking and learning opportunities for all awardees.

4.6.4 Letters of Support or Commitment

Attach one-page letters (of support, intent, or commitment) from other relevant entities to provide context. An updated letter of commitment from the appropriate Tribal government(s) or leadership organization must be provided, others may be provided as desired by the applicant. Letters of support from partners or others that are critical to the success of your proposed solution will likely increase your score. General letters of support from parties that are not critical to the execution of your solution will likely not factor in the score but does help demonstrate the importance of the proposed work. Please do not submit multipage letters.

4.7 How We Determine and Award Winners

The Prize Administrator screens all completed submissions and ensures that the teams are eligible. Then the Prize Administrator, in consultation with DOE, assigns subject-matter-expert reviewers who independently score the content of each submission. The reviewers will be composed of federal and nonfederal subject-matter experts and representatives from American Indian, Native Alaskan or Native Hawaiian partners with expertise in areas relevant to the competition. They will review the competitor's submission package according to the criteria above.

4.7.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring

The scoring of submissions will proceed as follows:

- Experts will review each submission individually and assess the response from the competitor to each statement in the four criteria described in Table 6 and Table 7.
- Reviewers will score each section 0–6, depending on the degree to which the reviewer agrees that the submission reflects the statements for consideration.
- Each section score will be added together to generate a total score for the submission.
- The total scores from each reviewer will be averaged to produce a final score for the competing team/organization. This score will inform the judge's decisions on prize awards.

4.7.2 Interviews

DOE may decide to interview a subset of competitors. The interviews would be held prior to the announcement of the winners and would serve to help clarify questions the reviewers may have. Participating in interviews is not required, and interviews are not an indication of a competitor's likelihood to win.

4.7.3 Final Determination

DOE will designate a federal employee as the judge before the final determination of the winners. Final determination of the winners by the judge will take into account the reviewers' feedback and scores, application of program policy factors, and the interview findings (if applicable).

4.7.4 Announcement

Approximately 60 days after the contest closes, the Prize Administrator will notify the winners and request the necessary information to distribute the awards. The Prize Administrator will then publicly announce the winners.

4.8 Additional Terms and Conditions

See Appendix A for additional requirements.

**COMPETITORS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN
Appendix A MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.**

Appendix A Additional Terms and Conditions

Requirements

Your submission for the Capacity Accelerator for Tribal Offshore Wind Engagement (the capacity accelerator or the prize) is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- You must post the final content of your submission or upload the submission form online by 5 p.m. ET on the deadline date, before the capacity accelerator's phase submission period closes. Late submissions or any other form of submission may be rejected.
- You must include all the required elements in your submission. The Prize Administrator may disqualify your submission after an initial screening if you fail to provide all required submission elements. Competitors may be given an opportunity to rectify submission errors due to technical challenges.
- Your submission must be in English and in a format readable by Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF. Scanned hand-written submissions will be disqualified.
- Submissions will be disqualified if they contain any matter that, in the sole discretion of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) or the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), is indecent, obscene, defamatory, libelous, and/or lacking in professionalism, or demonstrates a lack of respect for people or life on this planet.
- If you click "Accept" on the HeroX platform and proceed to register for any of the prizes described in this document, these rules will form a valid and binding agreement between you and DOE and are in addition to the existing HeroX Terms of Use for all purposes relating to these contests. You should print and keep a copy of these rules. These provisions only apply to the capacity accelerator described here and no other prize on the HeroX platform or anywhere else.
- The Prize Administrator, when feasible, may give competitors an opportunity to fix non-substantive mistakes or errors in their submission packages.
- As part of your submission to this capacity accelerator, you will be required to sign the following statement:

I am providing this submission package as part of my participation in this prize. I understand that the information contained in this submission will be relied on by the federal government to determine whether to issue a prize to the named competitor. I certify under penalty of perjury that the named competitor meets the eligibility requirements for this prize competition and complies with all other rules contained in the Official Rules document. I further represent that the information contained in the submission is true and contains no misrepresentations. I understand false statements or misrepresentations to the federal government may result in civil and/or criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and § 287, and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3801-3812.

Verification for Payments

The Prize Administrator will verify the identity and role of all competitors before distributing any prizes. Receiving a prize payment is contingent upon fulfilling all requirements contained herein. The Prize Administrator will notify winning competitors using provided email contact information for the individual or entity that was responsible for the submission. Each competitor will be required to sign

and return to the Prize Administrator, within 30 days of the date on the notice, a completed NREL Request for ACH Banking Information form and a completed W9 form (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>). In the sole discretion of the Prize Administrator, a winning competitor will be disqualified from the competition and receive no prize funds if: (i) the person/entity does not respond to notifications; (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.

In the event of a dispute as to any registration, the authorized account holder of the email address used to register will be deemed to be the competitor. The "authorized account holder" is the natural person or legal entity assigned an email address by an Internet access provider, online service provider, or other organization responsible for assigning email addresses for the domain associated with the submitted address. All competitors may be required to show proof of being the authorized account holder.

Teams and Single-Entity Awards

The Prize Administrator will award a single dollar amount to the designated primary submitter, whether consisting of a single or multiple entities. The primary submitter is solely responsible for allocating any prize funds among its member competitors or teammates as they deem appropriate. The Prize Administrator will not arbitrate, intervene, advise on, or resolve any matters or disputes between team members or competitors.

Treatment of Submission Materials

The elements of the submission that are designated public will become publicly available as part of this capacity accelerator. Therefore, these elements must not include trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information.

If it is necessary to share trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information, it should only be done in an element that is *not* designated as public. Any confidential, proprietary, or privileged information must be marked as described below. Failure to comply with these marking requirements may result in the disclosure of the unmarked information under the Freedom of Information Act or otherwise.

The submission must be marked as follows and identify the specific pages containing trade secrets, confidential, proprietary, or privileged information: "Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data: Pages [list applicable pages] of this document may contain trade secrets, confidential, proprietary, or privileged information that is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes. [End of Notice]"

The header and footer of every page that contains confidential, proprietary, or privileged information must be marked as follows: "Contains Trade Secrets, Confidential, Proprietary, or Privileged Information Exempt from Public Disclosure." In addition, each line or paragraph containing proprietary, privileged, or trade secret information must be clearly marked with double brackets.

DOE, the Prize Administrator, and any other third-party supporting DOE in the contest assume no liability for the public disclosure of any information in the elements designated public and for any unmarked information any element *not* designated as public.

Furthermore, by making a submission and consenting to the rules of the capacity accelerator the competitor is granting to DOE, the Prize Administrator, and any other third parties supporting DOE in

the contest, a license to display publicly and use the elements of the submission that are designated as public and any unmarked information in the elements of the submission that are *not* designated as public for government purposes, including posting or linking elements on websites or publicizing the submissions and competitors in the media and other announcements. The competitor is granting to DOE, the Prize Administrator, and other third parties a limited license to use or disclose any properly marked information for evaluation purposes only.

Representation and Warranties

By entering, the competitor represents and warrants that:

- The competitor's entire submission is an original work by the competitor and the competitor has not included third-party content (such as writing, text, graphics, artwork, logos, photographs, likeness of any third party, musical recordings, clips of videos, television programs or motion pictures) in or in connection with the submission, unless (i) otherwise requested by the Prize Administrator or disclosed by the competitor in the submission, and (ii) the competitor acquired the necessary rights to use and to authorize others, including DOE, to use the submission, as specified throughout the rules.
- To the best of the competitor's knowledge, the use of the submission in the prize, including any use by DOE or the Prize Administrator does not and will not infringe or violate any rights of any third party or entity, including, without limitation, patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret, defamation, privacy, publicity, false light, misappropriation, intentional or negligent infliction of emotional distress, confidentiality, or any contractual or other rights.
- All persons who were engaged by the competitor to work on the submission or who appear in the submission in any manner have:
- Given the competitor their express written consent to submit the submission for exhibition and other exploitation in any manner and in any and all media, whether now existing or hereafter discovered, throughout the world;
 - Provided written permission to include their name, image, or pictures in or with the submission (or, if a minor who is not competitor's child, competitor must have the permission of the minor's parent or legal guardian) and the competitor may be asked by the Prize Administrator to provide permission in writing; and
 - Not been and are not currently under any union or guild agreement that results in any ongoing obligations resulting from the use, exhibition, or other exploitation of the submission.
- The submission is free of malware.

Contest Subject to Applicable Law

All contests are subject to all applicable federal laws and regulations. Participation constitutes each participant's full and unconditional agreement to these Official Rules and administrative decisions, which are final and binding in all matters related to the contest. This notice is not an obligation of funds; the final award is contingent upon the availability of appropriations.

Resolution of Disputes

DOE is solely responsible for administrative decisions, which are final and binding in all matters related to the contest.

Neither DOE nor the Prize Administrator will arbitrate, intervene, advise on, or resolve any matters between team members or among competitors.

Publicity

The winners of these prizes (collectively, "winners") will be featured on DOE and NREL websites.

Except where prohibited, participation in the contest 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 for promotional purposes through any form of media worldwide, without further permission, payment, or consideration.

Liability

Upon registration, all participants agree to assume any and all risks of injury or loss in connection with or in any way arising from participation in this contest. Upon registration, except in the case of willful misconduct, all participants agree to and, thereby, do 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 and 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 contest, whether the claim or cause of action arises under contract or tort.

In accordance with the delegation of authority to run this contest delegated to the judge responsible for this prize, the judge has determined that no liability insurance naming DOE as an insured will be required of competitors to compete in this competition per 15 U.S.C. § 3719(i)(2). Competitors should assess the risks associated with their proposed activities and adequately insure themselves against possible losses.

Records Retention and Freedom of Information Act

All materials submitted to DOE as part of a submission become DOE records and are subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Where necessary, materials should be marked as noted in Section A.4. Such information will be withheld from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law. Without assuming any liability for inadvertent disclosure, DOE will seek to limit disclosure of such information to its employees and to outside reviewers when necessary for review of the application or as otherwise authorized by law. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use the information if it is obtained from another source.

Competitors will be notified of any Freedom of Information Act requests for their submissions in accordance with 29 C.F.R. § 70.26. Competitors may then have the opportunity to review materials and work with a Freedom of Information Act representative prior to the release of materials. DOE does intend to keep all submission materials private except for those materials designated as "will be made public."

Privacy

If you choose to provide HeroX with personal information by registering or completing the submission package through the contest website, you understand that such information will be transmitted to DOE and may be kept in a system of records. Such information will be used only to

respond to you in matters regarding your submission and/or the contest unless you choose to receive updates or notifications about other contests or programs from DOE on an opt-in basis. DOE and NREL are not collecting any information for commercial marketing.

General Conditions

DOE reserves the right to cancel, suspend, and/or modify the prize, or any part of it, at any time. If any fraud, technical failure, or any other factor beyond DOE's reasonable control impairs the integrity or proper functioning of the prize, as determined by DOE in its sole discretion, DOE may cancel the prize. Any performance toward prize goals is conducted entirely at the risk of the competitor, and DOE shall not compensate any competitors for any activities performed in furtherance of this prize.

Although DOE may indicate that it will select up to several winners for each prize, DOE reserves the right to only select competitors that are likely to achieve the goals of the program. If, in DOE's determination, no competitors are likely to achieve the goals of the program, DOE will select no competitors to be winners and will award no prize money.

DOE may conduct a risk review, using Government resources, of the competitor and project personnel for potential risks of foreign interference. The outcomes of the risk review may result in the submission being eliminated from the prize competition. This risk review, and potential elimination, can occur at any time during the prize competition. An elimination based on a risk review is not appealable.

Program Policy Factors

While the scores of the expert reviewers will be carefully considered, it is the role of the prize judge to maximize the impact of prize funds. Some factors outside the control of competitors and beyond the independent expert reviewer scope of review may need to be considered to accomplish this goal. The following is a list of such factors. In addition to the reviewers' scores, the below program policy factors may be considered in determining winners:

- Geographic and offshore wind development area diversity.
- Degree to which project concepts, efforts undertaken, and learning can be applied to other projects, Tribes, and communities.
- Diversity of offshore wind project stage of development
- Whether the use of additional DOE funds and provided resources are non-duplicative and compatible with the stated goals of this program and the DOE mission generally.
- The degree to which the submission supports complementary DOE-funded efforts or projects, which, when taken together, will best achieve the goals and objectives of DOE.
- The degree to which the submission expands DOE's funding to new recipients who have not been supported by DOE in the past.
- Whether the project promotes increased coordination with nongovernmental entities toward enabling a just and equitable clean energy economy in their region and/or community.

National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

This prize is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321, et seq.). NEPA requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. For additional background on NEPA, please see DOE's NEPA website at <http://nepa.energy.gov/>.

While NEPA compliance is a federal agency responsibility and the ultimate decisions remain with the federal agency, all participants in the Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize will be required to assist in the timely and effective completion of the NEPA process in the manner most pertinent to their participation in the prize competition. Participants may be asked to provide DOE with information on fabrication and testing of their device such that DOE can conduct a meaningful evaluation of the potential environmental impacts.

Definitions

Prize Administrator means both the Alliance for Sustainable Energy operating in its capacity under the Management and Operating Contract for NREL and DOE's Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO). When the Prize Administrator is referenced in this document, it refers to staff from both the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC, and WETO staff. Ultimate decision-making authority regarding prize matters rests with the director of WETO.

Vouchers are part of the prize and may only be used at national laboratories. The funds will be provided directly to the laboratory on behalf of the winner to conduct a mutually agreed upon scope of work between the laboratory and the team.

Return of Funds

As a condition of receiving a prize, competitors agree that if the prize was made based on fraudulent or inaccurate information provided by the competitor to DOE, DOE has the right to demand that any prize funds or the value of other non-cash prizes be returned to the government.

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