

Digitizing Utilities Prize Round 3: Resilient Grid Innovation Informational Webinar

AMERICAN
M A D E
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

U.S. DEPARTMENT
of ENERGY | Office of
Electricity

Lance Holly
January 2026

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This webinar will be recorded and made available on HeroX after the event.

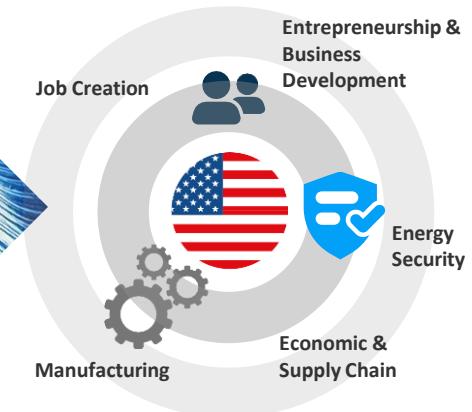
American-Made Overview



AMERICAN MADE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The American-Made program is your **fast track to energy innovation**. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, we incentivize innovation through prizes, collegiate competitions, vouchers, and opportunities to work with our network of experts, helping science and technology solutions go **further, faster**.





supercharge

A REVOLUTION OF **BOLD IDEAS**

Fast track your ideas to accelerate energy innovation

AMERICAN
MADE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



100+
Prizes &
competitions



550+
Network
members



1200+
Teams
funded

Office of Electricity Overview

Sandy Jenkins



The Office of Electricity leads the U.S. Department of Energy's R&D to strengthen and modernize our nation's power grid to maintain a reliable, affordable and secure electricity delivery infrastructure.



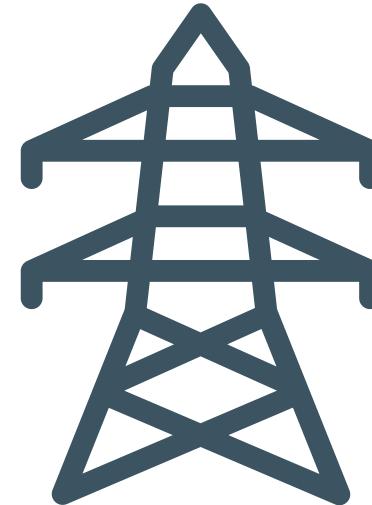
Digitizing Utilities Prize Round 3 Overview



Prize Overview

The Digitizing Utilities Prize Round 3 is a **\$2.425M** two-phase competition which aims to **incentivize technology development partnerships** with interdisciplinary teams of software developers and data experts to facilitate the **transformation of digital systems, data analytics, and grid resource integration for the electric sector**.

DOE is particularly interested in identifying solutions to challenges related to **extreme events**. Additionally, DOE seeks demonstrations that produce contextualized grid data sets, which can contribute to public repositories to advance research and collaboration in the field.



Prize Pools

The Digitizing Utilities Prize Round 3 offers a total prize pool of **\$2,050,000 in cash prizes and \$375,000 in vouchers** across two phases.

- At the end of the Plan phase, up to **16 competitors** will be selected as a winner and will receive a cash prize of **\$75,000 each**.
- At the end of the Progress phase, up to **5 competitors** will be selected as a winner and will receive a cash prize of **\$150,000 each and a \$75,000 voucher** each to redeem at a single DOE national laboratory at the conclusion of the phase.

Bonus Prizes (Optional)

Progress phase competitors are also eligible to compete in the following optional \$50,000 bonus prizes offered during the Progress phase:

Impact with Public Research Data Bonus Prize

- Competitors who have demonstrations that result in contextualized grid data sets and who contribute data to public repositories of grid data are eligible to be awarded the Impact with Public Research Data bonus prize.

Federated Grid Data Security Bonus Prize

- Competitors who demonstrate a technology that enables secure, collaborative, and privacy-preserving learning across grid systems are eligible to be awarded the Federated Grid Data Security Bonus Prize.

Eligibility Requirements

The competition is open only to **private entities (for-profits and nonprofits); non-federal government entities such as states, counties, tribes, and municipalities; and academic institutions.**

Only winners of the Plan phase are eligible to compete in the Progress phase.

Only Progress phase competitors are eligible to compete for bonus prizes.

Please reference the official rules (Section 1.4) for the full eligibility requirements.

Read the Rules!

Official Rules for the Digitizing Utilities Prize Round 3 – Modification 1 is available online!

<https://www.herox.com/DigitizingUtilitiesPrizeRound3/resource/2224>



Digitizing Utilities Prize Round 3: Resilient Grid Innovation

JANUARY 2026 - Modification 1

Phase 1 – Plan Submission Overview



Phase 1 Submission Objective

- In the Plan phase, teams of developers, scientists, engineers, and stakeholders will **connect with an energy sector partner**, **identify a challenge or opportunity** relating to new grid-sensing capabilities or integration of energy resources into the grid under uncertainty, and **propose a solution** to address that challenge or opportunity.
- Teams must **demonstrate a thorough understanding of the problem**, as well as their **ability to access relevant resources** that can be leveraged for this prize. Teams should include examples of their applicable skills and expertise to solve the proposed problem. In their submissions, teams must define their approach and plan of action to solve the issue presented.

Phase 1 Submission Package

A complete submission package for the Plan phase should include the following items:

- An online public video (will be made public)
- A cover page and narrative
- A submission summary slide (will be made public)
- Team biographies
- Letters of commitment or support from your energy sector partner

**Submission
Deadline: April 9**

All submission materials, excluding the online public video, must be submitted as PDF documents.

Online Public Video (*public; not scored*)

Suggested content:

- The real-world problem you are solving
- Your solution and why it is transformational
- Who you are (your organization and key team members) and why you have a competitive edge

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).



TIPS and TRICKS

- This is your first impression
- Be creative and focus on content
- Watch previous winners' videos
- Get feedback before you post online

Cover Page (*private; not scored*)

List basic information about your submission, including:

- Project title
- Team name
- Short description
- Your city, state, and nine-digit ZIP code

- Key project members (names, contacts, and links to their professional online profiles)
- Other partners (if any).

The cover page will be submitted with the narrative. Please combine the cover page and narrative into a single PDF for submission.

Narrative (*private; scored*)

You should answer each of the following five questions. The individual answers to the five questions do not have a word limit; however, the aggregate response to these five questions must not **exceed 2,500 words**, not including captions, figures/graphs, or references. 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 Overview): What problem are you trying to solve?

Question 2 (Team): Why is your team qualified to solve the identified problem?

Question 3 (Solution): What is your solution to the problem?

Question 4 (Goals): What are you aiming to achieve during the Progress phase?

Question 5 (Implementation Plan): How will you implement your solution to the problem?

Narrative: Bonus Prize Expression of Interest *(optional; not scored)*

Suggested content competitor provides:

- A written interest in submitting a bonus prize(s).
- Indication to which bonus prize(s) the team will submit (Impact with Public Research Data Bonus Prize and/or Federated Grid Data Security Bonus Prize)
- A paragraph summary that previews the intended bonus prize submission.

Only Progress phase competitors are eligible to compete in optional bonus prizes offered during the Progress phase.

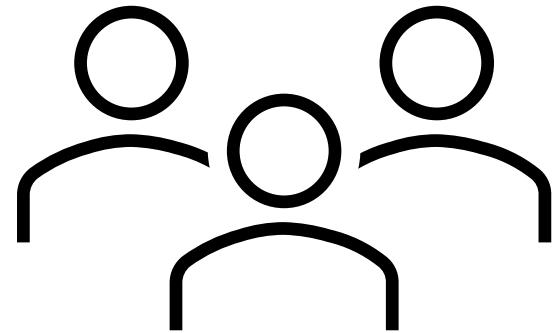
Submission Summary Slide (*public; not scored*)

Make a public-facing, one-slide submission summary that introduces the competitor(s) and your mission. There is no template, so competitors are free to present the information in any format. Any text must be readable in a standard printed page and a conference room projection and should be in at least 14-point font.



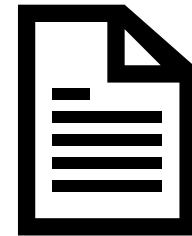
Team Biographies (*not public; not scored*)

All team members must each include an up to half-page biography stating their previous and current experiences relating to the energy sector as well as any additional professional background information that would help highlight their experience and knowledge.



Letters of Support or Commitment (*not public; not scored*)

It is required to include a signed letter of support or commitment from your energy sector partner, **which contains a statement of commitment from the energy sector partner to work with the team in the Progress phase, should the team be selected as a Plan phase winner**. This should include a commitment to share data with the team in a timely manner. The letter of support must include the energy sector partner's signature, date of signature, full name, position title, and primary contact information (phone number, email address and professional online profile).



Please combine all letters of support or commitment into a single PDF for submission upload.

Recap: Phase 1 Submission Package

- Online public video (will be made public)
- Cover page and narrative
- Submission summary slide (will be made public)
- Team biographies
- Letters of commitment or support from your energy sector partner

Optional [templates are available](#) for the narrative and team biographies.

After submission review, [up to 16 winners will be selected and be awarded a \\$75,000 cash prize each](#). Winning teams move into the Progress phase.

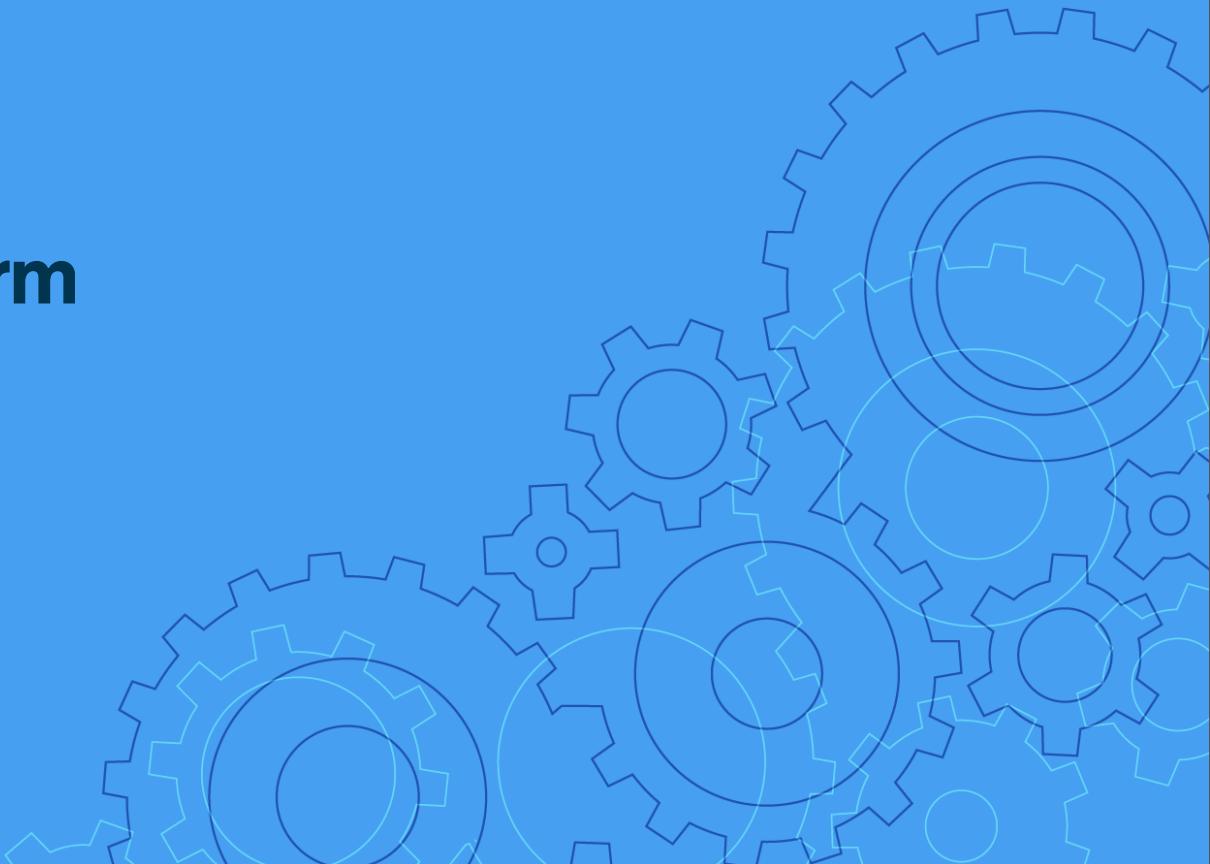
Looking Ahead: Progress Phase

In the Progress phase, teams will work with their energy sector partners for the duration of the phase to **develop and refine their solution addressing the opportunities or challenges their energy sector partner(s) are facing**. Teams will present their progress toward implementing their solution.

The Progress phase will last from June – December 2026 (anticipated).

Up to 5 winners will be selected and be awarded a \$150,000 cash prize each, and a \$75,000 voucher each to be used at a DOE National Laboratory. Up to two bonus prizes will also be awarded during this phase.

The HeroX Platform





Prize Round 3: Resilient Grid Innovation

Help electric utilities facilitate the transformation of digital systems, data analytics, and risk-

Follow, Read, Submit!

On [HeroX](#), you can:

- Follow the page to receive important updates from prize administrators
- Read the Official Rules document and access optional templates
- Watch a recording of today's webinar and access the webinar slides
- Check the timeline for important dates
- Submit your application materials

<https://www.herox.com/DigitizingUtilitiesPrizeRound3>



Help electric utilities facilitate the transformation of digital systems, data analytics, and risk-informed resource integration

Energy, Environment & Resources

Government

Stage:
Enter

Prize:
\$2,400,000

SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE

Summary

Timeline

Updates 3

Forum 1

Teams 272

Entries

Resources

FAQ

Challenge Forum

Search forum

New topic



Forum Sections

Threads

Total Posts

1 Thread

1 Post

...

Partnership Opportunities

Use this space to find partners! Create a post with information you would like to share publicly about your team, organization, mission, contact info, and what type of partners you're looking for.



Opportunities & Reminders



Grid Event Signature Library (GESL)



The GESL is a publicly available repository of labeled, anonymized, grid data recordings comprising -

- Synchrophasor and point-on-wave measurements
- Grid disturbances and ambient conditions recorded from multiple locations
- Sensor anomaly examples
- Signature matching tool – upload your own data and find closest matching signatures in the GESL

How can the GESL be used?

- Reference dataset to benchmark algorithm performance
- Education resource for data/computation SMEs who are not experts in the grid domain
- Validate tool performance with real-world data artifacts
- Understand the wide variety of system conditions likely to be encountered during field operations

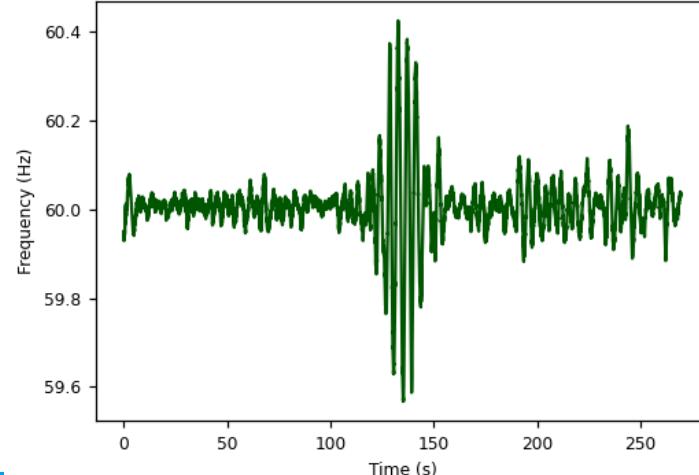
To contribute data to the GESL: please contact geslsupport@ornl.gov

<https://gesl.ornl.gov>

GESL at a glance:

- 5,500+ event recordings, consisting of both PMU and PoW measurements
- 13 data providers
- 1,000+ registered users worldwide, from utilities, vendors, small businesses, academia, and more.

Example event record: Frequency oscillations in a microgrid



Grid Event Signature Library (GESL)



How to Access

- Register with a valid email address at <https://gesl.ornl.gov/account/register>

Features and Applications

- Data Dashboard
- API
- Data Quality Library
- Examples Page
- Publications
- PMU Signature Matching Tool (Beta)

Sample Data Anonymization Practices

- Stripping topology information
- Normalization to per-unit
- Sometimes timestamps are removed
- Data provider name is kept hidden

Potential Applications

- Data contextualization
- Model validation/simulation tuning
- Event detection enhancements
- ML techniques for root-cause-analysis
- Etc.



Presented by



Transforming Connections. Today and Tomorrow.

Meet at DTECH 2026!

- The Office of Electricity (OE) and the American-Made program will be at DistribuTECH 2026 in San Diego, CA this [February 3-5](#)
- Attend Knowledge Hub sessions to hear more about open competitions
- Join a networking event to connect with other prize applicants
- OE and American-Made will be at [Booth 901](#)

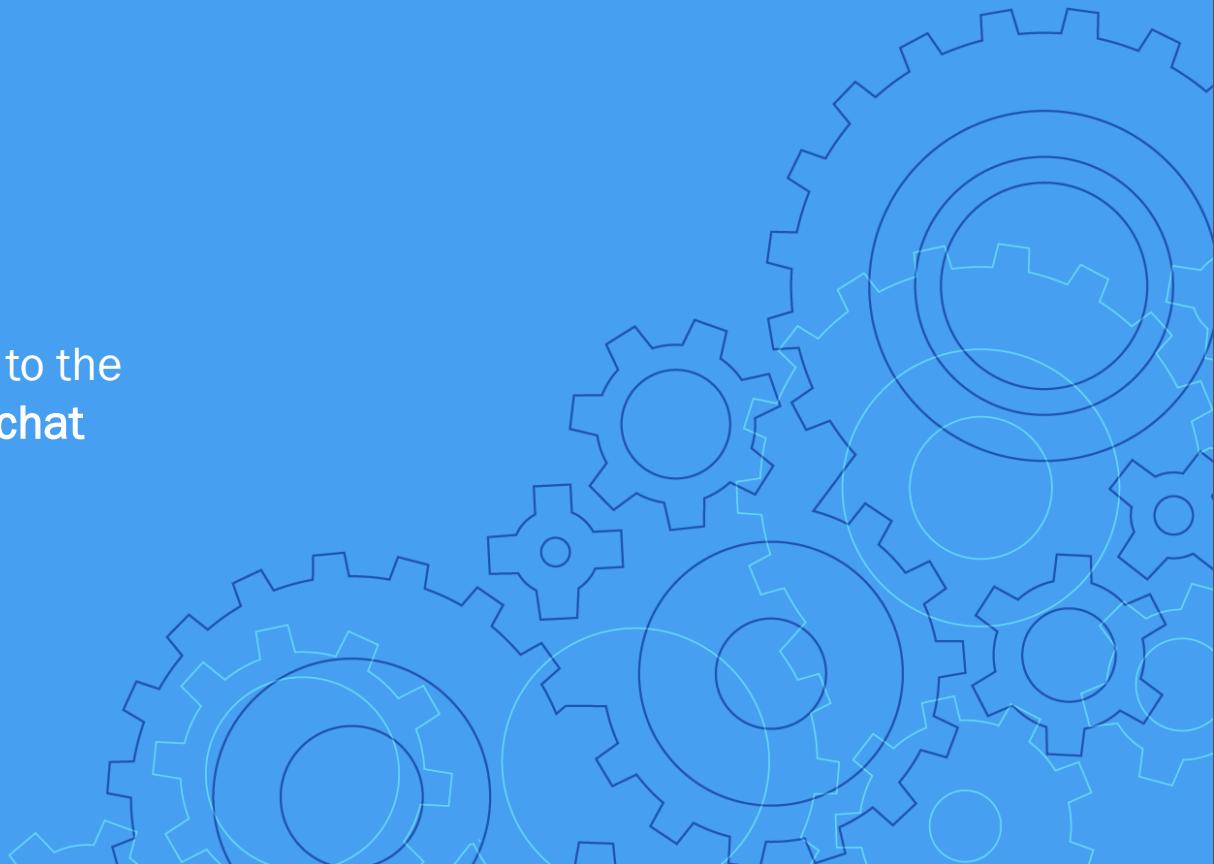
Reminders

- **Read the rules** to learn more about the prize and ensure you're eligible to compete
- Send any questions you have to our team at digitizingutilitiesprize@nlr.gov.
- Submit all materials on HeroX by **April 9 at 5 p.m. ET**



Q&A

Please send your question(s) to the host and panelists using the **chat** function.



| Thank you!

