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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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Electricity

# Beyond the Meter Prize

## DTECH 2026 Knowledge Hub Session

February 2026

# Agenda

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# Office of Electricity Overview

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.



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# Behind-the-Meter Energy Storage: Challenges

- Technical barriers around adequately interconnecting, coordinating, and monitoring BTM storage systems
- Lack of consistent standards and procedures for interoperability and communication between different consumer-focused energy resources
- Limited visibility into operation of BTM storage systems by utilities and system operators
- Potential value of BTM storage systems to the power system not being fully realized or compensated
- Regional differences in available incentives, compensation mechanisms, and regulations/processes governing deployment and use.

Source: [Solar Plus: A Holistic Approach to Distributed Solar PV \(nrel.gov\)](#)

Sources: [Standards for DER Interconnection & Interoperability \(gmlc.doe.gov\)](#)  
[Behind-the-Meter Battery Storage: Frequently Asked Questions \(nrel.gov\)](#)



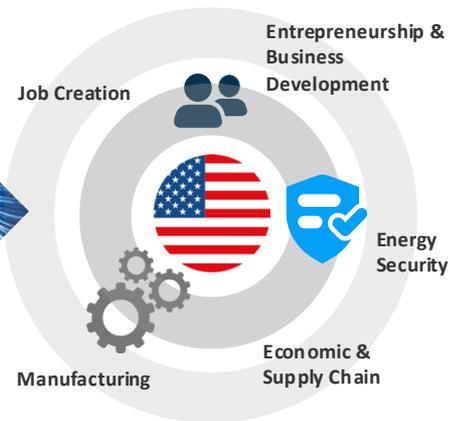
# American-Made Program Overview



# 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



**100+**  
Prizes &  
competitions



**550+**  
Network  
members



**1200+**  
Teams  
funded

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# Beyond the Meter Prize

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The Beyond the Meter: Energy Storage Integration Prize offers a total prize pool of \$3,400,000 in cash prizes and \$800,000 in vouchers across two phases with two separate applicant tracks where competitors will highlight and demonstrate their grid-edge technology and plans to integrate with partners in the grid.

**Submissions due April 2026.**

# Beyond the Meter Tracks

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## Competition Goals

- Foster coalitions to showcase products and strategies for integrating and managing behind-the-meter (BTM) grid-edge technologies alongside BTM energy storage systems (ESS).
- Solutions must be fully integrated BTM before interacting with grid technologies.

## Applicants can submit solutions to one of two distinct tracks:

### Residential Solution Track

- Focus: Technologies for residential use (e.g., single-family homes, multifamily housing, apartments)

### Commercial/Industrial Solution Track

- Focus: Technologies for larger-scale applications (e.g., commercial buildings, warehouses, manufacturing plants)

# Beyond the Meter Prize Phase 1

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The Beyond the Meter Prize offers a total prize pool of \$3,300,000 in cash prizes and \$800,000 in vouchers across two phases with two distinct tracks.

In **Phase 1** of this prize, competitors will propose solutions to enhance integration, communication, and control of ESS with grid-edge technologies using innovative consumer-focused energy resources.

## Submissions must include:

- Integration approach & proof of concept for seamless management of BTM grid-edge technologies.
- Innovation highlighting both existing and new products.
- Identification of Phase 2 coalition partners for interoperable solutions.

## Winners will:

- Participate in the OE Energy Storage Peer Review 2026, including a poster session to showcase products, solutions, and coalition efforts.
- Engage with industry experts, stakeholders, and DOE representatives.

# Beyond the Meter Prize Phase 2

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The Beyond the Meter Prize offers a total prize pool of \$3,300,000 in cash prizes and \$800,000 in vouchers across two phases with two distinct tracks.

In **Phase 2** of the prize competitors will present interoperability solutions for ESS integration with various consumer focused energy resources, and grid-edge technologies across multiple manufacturers and vendors.

## Submissions must include:

- Outline approach for demonstrating BTM grid-edge technology solutions and integration plans.
- Develop a technology ready for testing and validation at a national laboratory.
- Showcase collaboration with a coalition of BTM vendors/manufacturers in solution development.

## Phase 2 Requirements:

- Phase 1 winners must attend the OE Energy Storage Peer Review 2027.
- Present and demonstrate their solution at the OE Energy Storage Peer Review 2027.

# Overview of Events

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## Phase 1 – Introduction

- **Phase 1 Winning teams will be awarded:**
  - \$50,000 each upon being selected as Phase 1 winners.
  - \$200,000 each after attending the 2026 OE Energy Storage Peer Review.
  - A \$100,000 voucher (redeemable at a DOE national laboratory) after successfully completing Phase 2 and attending the 2027 OE Energy Storage Peer Review.



## Phase 2 – Progress

- All Phase 1 winners competing in Phase 2 must attend and present their advanced products/plans at the 2027 OE Peer Review.
- **Phase 2 Winning teams will be awarded:**
  - \$900,000 to the two winning teams selected at the 2027 OE Energy Storage Peer Review.
  - Additional \$100,000 voucher (redeemable at a DOE national laboratory) awarded to each Phase 2 winner at the conclusion of Phase 2.

### Phase 2 Peer Review Event

The scoring and evaluation of solutions will occur both before and during the event. Prior to the event, submission materials will be reviewed, while during the event, teams will be evaluated based on their presentations and demonstrations. The process will conclude with an awards ceremony, during which winners will be announced on stage and presented with grand prize checks.

### Voucher Eligibility

Vouchers will only be awarded to Phase 1 and Phase 2 winners who attend and actively participate in the 2027 OE Energy Storage Peer Review. Voucher usage will follow the completion of the full prize competition.

# Competitor Eligibility

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- A group of individuals competing as one team may win, provided that the online account holder of the submission is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Individuals competing as part of a team are eligible to participate if they are legally authorized to work in the United States.
- Private entities must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States.
- Academic institutions must be based in the United States and have federally recognized accreditation.
- DOE employees, members of their immediate families (e.g., spouses, children, siblings, or parents), and persons living in the same household, 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 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 sponsored by a country of risk 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.
- [Refer to the Official Rules document on HeroX for the complete eligibility requirements.](#)

# Timeline

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- Prize relaunches: January 2026
- Phase 1 Submissions due: April 2026
- Phase 1 winner announcement: Summer 2026 (*winners to be highlighted at OE Peer Review*)
- Phase 2 launches: August 2026
- Phase 2 submissions due: June 2027
- Phase 2 winner announcement: Summer 2027 (*winners to be selected and announced at OE Peer Review*)



# Submitting to the Beyond the Meter Prize





# Read the Rules

The Official Rules document is available on HeroX, the official prize platform.

We highly recommend reading this document in its entirety before submitting any application materials.



[www.herox.com/beyondthemeteter](http://www.herox.com/beyondthemeteter)

# What to Submit

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A complete submission package should include the following items:

- Cover page (not public)
- Narrative (not public)
- Summary PowerPoint slide (public)
- Letters of commitment or support (optional) (not public)

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. The scores are as follows:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Non-Responsive	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree

For more information about submission materials, please read the Official Rules.

# Phase 1 Submission Package Details

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## Cover Page (Not Public)

List basic information about your submission, including:

- Track you are competing in (Residential Solution Track or Commercial/Industrial Solution Track)
- Submission/entry 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.

# Phase 1 Submission Package Details *(cont.)*

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## Narrative (Not Public)

You should answer each of the following five questions. The content bullets are only suggestions to guide your responses. You decide where to focus your answers. 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, and references. A word count must be included at the end of your submission (see template for details). You may also include up to 10 supporting images, figures, or graphs.

**Question 1 (Problem):** What problem does your solution solve?

**Question 2 (Solution and Capabilities):** What is your solution, and why it is transformational?

**Question 3 (Accomplishments and Team):** What have you done to date, and what qualities give you a competitive edge?

**Question 4 (Plan):** What is your plan to achieve your goals?

**Question 5 (OE Energy Storage Peer Review Poster Session):** How would you highlight your team, future plans, and your solution at the OE 2026 Peer Review event during a poster session if you were selected as a winner?

# Phase 1 Submission Package Details *(cont.)*

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## Submission Summary Slide *(public)*

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

## Letters of Support or Commitment *(optional)*

Attach one-page letters (of support, intent, or commitment) from other relevant entities to provide context. 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 into your score. Combine all letters of support or commitment into a single PDF for submission.

# Follow, Read, Submit!

On [HeroX](#), you can:

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

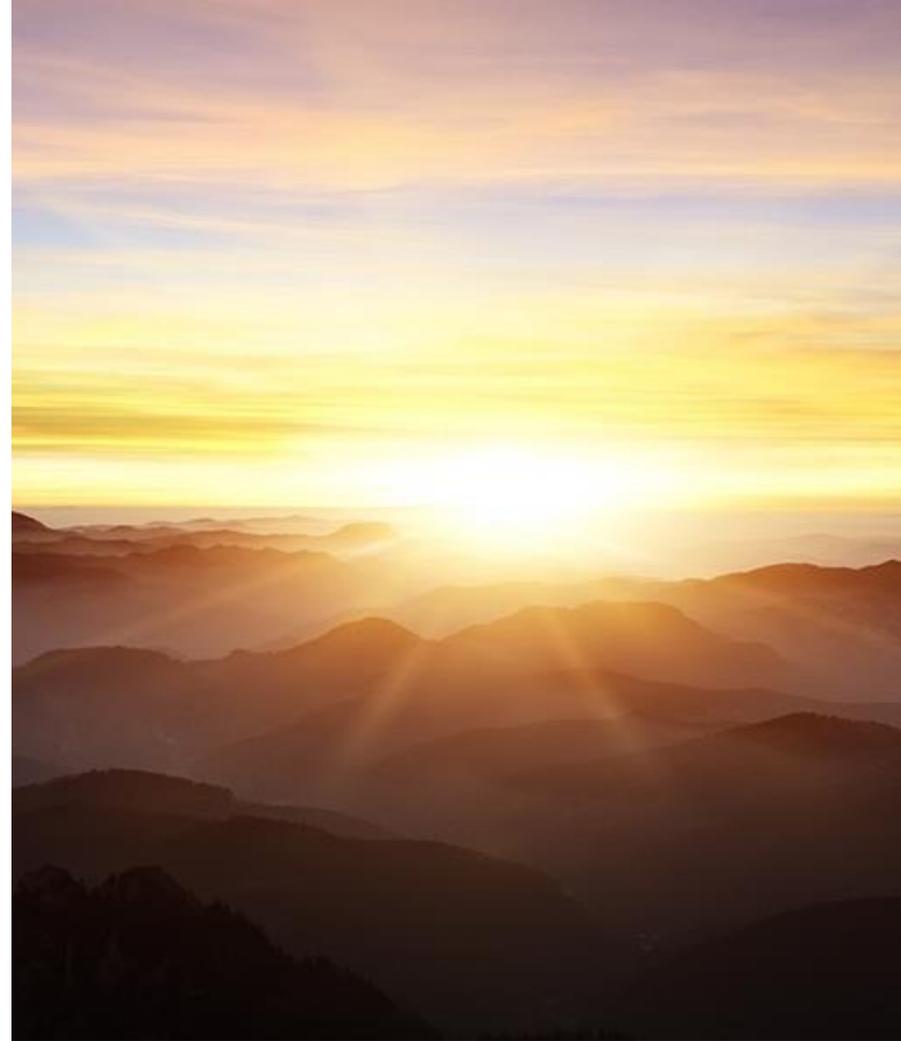


[www.herox.com/beyondthemeteter](http://www.herox.com/beyondthemeteter)

# What's Next?

1. Follow the challenge on HeroX  
<https://www.herox.com/beyondtheter>
2. Read the Official Rules.
3. Submit your materials by April 2026.

*(All dates tentative. Review the timeline on HeroX for more information.)*



# Questions?

Email us at  
[electricityprize@nrel.gov](mailto:electricityprize@nrel.gov)

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