



H-Prize Fact Sheet June 2008

Background

The H-Prize Act of 2007 (H.R. 632) was introduced on January 23, 2007 and signed into law on December 19, 2007 in efforts to accelerate hydrogen development by providing result-driven incentives to



teams of entrepreneurs, scientist and, engineers. The act was developed and introduced by South Carolina Rep. Bob Inglis (R-SC) and Illinois Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL). The H-Prize was designed with the idea of stimulating hydrogen research and development and evolving towards the hydrogen economy.

The H-Prize is modeled after the Ansari X-Prize, which was a space competition where a monetary prize was offered to the first non-government organization to launch a reusable manned spacecraft twice within two weeks. The X-Prize worked flawlessly to stimulate interest and technology development for citizen space travel. These hopes mirror the hopes for the H-Prize and its effect on the hydrogen development frontier.

The H-Prize

The H-Prize is a monetary reward available to any inventor, creator or scientist that can conquer the challenges of converting to the hydrogen economy. Up to four rewards will be available every other year in three categories; technological advancements, prototypes, and transformational technologies.

The Act directs the Secretary of Energy to:

- Award competitive cash prizes biennially to advance the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of hydrogen energy technologies; and
- Enter into an agreement with a private, nonprofit entity to administer the prize competitions.

H-Prize Awards

The department of energy hopes to have an application process setup by July with the first applications accepted in the fall.

Technological Advancements – For advancements in hydrogen production, storage, distribution, or utilization, up to four prizes of up to \$1 million will be awarded biennially.

Prototypes – For working hydrogen powered vehicles that meet certain performance standards one prize of up to \$4 million will be awarded biennially.

Transformational Technologies – The grand prize to be rewarded with in the next ten years of \$10 million in cash and up to \$40 million in matching private capital would go for creating a "transformational technology" that brings hydrogen fuel, vehicles, or distribution infrastructure closer to reality.

H-Prize Funding Opportunity Announcement

In May 2008 The DOE Hydrogen Program released a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) in support of the H-Prize. The FOA is set up to assist the DOE in identifying an organization that will serve as an "Administering Entity" to implement the H-Prize. Note that this FOA is not for the Prize itself, but rather for the organization that will work with DOE to implement the Prize. An estimated \$1.3M (including \$1M for the first prize) total funding will be available for the Administering Entity; pending Congressional Appropriations, with an expectation of one selected project of three years duration. Applications for this FOA must be accessed, completed, and submitted through IIPS and Grants.gov to be considered for award. Applications are due June 25, 2008.

For More Information Visit

<http://inglis.house.gov/issues.asp?content=sections/issues/current/hprize>

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:HR00632:@@L&summ2=m&>