

Solar America Initiative

Fact Sheet

June 2007

Photovoltaic Technology Incubator Awards

About the awards

The photovoltaic (PV) technology incubator solicitation plays an integral role in President Bush's Solar America Initiative by enabling U.S. small businesses to accelerate prototype and pre-commercial PV technologies to pilot- and full-scale production. The selections include 10 projects that could receive up to \$27 million of DOE funding over the next 18 months subject to appropriations from Congress. Award recipients will contribute a minimum of 20% of funding for a total value of up to \$71 million.

Why were these projects selected?

This solicitation is structured to allow innovative approaches towards increasing the production of promising PV technologies. The selected companies have demonstrated a proof-of-concept PV device and proposed a clear path to ramping up production to 3 megawatts/yr or greater by 2010. In addition to higher production capacity, the projects will focus on device performance and reliability that directly translate into lower energy costs. This emphasis on market-focused product development will yield market-ready technology for residential and commercial markets as well as utility-scale power generation.

About the technology development strategy

The selected projects under this solicitation focus on technology improvement of PV modules, which include the use of diverse materials and innovative product designs. Successful projects will be positioned to apply for a second phase of the larger, industry-led technology development solicitation focusing on PV system cost reductions for market competitiveness by 2015.

How will these projects be funded?

The funding structure for this solicitation is intended to be flexible and cyclical. The performance period of each project is 18 months with the possibility of project termination after a DOE stage gate review at month nine. The projects have been structured so that companies can receive their funding from DOE only upon successful delivery of pre-specified samples of new hardware. This approach will allow early-stage companies to focus on demonstration of technology, while assuring that taxpayers get the best value for their investment in these projects.



Professor Bernard Kippelen holding an electronic circuit fabricated on a flexible plastic substrate. The solar cells he is developing can be integrated with such organic electronic devices. Photo credit: Cappello, Nicole - Georgia Tech

To facilitate rapid cycles of innovation in the domestic PV sector, DOE will provide opportunities for new companies to enter this program every nine months, subject to Congressional appropriation.

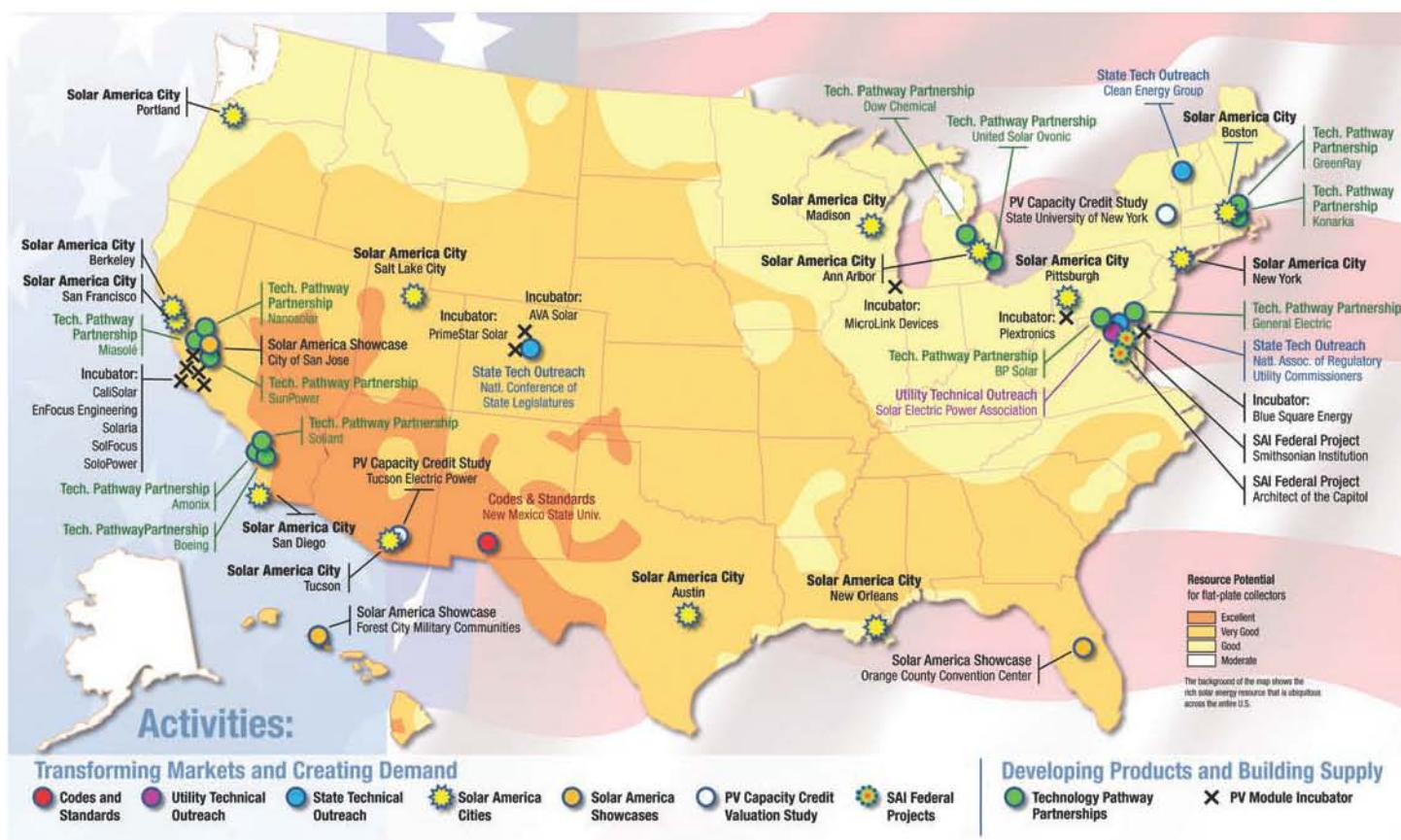


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Prepared by the
National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
NREL is a U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory
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DOE/GO-102007-2445 • June 2007

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