

**CHALLENGE INFORMATION & APPLICATION FORM**

Energy Capital Innovation Challenge 2017

Do you have an innovative product or solution which could be applied in the West Midlands to encourage users to participate in the regional energy system?

In describing your solutions ability to address this challenge, you should draw attention to:

One issue inherently remains however. For this transition to take place, consumers will become prosumers, taking an active role in the energy system. Domestic customers, for example, are infamously disengaged. This potentially creates a huge barrier to future energy systems utilising peer-to-peer interactions.

As a result there exists a large opportunity for innovations that engage customers and enable them to be active participants in the energy system.

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy is therefore pursuing a nationwide strategy to create a smart and flexible energy system, a strategy enabled by emerging digital technologies such as the Internet of Things and innovations such as increasingly energy dense battery storage.

The West Midlands economy is growing,

and there is a need for efficient, clean and decentralised energy systems to support that growth.

Amongst this innovation community is Energy Capital. Energy Capital was officially launched on 15th February, 2017, with the aim of providing

The Challenge

We are looking for innovations to engage customers and users as active participants in the West Midlands regional energy system.

The world is moving towards a transactive energy model, where renewable and distributed energy generators will meet flexible customers. These may even be one and the same person. Lowering the carbon emissions of the energy system, including integrating an increasing amount of intermittent generation, requires fresh thinking around how to better utilise flexibility in the current system.

The ingredients for solving this are already present. An economic necessity to reduce the cost of importing energy into the region: Birmingham alone spends £1.5bn per year on importing energy and fuel. Mitigating against extreme weather and resource depletion by cutting carbon: the region needs to reduce its carbon emissions by 40% from a 1990 baseline. A thriving innovation community around energy systems: the Energy Research Accelerator, The Energy Systems Catapult, the expanding Birmingham District Energy Company and Birmingham City Council’s burgeoning energy company make the region a really exciting place to put energy systems innovation to work.

the West Midlands with a strong, unified voice on energy related manners, so creating economic opportunities for the people and businesses of the region. Energy Capital has already represented the West Midlands as part of the UK Industrial Strategy Delegation’s mission to Japan; is being used by global investors as an introductory service to collaborate with local businesses; and is continuously increasing the region’s profile amongst national policy makers.

Quality

* The solution’s technical credibility
* How the solution is innovative
* How the solution will appeal to customers

With this Energy Capital is inviting innovators to compete in the Energy Capital Innovation Awards 2017. If you have a disruptive solution to this year’s challenge then you stand a chance of being one of two winners to receive €10,000 in prize money.

Impact

* The solution’s strategic fit to the challenge
* Its transformational and market development potential
* To what extent will it create new markets and opportunities for other local energy technologies

Deliverability

* The credibility and strength of your delivery team
* Any technical and regulatory dependencies
* The robustness of your business model to commercialise the solution

HOW ARE WINNERS SELECTED? Your application will be scored by a panel of judges from Climate-KIC, Birmingham City Council, Energy Systems Catapult, Sustainability West Midlands and Encraft. They will use the criteria above to score entrants and select finalists who will be invited to pitch their solution to a panel of industry experts. Finalists will be notified of their successful application on **08/11/2017**.

Contact number:

Contact email(s):

Contact name:

*Note: in an open innovation process, the exchange and discussion of ideas is important – both within your team, with experts and with other participants. It is your responsibility to ensure that you protect your intellectual property.*

Please email your completed application form to:

[**energy**](mailto:energychallenge@encraft.co.uk)[**challenge@encraft.co.uk**](mailto:challenge@encraft.co.uk)and CC: **jason.louisgouveia@climate-kic.org**

Your team members:

Your organisation:

Application Form

Deadline for applicants **31/10/2017 at 17:00**

In no more than 500 words, describe how your product or solution will meet the energy challenge above:

