

DOCKETED

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Micro Incubator - high volume innovation venting

Related to Innovation development - Create a Statewide Ecosystem for Incubating New Energy Innovations

Proposed initiative to fund a micro incubator for the State of California that decouples the heavy lifting of startups. The initiative is a "Maker Lab" that acts like a workshop for product development (early garage inventing stage) and moves creative innovations to beta testing and market testing. Many innovations are simple and transformative, but never make it past the kitchen table. We often see very smart researchers too shy, without interpersonal and entrepreneurial skills, to get their products beta tested and market surveyed by industry.

The micro incubator model has the tool sets to take concepts and test them at both the early beta and even to early prototype stages. The administration back office is to test markets niches, assist in company formation and lay the ground work for future grants.

The micro incubator initiative is measured on the number of innovations tested at the beta test level instead of concepts funding. All beta testing is from a general funding instead of per project grant funding. The initiative brings efficiencies of prototyping scale and knowledge of business processes, thereby cutting cost per innovation beta test in the range of 2,000 to 10,000.

Another measurement could be the number of innovations beta tested, prototyped and moved to the CalSeed or EPIC grant level.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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The Energy Commission is currently soliciting ideas and stakeholder input for the 2018 – 2020 EPIC Triennial Investment Plan. For those that would like to submit an idea for consideration in the 2018-2020 EPIC Triennial Plan, we ask that you complete the form below. Submittals are due by **5:00 p.m. on February 10, 2017.**

Part 1. Initiative Description and Purpose:

1. Please provide a brief description of the proposed initiative:

2. What technical and/or market barriers would the proposed initiative help overcome? For scientific analysis and tools, what knowledge gaps would the proposed initiative help fill?

Part 2. Benefits and Impacts

3. If this initiative is successful, either fully or partially, what would be the expected impact?
Who are the primary users and/or beneficiaries?

4. Describe what quantitative or qualitative metrics or indicators would be used to evaluate the impacts of the proposed initiative:

5. Please provide a list of peer-reviewed references that support the responses for questions 3 and 4. Proposed initiatives that include peer-reviewed references will be given stronger consideration.

6. (For technologies only) What competitive advantages does the proposed technology solution have over current benchmark technologies? If the technology is beyond the prototype stage, what strategies do you suggest to bring to scale?

Part 3. Connection to Energy Commission’s EPIC Framework

Energy Commission staff have developed a draft strategic framework to guide the CEC’s planning and implementation of EPIC across triennial investment cycles. One of the objectives of the draft strategic framework is to communicate a consistent set of priorities for organizing current and future EPIC investments.

7. Please indicate which of the following strategic framework themes you feel the proposed initiative best fits within:

- Advance Technology Solutions for Deep Energy Savings in Building and Facilities
- Accelerate Widespread Customer Adoption of Distributed Energy Resources
- Increase System Flexibility from Low-Carbon Resources
- Increase the Cost-Competiveness of Renewable Generation
- Create a Statewide Ecosystem for Incubating New Energy Innovations
- Maximize Synergies in the Water-Energy-Food Nexus
- Develop Tools and Analysis to Inform Energy Policy and Planning Decisions
- Catalyze Clean Energy Investments in California’s Underrepresented and Disadvantaged Communities

If Other, Please Specify