



Introducing the

Spark Cleantech Accelerator

An early-stage business accelerator that offers a comprehensive set of services to support promising cleantech technology companies

Our Mission

To support early stage cleantech businesses and drive commercialization of their technologies in Tennessee and throughout the Midwest in partnership with the Clean Energy Trust and other partners

What We Do

- ***Recruit the best in-class cleantech technology companies to invest and deploy their technologies in Tennessee.***
- ***Nurture the development and deployment of those companies and their products and/or services.***
- ***Ensure the inclusion of promising underserved entrepreneurs, including women, people of color, and veterans***

What We Offer

- ***Stipends to help defray travel and living costs and to support business and technical milestones***
- ***Prototyping services through the University of Tennessee's Center for Materials Processing***
- ***Mentoring - One-on-one support from our experts in business, market analysis and positioning, and IP/patent strategy, product design,***

engineering, prototyping, testing, material selection, tooling design, and manufacturing

- *Connections with customers, investors, strategic partners, suppliers, and universities and National laboratories*
- *Training: Workshops and one-on-one support, including individual meetings with DOE SBIR/STTR staff*
- *Partnerships with organizations such as the Tennessee Valley Authority, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the University of Tennessee, and members of the Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council*

Eligibility

- *Applicants from Tennessee, the Midwest, and beyond*
- *Companies that demonstrate a positive impact to energy efficiency, generate renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase recycling/upcycling and a circular economy*
- *Companies that show strong market potential and defensible intellectual property, with issued patents or pending patents filed*
- *Those who demonstrate their technology can support the challenges and needs of Spark partners, such as utilities, local governments, universities, manufacturing companies, commercial building operators, etc.*
- *Those that create software or hardware technologies including intelligent connected devices, advanced materials processes, or with technology companies at a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 2-6*
- *Applicants who are open to Tennessee as a permanent business location.*
- *NOTE: This program is not open to individuals or academic entities that are not incorporated.*

Company Acceptance Criteria

- *Evidence of customer discovery, and market validation and interest.*
- *Understanding of the competitive landscape and market forces.*
- *Dedicated founder and qualified advisors.*
- *Committed funding sources; including founder and evidence of non-dilutive grants.*
- *Dedication to developing and growing their business in Tennessee directly or through supply chain partners in the state.*

2022 Spark Accelerator Schedule

- **January 2022** **Applications open**
- **January and February 2022** **Webinars**
- **March 2022** **Applications close**
- **April 2022** **Participants notified**
- **June 2022** **Accelerator begins**
- **September 2022** **Demo Day**

Spark Accelerator Funding Partners

US Department of Energy
Clean Energy Trust
City of Knoxville
Tennessee Valley Authority
Launch Tennessee
UT Research Foundation
Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council

Contact

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