



BEN FRANKLIN TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS ISSUES ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RFP

January 22, 2009 - Ben Franklin Technology Partners (BFTP) has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking applicants capable of accelerating the commercialization of promising alternative and clean energy technologies. Multiple awards of up to \$55,000 are made possible through a \$250,000 grant provided by the United States Small Business Administration to Ben Franklin Technology Partners. Technology-based companies with less than 500 employees in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are eligible.

The grant supports the costs of applied research activities including, but not limited to, additional technical/laboratory work, additional market and competitive technology research, further examination/analysis of commercialization path options, and implementation of beta tests. In addition, the available funds support development of channel market strategies and full-scale commercialization of new products/processes. For more information on requirements, and to electronically download the RFP, applicants can visit www.benfranklin.org or email Terry Singer (tsinger@benfranklin.org). Letters of intent are due to BFTP on March 13, 2009, while full proposals will be due April 10, 2009.

Projects focusing on the following Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) Tier I energy sources receive priority. These include technologies generating energy derived from solar photovoltaic energy, wind power, low-impact hydro-power, geothermal energy, biologically derived methane gas, fuel cells, bio-mass energy and coal mine methane.

"Through this RFP, Pennsylvania's small businesses will help accelerate the commercialization of promising alternative and clean energy technologies," said Rebecca Bagley, Deputy Secretary for Technology Investment, Department of Community and Economic Development. "This will help propel the Governor's overall Energy Independence Strategy forward, growing Pennsylvania's economy while simultaneously helping to address a major national priority." The RFP announcement follows the recent opening of the Small Business Energy Efficiency Grant Program announced by Department of Environmental Protection acting Secretary John Hanger last week.

"This directed alternate energy fund will be joined by a range of complementary technology development/commercialization programs through the Alternative Energy Development Program [an element of the State's Alternative Energy Investment Fund] once funds become available," said Jim Gambino, Vice President of Technology Commercialization: Physical Sciences, who is spearheading Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern Pennsylvania's role in the commonwealth's Energy Independence Initiative."

Richard Thompson, Manager for southeastern Pennsylvania, is available to answer regional questions (dick@sep.benfranklin.org , 215-972-6700).

About Ben Franklin Technology Partners (BFTP)

Positioned strategically throughout Pennsylvania – with regional headquarters in the Lehigh Valley, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and State College – The BFTP network supports and executes the Commonwealth’s technology agenda, builds on regional strengths, capitalizes on new opportunities and addresses the specific needs of PA’s diverse communities. The BFTPs serves as a catalyst for economic growth by providing access to capital, business expertise and a network of resources to foster innovation, growth and success. BFTP is an initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and is funded by the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority. For more information, visit www.benfranklin.org.

About Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern Pennsylvania

BFTP/SEP is the region’s catalyst for *Stimulating Entrepreneurial Potential*. Ben Franklin invests in innovative enterprises and creates commercialization pathways that generate wealth through science and technology. Part of a statewide network in Pennsylvania, BFTP/SEP provides entrepreneurs and established businesses with the *Capital*, *Knowledge* and *Networks* to compete in the global marketplace. BFTP/SEP has provided more than \$130 million to grow more than 1,600 regional enterprises. BFTP/SEP is a founding partner of The Nanotechnology Institute™ (NTI), Mid-Atlantic Nanotechnology Alliance (MANA®), Emerald Stage2 Venture Fund, the Minority Angel Investor Network, and the Pennsylvania Advanced Textiles Research and Innovation Center (PATRIC). BFTP/SEP is part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Ben Franklin Technology Partnership.

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For additional information, please visit www.sep.benfranklin.org

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