

Department of Energy Launches "America's Next Top Energy Innovator" (June 2011)

As part of the Startup America Initiative (www.whitehouse.gov/issues/startup-america), the Department of Energy announced the "America's Next Top Energy Innovator" challenge, which will give start-up companies the opportunity to option to license groundbreaking technologies developed by the National Laboratories for \$1,000 and build successful businesses. As part of this effort, DOE is reducing both the cost and paperwork requirements for start-up companies to obtain an option agreement to license some of the 15,000 patents and patent applications held by our 17 National Laboratories.

Specifically, as part of "America's Next Top Energy Innovator," until December 15, DOE will reduce the total upfront cost of optioning DOE patents in a specific technology to a \$1,000 upfront option fee for portfolios of up to three patents. This represents a savings of \$10,000 to \$50,000 on average in upfront fees.

"Startup America" is an important element of the Administration's national innovation strategy. For more information about the steps and the more than 15,000 technology opportunities currently available, visit DOE's pages at www.techportal.eere.energy.gov/category/startup_america and www.slideshare.net/energy/americas-next-top-energy-innovator-challenge.