

Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility (BGNDRF) Newsletter



From the Manager: We are pleased to present another issue of our periodic newsletter. It is designed to be a brief, information-filled page that will be of interest to our customers and friends. Feedback is welcome. Please contact me at (575) 443-6553 or email me at: rshaw@usbr.gov.
Kind Regards, Randy Shaw, PE

The Desal Prize Winners

The Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have announced the following Desal Prize winners:

First Place: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)/Jain Irrigation Systems. The MIT/Jain team competed with electrodialysis reversal (EDR) using solar energy. Ultraviolet treatment was used on EDR product water for potable water production.

Second Place: University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Center for Inland Desalination Systems(CIDS). The UTEP CIDS team used Zero Discharge Desalination (ZDD) patented by Dr. Tom Davis, a member of the team. The ZDD consisted of nanofiltration combined with electrodialysis metathesis using solar energy.

Honorable Mention: Green Desal. Green Desal was an international team with team members from Israel, Jordan, Nepal, Brazil and the U.S. (i.e University of North Texas). The Green Desal team used a combination of ion exchange with nanofiltration and reverse osmosis using both solar and wind energy.

The Desal Prize launched in partnership with the Swedish International Development Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of The Netherlands. It is the second "call" under the Securing Water for Food Grand Challenge for Development. The "first" call focused on innovation in later stages of the innovation lifecycle (market-driven product/business development and scaling/commercial growth).

Five teams were selected as Desal Prize finalists after a panel of judges reviewed 68 applications from 29 countries. The teams competed for \$200,000 in prize funds in head-to-head demonstrations at BGNDRF the week of April 6th. In addition to prize funds for the top three teams, the winners will receive grant funds totaling \$400,000 to implement pilot projects in the coming months with small-holder rural farmers in a USAID mission region of their choice.

Reclamation Commissioner Estevan López said. "Providing a sustainable water supply is important for the west, the country and the world. The knowledge gained from this competition will not only assist in the goals of the prize competition, it will inform brackish groundwater treatment technologies here in the United States."

To learn more about Securing Water for Food or the Desal Prize, visit www.securingswaterforfood.org and follow @SecuringWater on Twitter.

Visit the BGNDRF website at: <http://www.usbr.gov/research/AWT/BGNDRF/index.html>