

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Technology Prize Competitions

*New mechanism for federal agencies to harness the creative capacity of the American public and private sectors to solve problems and spur innovation.*

Research and Development Office  
Science and Technology Program



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

# Authority:

**Section 24 - Prize Competitions  
America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010  
(15 USC 3719)**

# How Challenges work

- Issue a national challenge to solve a specific, typically difficult problem.
- Establish monetary and/or non-monetary incentive prizes.
- Winners must achieve predetermined performance metrics established by sponsoring agency.
- Anybody can compete at their own risk (limitations on federal employees)

# When to Use Challenges

**Problems that are typically better suited for solving through prize competitions:**

- An adequate or strong solution has been evasive or expensive.
- You find yourself saying that somebody, somewhere probably knows a better way of doing this.
- Market forces may not provide appropriate incentives to solve...or solve well.
- You would like to reach beyond the usual sources of potential solvers and experts that commonly work in your domain.

# Technology Prize Challenges



## 1919 Orteig Prize

Charles Lindbergh: Non-Stop Flight NY-Paris

“Total funds from large prizes have more than tripled over the last decade to surpass \$375 million.”

- “And the winner is...”  
McKinsey, 2009



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# Water Prize Competition Center

The screenshot shows the website for the Water Prize Competition Center. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the U.S. Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation logos, and the text 'RECLAMATION Managing Water in the West'. Below this is a search bar and a navigation menu with links to Reclamation Home, Reclamation Offices, Newsroom, Library, Projects & Facilities, Research and Development, and Challenges. The main content area is titled 'Water Prize Competition Center' and includes a search bar, a 'How You Can Help' section with links to 'Suggest candidate problems that might be solved through prize competitions', 'Enter prize competition on www.Challenge.gov', and 'Useful Information' with links to 'The Types of Problems Better Suited for Prize Competitions (pdf)', 'Challenges Currently Being Considered for Ecosystem Restoration (pdf)', 'Frequently Asked Questions (pdf)', and 'Useful Information Links (pdf)'. There is also a section titled 'How Can Prize Competitions Help Reclamation Accomplish Its Mission?' with a sub-section for 'Water Availability' and an image of a person working in a field.

[www.usbr.gov/research/challenges](http://www.usbr.gov/research/challenges)

## Three Theme Areas:

- Water Availability
- Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration
- Infrastructure Sustainability

- Two-year pilot to build core competencies and understand best uses
- *Initial Competitions scheduled for Spring/Summer 2015 in Ecosystem Restoration.*

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# Collaborating Federal Partners:

Federal collaboration enables agencies to leverage Federal capabilities, catalyze interagency working relationships, better define and solve common problems, and avoid duplication.

Additionally, solutions that we find will have a broader impact across the missions of multiple Federal agencies, for the stakeholders we collectively serve, and for the overall public good



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# Watch for us on Challenge.gov

Challenge.gov powered by ChallengePost

A partnership between the public and the government to solve important challenges.

Search   [Advanced search](#) SORT BY:



### SBA Growth Accelerator Fund Application

**FEATURED** *Posted by SBA*

SBA is looking for accelerators and incubators with unique ideas to boost the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the United States, and fill gaps where startup activity is lacking.

**\$2,500,000**  
IN PRIZES

**OPEN UNTIL**  
**AUG 02, 2014**



### Improve NASA's Astronaut Email for ISS

**FEATURED** *Posted by NASA*

NASA's current astronaut email on the International Space Station (ISS) is currently limited due to issues caused by communications disruptions and delays. [Show more](#)

**\$36,000**  
IN PRIZES

**OPEN UNTIL**  
**AUG 03, 2014**



### Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Land Mine Reporting Apps Challenge

**FEATURED** *Posted by DOD*

Challenging developers to come up with a mechanism to keep "eyes on the street" and transform ordinary citizen's mobile devices into tools that can be used to report ERW and land mines. [Show more](#)

**\$5,000**  
IN PRIZES

**OPEN UNTIL**  
**JUL 15, 2014**

338 Challenges Posted as of July 1, 2014

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# Watch for us on the Innocentive.com Challenge Center

The screenshot displays the Innocentive.com Challenge Center interface. At the top, the logo "INNOCENTIVE" is visible along with contact information: "1-855-CROWDNow · Contact Us · Blog | Register · Login". The navigation bar includes "My IC", "Products/Services", "For Solvers", "Challenge Center", and "Resources". A search box labeled "Challenge Search" is also present.

Below the navigation bar, there are sections for "InnoCentive Challenges", "Pavilions", and "External Challenges".

The left sidebar contains filters for "All Challenge Sources" (Premium, Grand Challenge), "All Challenge Disciplines" (Business & Entrepreneurship, Chemistry, Computer/Info. Technology, Engineering/Design, Food/Agriculture, Life Sciences, Math/Statistics, Physical Sciences, Requests for Partners, Social Innovation), and "All Pavilions" (WholeYou, AstraZeneca, Cleveland Clinic, CTTSO, DARPA).

The main content area, titled "InnoCentive Challenges", features a "Save Settings" button, a "Show:" dropdown set to "10", and a "You Are Viewing:" section set to "All". Below this are checkboxes for "Show Challenge Types": All (checked), Ideation, Theoretical, RTP, and eRFP.

The challenge list is presented in a table with columns: Title, Posted, Deadline, Award, and Solvers. Three challenges are listed:

+	Title	Posted	Deadline	Award	Solvers
	<b>Visualizing Nutrients Challenge</b> TAGS: Computer Science/Information Technology, Math/Statistics, Physical Sciences, Public Good, Environment, Theoretical-licensing <a href="#">+ View More</a>	4/07/15	6/08/15	See details	10
<b>PREMIUM CHALLENGE</b> <a href="#">Team</a> <a href="#">Share</a>					
	<b>Minimally Processed Foods</b> TAGS: Chemistry, Engineering/Design, Food/Agriculture, Physical Sciences, Ideation <a href="#">+ View More</a>	4/03/15	5/04/15	\$10,000 USD	58
<b>PREMIUM CHALLENGE</b> <a href="#">Team</a> <a href="#">Share</a>					
	<b>New Elastomer Material for a Spray Can Gasket</b> TAGS: Chemistry, Engineering/Design, Physical Sciences, Requests for Partners and Suppliers, RTP <a href="#">+ View More</a>	3/26/15	6/24/15	\$40,000 USD	71

# Watch for us on the Nature.com and the Scientific American Open Innovation Pavilions

nature.com  
open innovation pavilion

Powered by **INNOCENTIVE**

**nature.com** has teamed up with **InnoCentive** to offer its readers the opportunity to participate in research and development challenges. As a Solver, you can apply your expertise to important problems, stretch your creative boundaries, and win cash awards.

» [Need a Challenge Solved?](#) » [Become a Solver](#)

» [Solver stories](#) » [Contact InnoCentive and NPG](#)

All Challenge postings and submissions are managed by InnoCentive.

**NPG Resources**

**SciBX: Science - Business eXchange**  
from **NPG and BioCentury**  
The most important translational research and its implications at your finger-tips

**bioentrepreneur**  
Nature Biotechnology's portal for scientists interested in commercializing their research

**Nature Network**  
Connect with other scientists

**Solver stories**

 **Ivan Skachko**  
Solver since 2011

 **Samuel Peña-Llopis**  
Solver since 2010

**SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN™**

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**FEATURED CHALLENGE:**

**Improved Methods for In-vitro Plant Regeneration**

Challenge Reward: **\$10,000 USD** Challenge Type: **Ideation** INNOCENTIVE: **9933678**

 The Seeker desires improved methods for *in-vitro* plant regeneration. Additional details are available in the Detailed Description and Solution Requirements section of the Challenge once you register as an InnoCentive Solver.  
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Learn more at:

[www.usbr.gov/research/challenges](http://www.usbr.gov/research/challenges)