

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Cybersecurity, Energy Security,
and Emergency Response

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Rural & Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Program **Advanced Cybersecurity Technology Prize**

ACT 1 Prize

Webinar 1: Prize Overview

September 27, 2023

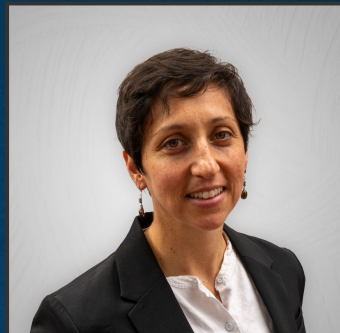
THIS WEBINAR WILL BE RECORDED.



Gunnar Tande
Prize Lead
NREL



Cynthia Hsu
Cybersecurity Program Manager
RMUC Program
DOE CESER



Fania Barwick
Implementation Manager
RMUC Program
DOE CESER

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Agenda

- 1 RMUC Program Overview
- 2 Prize Overview
- 3 American-Made Overview
- 4 Submission Elements Overview
- 5 How Submissions are Scored
- 6 Apply on the HeroX Prize Platform
- 7 Next Steps

Housekeeping

This webinar is being recorded and will be available on HeroX.

Questions?

- To submit a question, please type it into the **Q&A box on the right-hand side of your screen next to the chat box.**
- We will post responses to your questions on HeroX.

Technical issues:

- By default, the presenter's screen share appears in full screen. Press the escape key to exit full screen view and return to the Zoom window.
- If you experience technical issues, **please check your audio settings under the “Audio” tab.**
- If you continue experiencing issues, direct message the host.

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Cynthia Hsu, Cybersecurity Program Manager, RMUC Program
Fania Barwick, Implementation Manager, RMUC Program

September 27, 2023 – CESER

CESER Mission

Strengthen the security and resilience of the U.S. energy sector from cyber, physical, and climate-based risks and disruptions.

Evolving Threats to Energy Infrastructure



Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance Program (IIJA Section 40124)

Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity (RMUC) Program

Funding:

- \$250 million over 5 years (FY 2022–FY 2026) via grants, technical assistance, and cooperative agreements

Objectives:

- Deploy cybersecurity technology, operational capability, or services that enhance the security posture of electric utilities through improvements in the ability to protect against, detect, respond to, or recover from a cybersecurity threat.
- Increase the participation of eligible entities in cybersecurity threat information sharing programs.

RMUC Program

Eligibility:

- Rural electric cooperatives (approx. 900)
- Electric public power utilities (approx. 2,000):
 - A utility owned by a political subdivision of a state
 - A utility owned by any agency, authority, corporation, or instrumentality of one or more political subdivisions of a state.
- Not-for-profits in partnership with cooperative or public power electric utilities (unknown number)
- Investor-owned electric utilities that sell less than 4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year (approx. 22–50).

RMUC Program

Priority given to eligible entities:

- With limited cybersecurity resources,
- That own assets critical to the reliability of the bulk power system, or
- That own defense critical electric infrastructure (DCEI).

Stakeholder Feedback: Key Themes

Resources

Eligible utilities are limited in staffing, time, funding, and access to appropriate solutions.

Requested solutions:

- **Direct financial support**
- **Indirect support** from not-for-profit partners
- Increased access to third-party **subject matter experts** to provide guidance.

Stakeholder Feedback: Key Themes

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Workforce

Staff have limited cybersecurity expertise and limited access to appropriate industrial control system training opportunities.

Requested solutions:

- **Upskilling existing staff** to select and manage the right technologies
- Access to free or low-cost **training**
- Funding to academic institutions to develop training programs and educational opportunities in cybersecurity
- Access to training on current technologies and cutting-edge technologies so staff can be ready for the future.

Stakeholder Feedback: Key Themes

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- Funding to academic institutions to develop training programs and educational opportunities in cybersecurity
- Access to training on current technologies and cutting-edge technologies so staff can be ready for the future.

Technology and Tools

The greatest barriers are cost and workforce—many advanced cybersecurity technologies require a large, highly trained, dedicated staff.

Requested solutions:

- Provide access to tools that do not require skilled IT or specialized cybersecurity staff to operate
- Acquire more interoperable tools that can integrate with other tools
- Use automated tools that provide the visibility necessary to identify and mitigate attacks
- Develop an accessible portal to share threat intelligence
- Increase the availability of open-source tools to perform vulnerability assessments, penetration testing, threat modeling, and risk assessments.

Program Design: Mitigate Administrative Burdens

- Seek early and active engagement with eligible utilities, especially in the initial stages of design.
- Use a variety of financial assistance and delivery mechanisms for technical assistance and training.

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- Partner with APPA and NRECA and other trusted stakeholders.

Program Design: Mitigate Administrative Burdens

- Seek early and active engagement with eligible utilities, especially in the initial stages of design.
- Use a variety of financial assistance and delivery mechanisms for technical assistance and training.
- Provide cost-share reductions when possible.
- Partner with APPA and NRECA and other trusted stakeholders.
- Provide templates and short applications where possible.
- Use common language.
- Keep application periods open for more than 30 days.
- Host webinars to educate potential applicants and provide opportunities to ask questions.
- Provide FAQs and other resource documents describing opportunities and the application processes.

RMUC Program: Advanced Cybersecurity Technology (ACT) 1 Prize



Empowering utilities with limited cybersecurity resources to make critical investments in staff training, governance processes, and technologies to harden their systems against threats.

<https://www.herox.com/ACT1Prize>

RMUC Program ACT Prize Series

PRIZE OVERVIEW

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ACT 1 Prize

- \$8.96 million:
 - \$7.25 in cash awards
 - \$1.71 in technical assistance vouchers.
- Minimal administrative burden
- Priority:
 - Utilities with limited cybersecurity resources
 - Military track.
- ACT 1 is the first in the RMUC Program's ACT Prize series.



ACT 1 Prize Structure

Three increasingly competitive phases; each phase concludes with a prize.

- 1. Commitment Phase:** Utilities prepare submission packages that describe their resources, need for improving their cybersecurity posture, and commitment to participating in the ACT 1 Prize.
- 2. Planning Phase:** Utilities work with technical assistance (TA) providers to complete system assessments, identify areas for training, understand potential risks and solutions, and draft a roadmap for implementation.
- 3. Implementation Phase:** Utilities work with TA providers to make progress toward completing their implementation roadmap.

ACT 1 Prizes

Prize Phase	LIMITED CYBERSECURITY RESOURCES Track	MILITARY Track
Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$50,000• Up to 60 hours of TA• Up to 50 winners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$50,000• Up to 120 hours of TA• Up to 5 winners

ACT 1 Prizes

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Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$50,000• Up to 60 hours of TA• Up to 25 winners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$50,000• Up to 120 hours of TA• Up to 5 winners

ACT 1 Prizes

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Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$50,000• Up to 60 hours of TA• Up to 25 winners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$50,000• Up to 120 hours of TA• Up to 5 winners
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$100,000• Up to 25 winners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$100,000• Up to 5 winners
Total potential cumulative award*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$200,000• 120 hours of TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$200,000• 240 hours of TA

* If utility wins all three phases



PHASE 1

1 Commitment
Describe need, goals, service territory, and demonstrate commitment

- Submissions Open: Aug. 30, 2023
- Submissions Close: Nov. 29, 2023

Winners Announced & Awards *Mar 2024**

- Up to 55 winners
- Prize: \$50,000 cash, 60 or 120 hours technical assistance (TA)

**anticipated*



PHASE 1 Commitment
Describe need, goals, service territory, and demonstrate commitment

- Submissions Open: Aug. 30, 2023
- Submissions Close: Nov. 29, 2023

PHASE 2 Planning
Identify risks, prioritize solutions, and draft roadmap

- Submissions Open: March 2024*
- Submissions Close: Aug. 2024*

Winners Announced & Awards Mar 2024*

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PHASE 1 Commitment
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- Submissions Open: March 2024*
- Submissions Close: Aug. 2024*

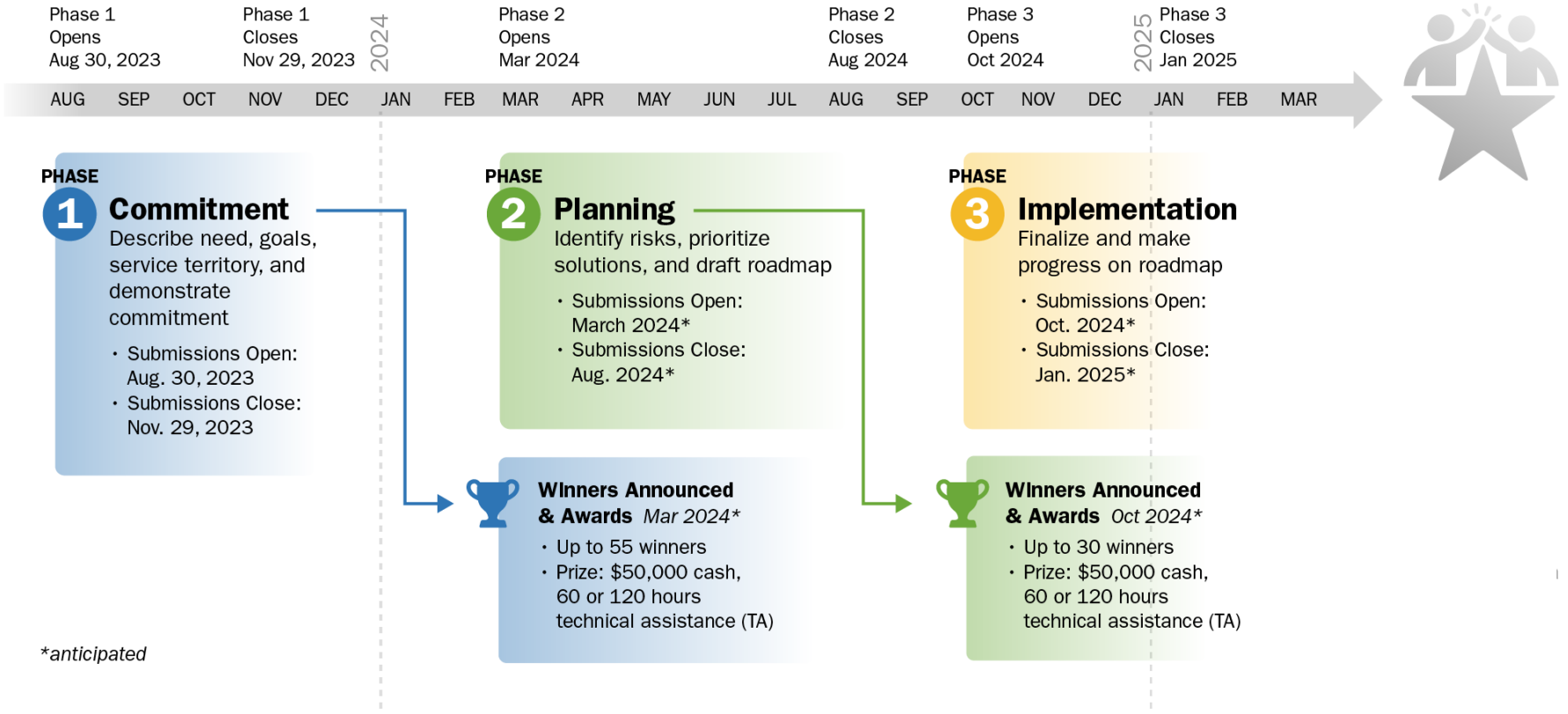
Winners Announced & Awards Mar 2024*

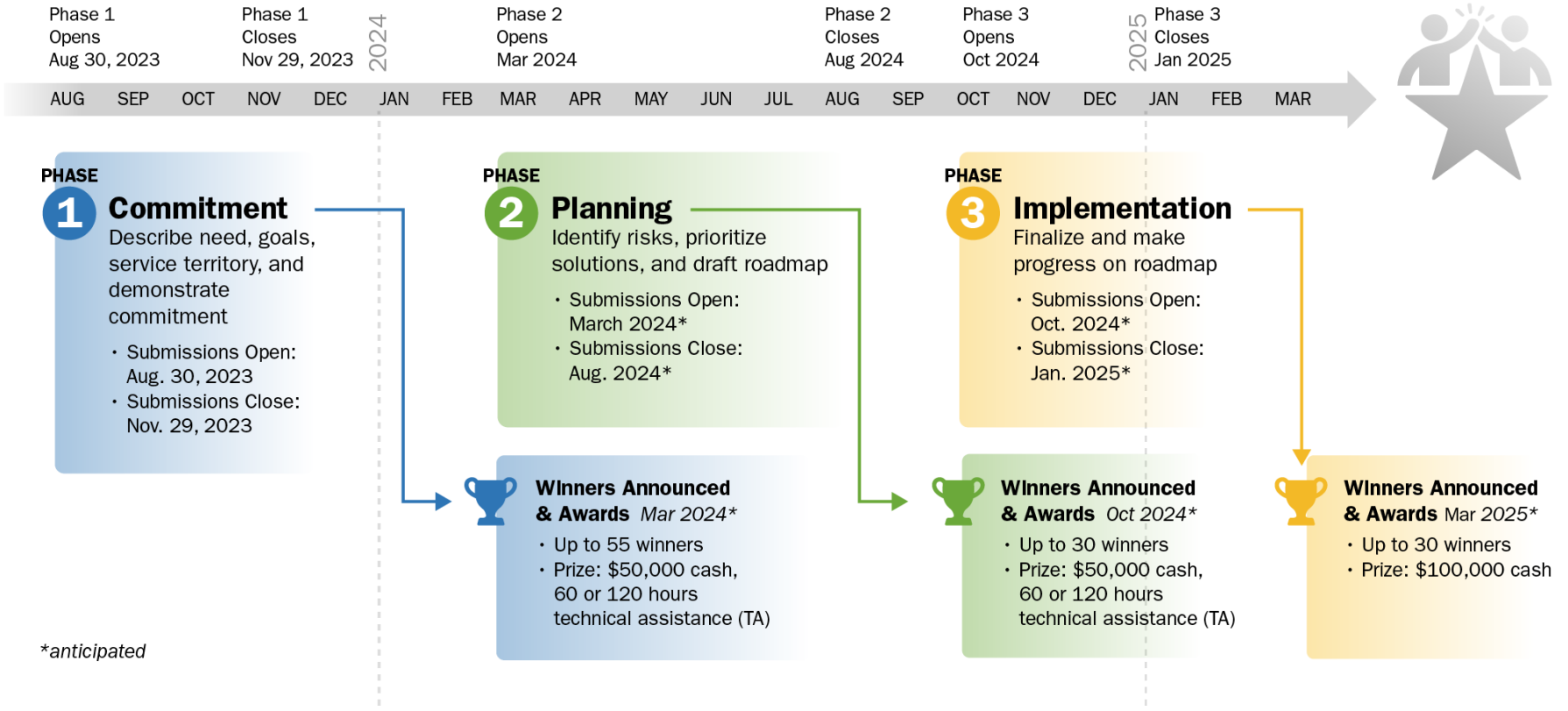
- Up to 55 winners
- Prize: \$50,000 cash, 60 or 120 hours technical assistance (TA)

Winners Announced & Awards Oct 2024*

- Up to 30 winners
- Prize: \$50,000 cash, 60 or 120 hours technical assistance (TA)

*anticipated





Prizes

AMERICAN-MADE OVERVIEW

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what IS AMERICAN-MADE ALL ABOUT?

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The American-Made program represents more than 21 technology offices within the U.S Department of Energy. We incentivize innovation through prizes, training, teaming, and mentoring, connecting the nation's entrepreneurs and innovators to America's national labs and the private sector.



Grants vs. Prizes

Financial Award Process

Write and submit concept papers.

Review concept papers.

Write and submit full applications.

Review full applications.

Select and negotiate projects.

Perform.

Prepare and submit reimbursement requests.

Review requests and issue reimbursement.



Prize Award Process

Participants begin performing.

Participants achieve predefined goal.

Participants submit package.

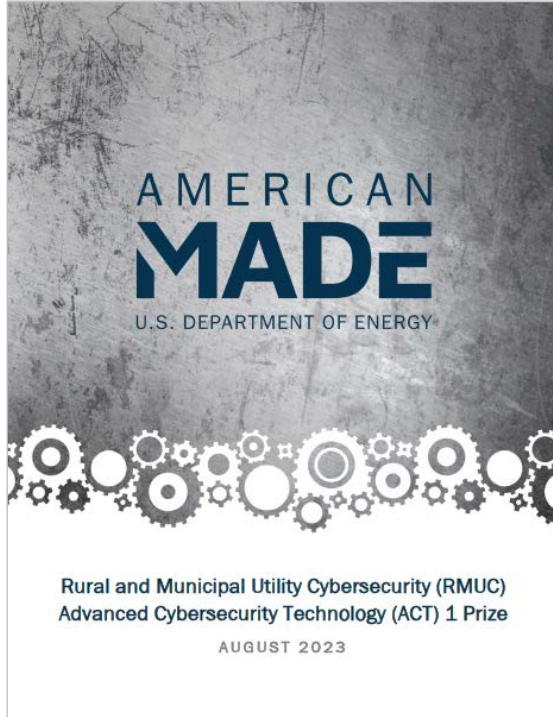
Judges score submissions.

Winners receive payment.

Phase 1: Commitment

SUBMISSION ELEMENTS OVERVIEW





READ THE RULES

**Official rules for
the ACT 1 Prize are
available online.**

URL: <https://www.herox.com/ACT1Prize>
Prize HeroX Page → Resources Tab

Eligibility



The following electric utilities are eligible to compete for an ACT 1 Prize:

- ☑ Rural electric cooperatives
- ☑ Utilities owned by a political subdivision of a state, such as a municipally owned electric utility
- ☑ Utilities owned by any agency, authority, corporation, or instrumentality of one or more political subdivisions of a state
- ☑ Investor-owned utilities that sell less than 4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year.

Phase 1: Commitment Phase Eligibility

- A single utility may submit only one ACT 1 Prize submission package on behalf of the utility.
- The utility’s submission package must be complete.
- Each competitor must attend two mandatory virtual ACT 1 Prize webinars (webinars will be recorded).
 - **Webinar 1: Prize Overview and How to Compete**—Sept. 27, 2023, 1 p.m. EST
 - Register here for **Webinar 2: How Future Prize Phases Will Work**—Oct. 11, 2023, 1 p.m. EST, <https://bit.ly/3ZddED2>. Or register using the “How to Apply” section of the ACT 1 HeroX Prize Platform.

Ineligible

-  A full list of persons and entities who are not eligible to compete in the ACT 1 Prize Program can be found on page 11 of the prize rules.
-  Please carefully review the rules to ensure that you are eligible to compete in this prize.

To Apply for a Commitment Prize, the Utility Must:

- ✓ Have staff from the utility attend both of the two required ACT 1 Prize webinars.
- ✓ Upload a submission package that includes all of the following items:
 1. Cover page and narrative (maximum 3,000 words)
 2. Letter of support from your organization's authorizing official
 3. Utility Profile Form (*Use form provided.*)
 4. RMUC Utility Service Territory Report (USTR) (*Use report provided.*)
 5. TA Request Form (*Use form provided.*)
 6. Mandatory ACT 1 Prize virtual webinars attendance confirmation.



The utility's submission package must include **all of these items** to be considered complete. *Incomplete submission packages will be ineligible to compete and will not be forwarded to the reviewer panel for scoring.*

1.3.1 Cover Page & Narrative

Your cover page must include the following:

- ☑ Commitment Prize project title
- ☑ ACT 1 Prize track (LIMITED CYBERSECURITY RESOURCES or MILITARY)
- ☑ Utility name
- ☑ City, state, and nine-digit zip code
- ☑ Primary point of contact for ACT 1 Commitment Prize submission package
- ☑ List of the names and job titles of all members of your utility's Commitment Prize team.

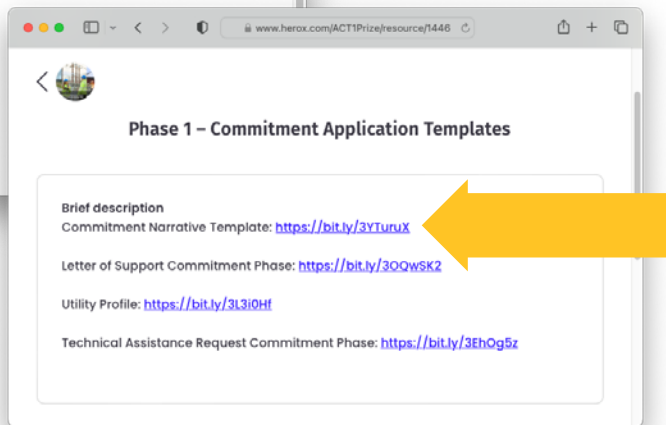
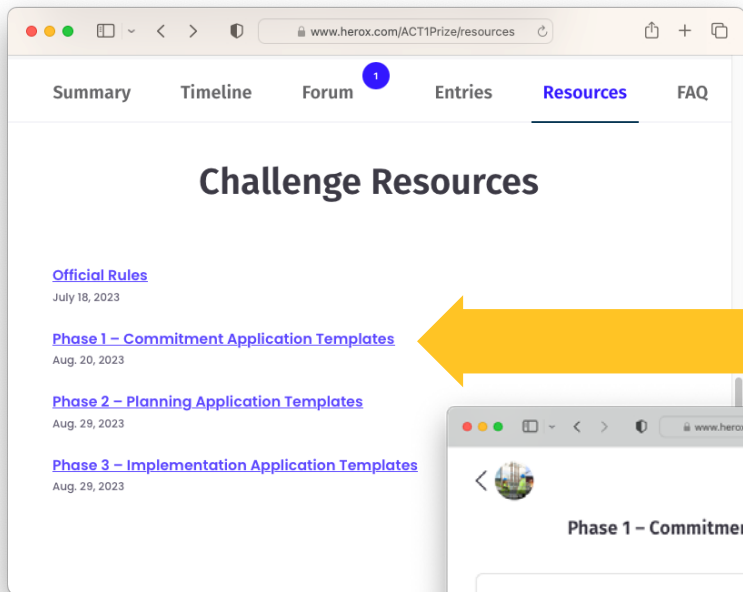
1.3.1 Cover Page & Narrative *(Part 2)*

Your narrative must include responses to questions or statements provided for *each* of the following topics:

1. Utility need and cybersecurity maturity level
2. Initial goals, expected outcomes, and impacts on utility
3. Commitment to implement cybersecurity improvements and capacity to utilize technical assistance
4. Description of service territory and community benefits.

Your narrative will be scored by the reviewers and is worth 90 points. It is one of the most important parts of your submission package.

1.3.1 Cover Page & Narrative (Part 3)



There is a ***Narrative Template*** that includes a cover page you can use.

The template provides additional guidance and is located on the ACT 1 HeroX Prize Platform under the “Challenge Resources” → “Phase 1 – Commitment Application Templates.”

1.3.1 Cover Page & Narrative *TEMPLATE*

Advanced Cybersecurity Technology (ACT) 1 Prize [Official Team Name Here]

Phase One: Commitment
Month Year



Page 3 of 11

Phase 1: Commitment Cover Page

Please delete or replace all bracketed guidance text prior to submission.

[Commitment Prize Project Title]

[ACT 1 Prize Track]

[Utility Name and City, State, and Nine-Digit Zip Code]

[Primary Point of Contact for ACT 1 Commitment Prize Submission Package (name, title, email, phone number)]

[List all of your utility's Commitment Prize Team members (names and job titles)]

Phase 1: Commitment Narrative

Please delete or replace all bracketed guidance text prior to submission.

Topic 1 – Utility Need and Cybersecurity Maturity Level

Please do not include specific cybersecurity vulnerabilities, risks, or other sensitive information in any of your application materials.

1. Describe your utility's current barriers and challenges to improving its cybersecurity posture.

[For example, does your utility have access to service providers that can come on site to provide the level of technical assistance needed, do you have locally available cybersecurity training opportunities, can commercially available technical solutions be implemented and managed by your existing staff, are available solutions affordable, do you need help with policies and procedures, does your legal/purchasing/procurement staff understand how to negotiate purchases and contracts that minimize third-party cybersecurity risks, etc.]

2. If your utility should be considered in the "MILITARY" track, briefly describe the military installations in your service territory. If your utility should be considered a "LIMITED CYBERSECURITY RESOURCES" utility, please explain why.

[If you are a utility serving military installations, briefly describe the military installations in your service territory. If you are competing in the LIMITED CYBERSECURITY RESOURCES track, describe the criteria you used to define your utility as a limited cybersecurity resources utility. For example: funding, number of staff, staff skills and abilities, time, leadership support, etc.]

3. What actions will your utility take to ensure the cybersecurity (confidentiality and integrity) of the information in your submission package?

[As part of your application, your utility will assemble information that is sensitive and needs to be protected. What actions will your utility take to ensure the cybersecurity (confidentiality and integrity) of the information in your submission package? The steps you take now to ensure the cybersecurity of your submission package will be useful to your utility in the second phase, the Planning Phase, when you will create a Section 40126 Cybersecurity Plan.¹]

4. Describe your utility's cybersecurity maturity and explain why you think this is an accurate assessment. Do not include specific cybersecurity vulnerabilities, risks, or other sensitive information in your response.

[Please provide a description of your utility's cybersecurity maturity. On a scale ranging from very low maturity to very high maturity how would you rate your utility? Please give a brief description of why you scored your utility the way you did. If your answer is based on the results of one or more completed cybersecurity assessments (see examples below), please provide the names of the assessments and the organization that created the assessments. Do not provide specific results of the assessment(s).]

¹ Section 40216 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides a framework for ensuring that the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) investments in energy sector research and infrastructure are secure and resilient from cybersecurity threats and requires all relevant IIJA provisions to have cybersecurity plans. DOE developed three Cybersecurity Plan Templates—one for high-risk projects, one for medium-risk projects, and one for low-risk projects—to streamline the development and review of Section 40126 Cybersecurity Plans. More information is available here: [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Implementation 1, Department of Energy](#).

Page 5 of 11

1.3.1 Cover Page & Narrative *(Part 3)*

More details on how to complete your cover page and narrative can be found in the prize rules.



The cover page and narrative must be uploaded to [HeroX](#) as a PDF file.

1.3.2 Letter of Support

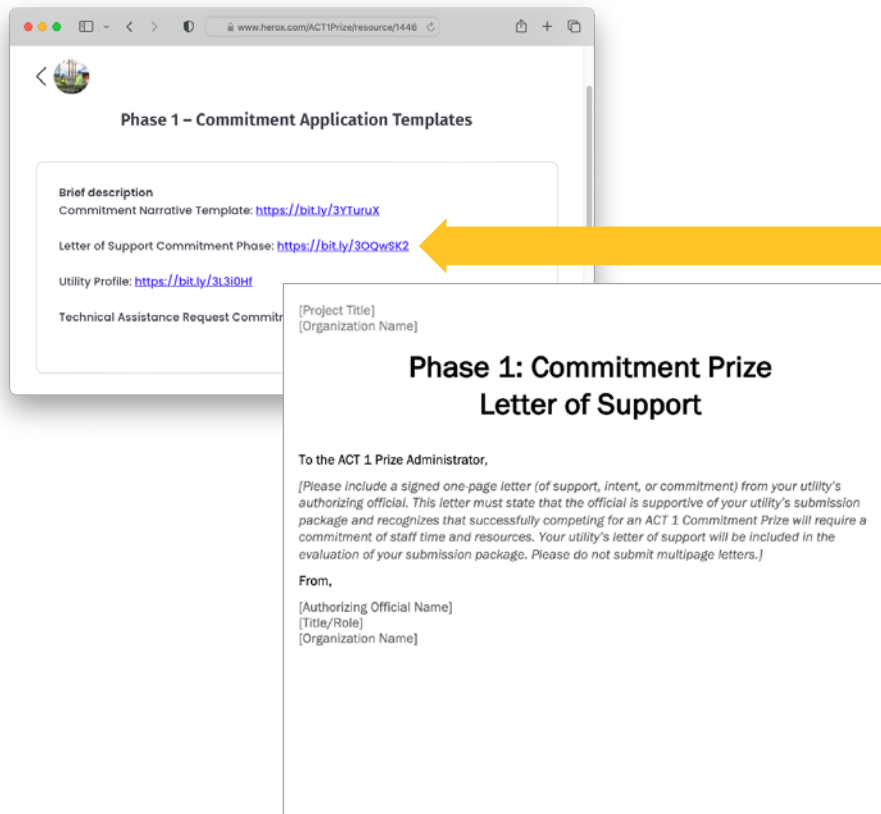
Attach a one-page letter of support, intent, and commitment signed by the utility's authorizing official.

- The letter must state that the official supports the utility's submission package.
- The letter should recognize that competing in the ACT 1 Prize will require an ongoing commitment of staff time and resources, and the official supports the use of staff time and resources for this purpose.
- The letter will be considered by the prize reviewers and will count in the evaluation of your submission package. Do not submit multipage letters.
- Only one letter of support is required for the Commitment Prize submission package. Additional letters and general letters of support will not improve your score.



The letter of support must be uploaded to [HeroX](#) as a PDF file.

1.3.2 Letter of Support *Template*



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.herox.com/ACT1Prize/resource/1446. The page title is "Phase 1 - Commitment Application Templates". Under the heading "Brief description", there are four items: "Commitment Narrative Template: <https://bit.ly/3YTunUX>", "Letter of Support Commitment Phase: <https://bit.ly/3OQwSK2>", "Utility Profile: <https://bit.ly/3l3i0Hf>", and "Technical Assistance Request Commitment". A yellow arrow points from the "Letter of Support Commitment Phase" link to a larger, detailed template for the letter.

**Phase 1: Commitment Prize
Letter of Support**

To the ACT 1 Prize Administrator,

[Please include a signed one-page letter (of support, intent, or commitment) from your utility's authorizing official. This letter must state that the official is supportive of your utility's submission package and recognizes that successfully competing for an ACT 1 Commitment Prize will require a commitment of staff time and resources. Your utility's letter of support will be included in the evaluation of your submission package. Please do not submit multipage letters.]

From,

[Authorizing Official Name]
[Title/Role]
[Organization Name]

There is a ***Letter of Support Template*** located on the ACT 1 HeroX Prize Platform under the “Challenge Resources” → “Phase 1 – Commitment Application Templates.”

1.3.3 Utility Profile Form

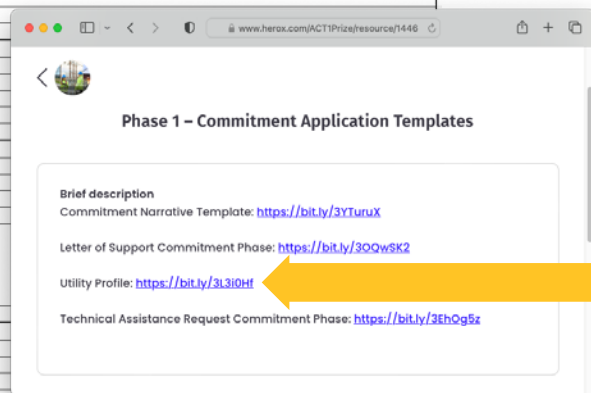
- Use the Utility Profile Form to provide information about your utility and its service territory and information about your utility's access to cybersecurity training, resources, and consulting services.
- You can use the information on this form to support your responses in the narrative, and it will be used by the prize reviewers in the evaluation of your Commitment Prize submission package.
 - If you win a Commitment Prize and compete in Phase 2, your TA provider will be required to verify the information provided in your Utility Profile Form as part of your submission package.
- We encourage you to use the RMUC USTR and publicly available tools—such as CEJST, Energy Justice Mapping Tool, Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations Rural or Remote Areas Geospatial Dashboard—to complete your Utility Profile (see links in the prize rules).
- The RMUC USTR provides basic information about the communities in your utility's service territory.



The utility profile form must be uploaded to [HeroX](#) as an Excel file.

1.3.3 Utility Profile Form

A	B
Commitment Prize: Utility Profile Form	
1	
2	Project Title
3	Utility Name
4	Nine Digit Zip
5	Utility Type (Generation, Transmission, Distribution)
6	
7	Employees
8	Total number of employees
9	Total number of full time equivalent IT employees
10	Total number of full time equivalent cybersecurity employees
11	What is the employee to customer/member ratio of your utility?
12	
13	Budget and Funding
14	Total Annual Organizational Revenue
15	Total Annual Organizational Expense
16	Have you received prior DOE funding?
17	If yes, what years and which projects?
18	What were your average estimated cybersecurity and IT expenses per year for last two years. (Please include license costs, service contracts, personnel, hardware, software non-license costs, Managed Service Providers (MSP), Information Technology Providers (ITP), consultants, digital infrastructure costs associated with other major projects)
19	
20	Service Territory Profile
21	How many meters are in your service territory?
22	What are the meters/mile?
23	How many substations does your utility have?
24	What is the size of your service territory?
25	What kinds of critical infrastructure (non-defense) are in your utility's service area? For example: hospitals, water systems, regional communication providers, etc.?
26	Describe the types of industrial and commercial customers/members you have in your service territory that rely on your utility to provide critical services to your community?
27	Do you have any military installations in your service territory? How many and what kind?
28	Are there Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) in your service area?
29	What is the average size of the census tracts in your service territory?
30	What is the approximate population of your service territory?
31	Do you have any disadvantaged communities (DACs) in your service area?
32	If so, what percent the population in your service territory falls into the Disadvantaged Communities census tract?
33	Describe the programs and resources that your utility provides to your community to address DAC needs and foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA).
34	What services are you providing to your community? For example: Energy rebates, weatherization services, vehicle charging
35	



The **Utility Profile Form** is located on the ACT 1 HeroX Prize Platform under the “Challenge Resources” → “Phase 1 – Commitment Application Templates.”

1.3.4 RMUC Utility Service Territory Report

- An RMUC USTR will be available to your utility after you participate in the first required ACT 1 Prize webinar (see Section 1.3.6). The report will include an estimated map of your utility's service territory, the number of disadvantaged community census tracts in your service territory, and other information that will be useful when completing your Utility Profile Form and your narrative responses.
- You can only request this report by using the link provided in this webinar. Access to this form is not available using the HeroX website.
- If you're provided with a USTR, it must be included in your submission package.
- If a report was not available for your utility, upload a document that lists the sources of information your utility used to complete your Utility Profile Form and narrative.



The USTR or alternative document must be uploaded to [HeroX](#) as a PDF file.

How To Request Your USTR

Use this link to request your RMUC USTR:
<https://forms.office.com/g/AjQPHvPbTh>.

Find your Utility Name and Utility Number in the EIA-861 report on the HeroX “Resources” tab and enter them into this form.

Prize team will send this report to requester.

We will review how to use the USTR during the second required ACT 1 Prize webinar, scheduled for Oct. 11, 2023, 1 p.m. ET.

Request Form for RMUC Utility Service Territory Report

Data collected from this form will be used by the Advanced Cybersecurity Technology (ACT) 1 Prize Team to generate your utility's RMUC Utility Service Territory Report.

The report will be emailed directly to you and will be necessary for the completion of your Planning Phase 1 application. A review of how to use the RMUC Utility Service Territory Report will be provided during the second ACT 1 Prize mandatory webinar.

You can register for this webinar via this link: https://iref.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_a0DH-0qT-iru55uGqM50Q

* Required

1. What is your first name? *
2. What is your last name? *
3. What is your work email address? *
4. Enter your utility's Entity Name as captured in the EIA-861 Annual Electric Power Industry Report.
5. Enter your utility's Entity ID Number as captured in the EIA-861 Annual Electric Power Industry Report.
If you do not have an Entity ID Number, please indicate that you do not have an Entity ID Number in the field below. *

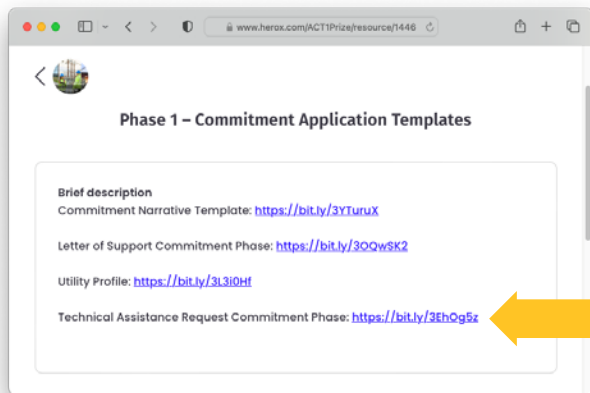
1.3.5 Technical Assistance (TA) Request Form

- Use the TA Request Form to select TA topics that can benefit your utility in the second phase, the Planning Phase, of the ACT 1 Prize competition.
 - The TA Request Form will not be used by the prize reviewers to evaluate your submission. The information in your TA Request Form will not affect your score.
 - But the TA Request Form is required for your submission package to be considered complete. Incomplete submissions will be ineligible to compete.
- If your utility wins a Commitment Prize, this form will be used to assess your utility's needs and to identify appropriate TA providers to work with you in the Planning Phase.
- If your utility will not need any of the TA options listed to complete the work that will be required to compete in the Planning Phase, you can select items listed on page 2 of the TA Request Form.



The TA request form must be uploaded to [HeroX](#) as a PDF file.

1.3.5 TA Request Form



The **TA Request Form** is located on the ACT 1 HeroX Prize Platform under the “Challenge Resources” → “Phase 1 – Commitment Application Templates.”

[Project Title]
[Organization Name]

Phase 1: Commitment Prize Technical Assistance (TA) Request

If your utility would like to use the TA provided by the ACT 1 Prize Program, please select the specific TA categories your organization would like from the checklist on this page below (Select all that apply).

If your utility would like to request TA for something not listed below, please select “Other” and provide a detailed description of the kind of TA you would like. Please note that the ACT 1 Prize Program will attempt to provide TA requested under “Other” but may not be able to, and the ACT 1 Prize Program makes no commitment to meet TA requests under “Other”.

If a utility has already conducted a stack assessment and architectural review and wishes to request TA not listed below, the utility may select from the available TA options on the following page. Please note that to win in the next phase, utilities will need to submit the 2.3.4 TA Provider Review Form, which confirms that the architectural review and cybersecurity technology stack assessment have been completed.

Winners of ACT 1 Prizes are not required to use the ACT 1 Prize Program TA provider(s) to help complete the work required to compete for a prize. However, all competitors for the Planning and Implementation Prizes are required to use an ACT 1 Prize TA provider to complete the TA Provider Review Forms required in the Planning and Implementation submission packages. If your utility only wants to utilize the ACT 1 Prize TA provider to complete the mandatory Forms, please select the “We only need a TA provider to complete the TA Provider Review Form” box.

- Architectural review of IT/OT [environment](#).
- Cybersecurity technology stack assessment (assessing the IT/OT stack).
- Assistance with assessing maturity [level](#).
- Assistance with developing and implementing a Section 40126 Cybersecurity Plan; or,
- We only need a TA provider to complete the TA Provider Review Form [ONLY select this box if you do not want any TA for the topics listed above.]
- Other. Please describe the type(s) of TA your utility is requesting.

1.3.6 Virtual Prize Webinars Confirmation

Your utility's primary point of contact (POC) for this prize must confirm the registration and attendance of staff from your utility that attended the two required webinars.

- This confirmation letter is required for your submission package to be considered complete; however, the information in this letter will not affect your score.

How to submit your webinar confirmation letter:

- Your utility's POC must submit the confirmation letter addressed to the prize administrator stating the name, title, and email for each person from the utility that completed the webinars, the date the webinars were completed, and the utility's name and address. The POC must sign this letter.
- Register here for **Webinar 2: How Future Prize Phases Will Work**—Oct. 11, 2023, 1 p.m. EST, <https://bit.ly/3ZddED2>. Or register using the “How to Apply” section of the ACT 1 HeroX Prize Platform.

The webinar confirmation letter must be uploaded to [HeroX](#) as a PDF file.

Phase 1: Commitment

HOW WE SCORE

AMERICAN
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Expert Reviewers and Scoring

The reviewers will use the following information to judge your submission:

- Narrative
- Letter of support from your utility's authorizing official
- Utility Profile Form
- RMUC USTR.

After reviewing these items, expert reviewers will use the point scale shown in the following table to assign a score between 1 and 6 for each criteria listed (see prize rules section 1.4).

1	2	3	4	5	6
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree

Expert Reviewers and Scoring

FINAL DETERMINATION

- The final score from an individual reviewer for a submission package equals the sum of all the scores for each bulleted statement.
- Final determination of the winners by the U.S. Department of Energy prize judge will consider the reviewers' feedback and scores, your utility's submission package, and the program policy factors included in Section 4 of the prize rules.

Program Policy Factors

In addition to the reviewers' scores, many program policy factors may be considered in determining phase competitors.

Please review the full list of program policy factors starting on page 37 of the prize rules.

Phase 1: Commitment

APPLY ON THE HeroX PRIZE PLATFORM

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HeroX Prize Platform

STEP 1

Go to this URL :

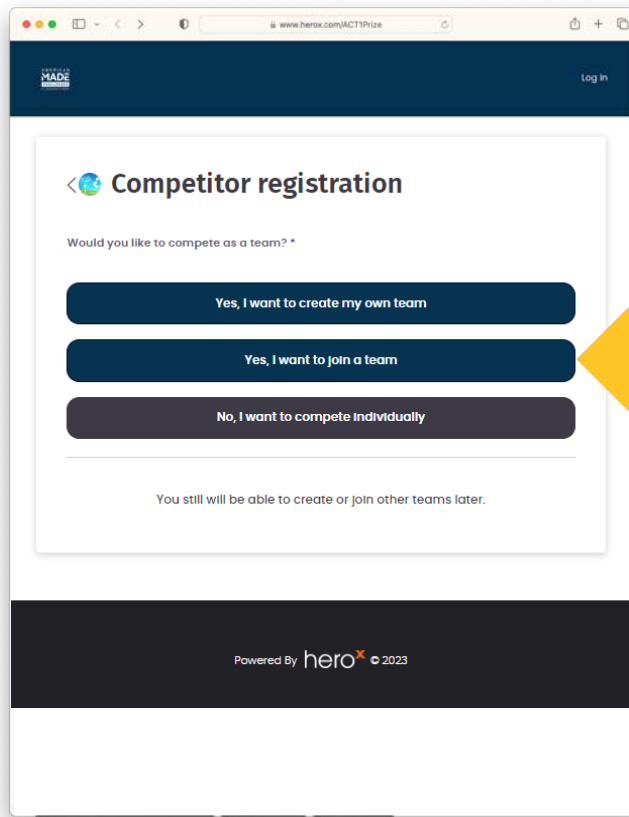
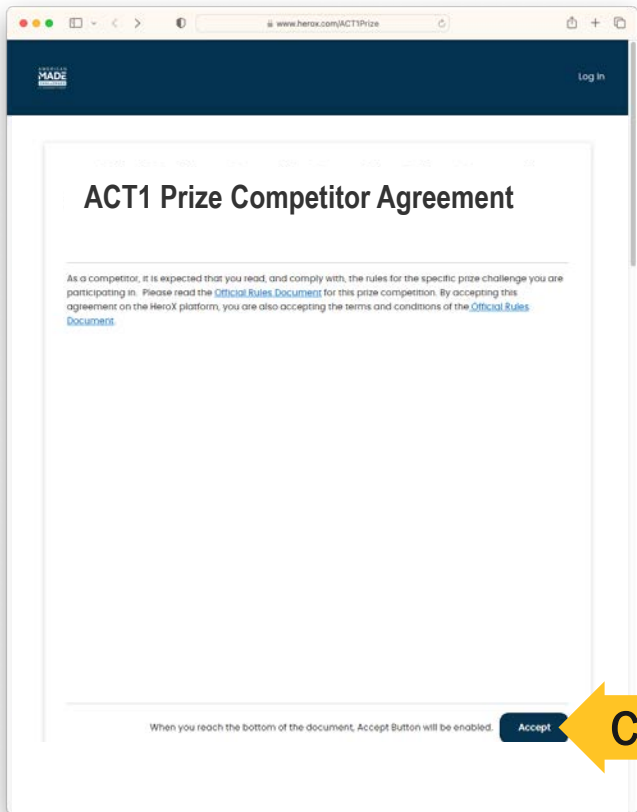
<https://www.herox.com/ACT1Prize>

The screenshot displays the HeroX Prize Platform interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the 'MADE' logo and a 'Log In' link. Below this, the main header reads 'American-Made Challenges' with a view count of 3,158 and buttons for 'Share' and 'Follow (78)'. The central focus is the 'Advanced Cybersecurity Technology 1 Prize' challenge. It features a large image of utility workers and a description: 'Empowering utilities with limited cybersecurity resources to make critical investments in hardening their systems against threats.' Below the description are tags for 'Energy Environment & Resources', 'Government', and 'Technology'. A table shows the challenge details: 'Stage: Enter' and 'Prize: \$8,960,000'. A prominent blue button labeled 'SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE' is positioned below the table. At the bottom, there's a navigation menu with tabs for 'Summary', 'Timeline', 'Forum' (with a notification badge), 'Entries', 'Resources', and 'FAQ'. Under 'Summary', there are sub-tabs for 'Overview', 'How to Apply', 'Prize Structure', and 'Prize Background'. The 'Overview' section is currently active, providing details about the Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity (RMUC) Program and the Advanced Cybersecurity Technology (ACT) 1 Prize.

STEP 2

Select “FOLLOW” or Select “SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE”

HeroX Prize Platform



HeroX Prize Platform

American-Made Challenges

1,294 | Share | Following (41)

Advanced Cybersecurity Technology 1 Prize

Empowering utilities with limited cybersecurity resources to make critical investments in hardening their systems against threats.

Energy, Environment & Resources | Government | Technology

Stage: Enter | Prize: \$8,960,000

BEGIN ENTRY

Summary | Timeline | Forum ¹ | Entries | Resources | FAQ



Submit your entry by **5 p.m. ET** on **Nov. 29, 2023.**



NOTE: HeroX Submission Form

The top of the submission form requests your “idea.”

*Instead of an idea, please enter the **project title** from your submission package cover page.*

Including an image with your submission is optional.


Section 1: Introduction

Title *
Give your submission a catchy title that describes the idea and gets people interested.

0/60

Short description
Provide a brief description of your idea. Be clear and concise.

0/140

Image Supported File Types: PNG, JPG
 An Image boosts your message by illustrating your solution. Ensure your image is at least 650 pixels wide by 366 pixels tall for clarity.

How did you hear about this challenge?

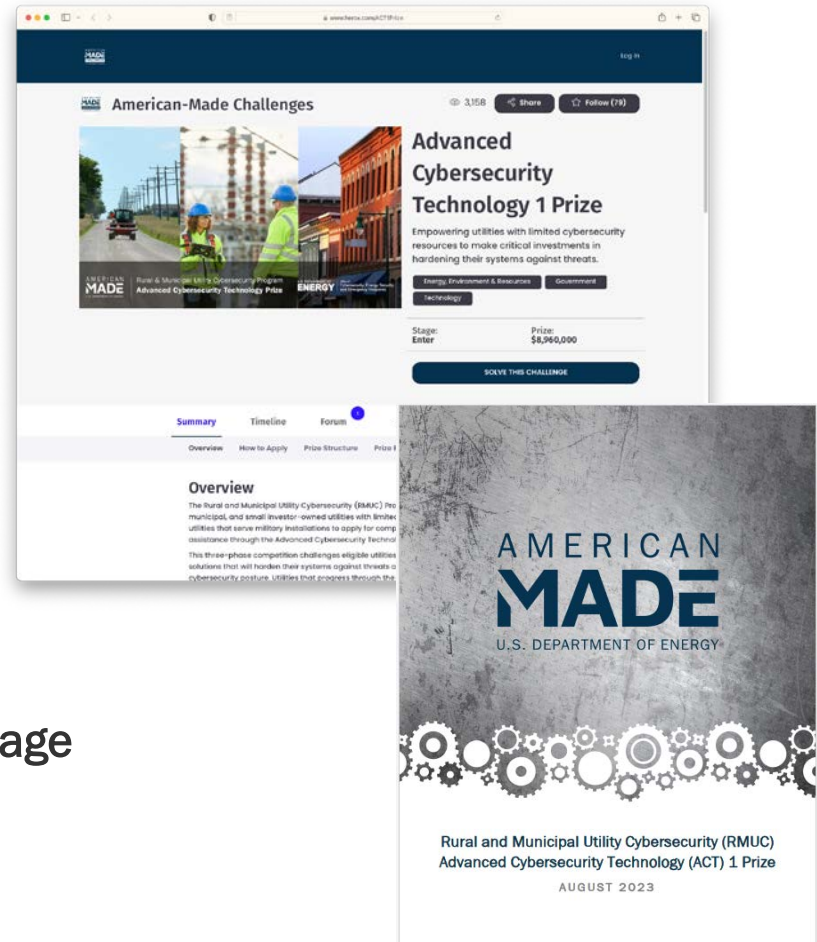
0/100

Next Steps



What's Next?

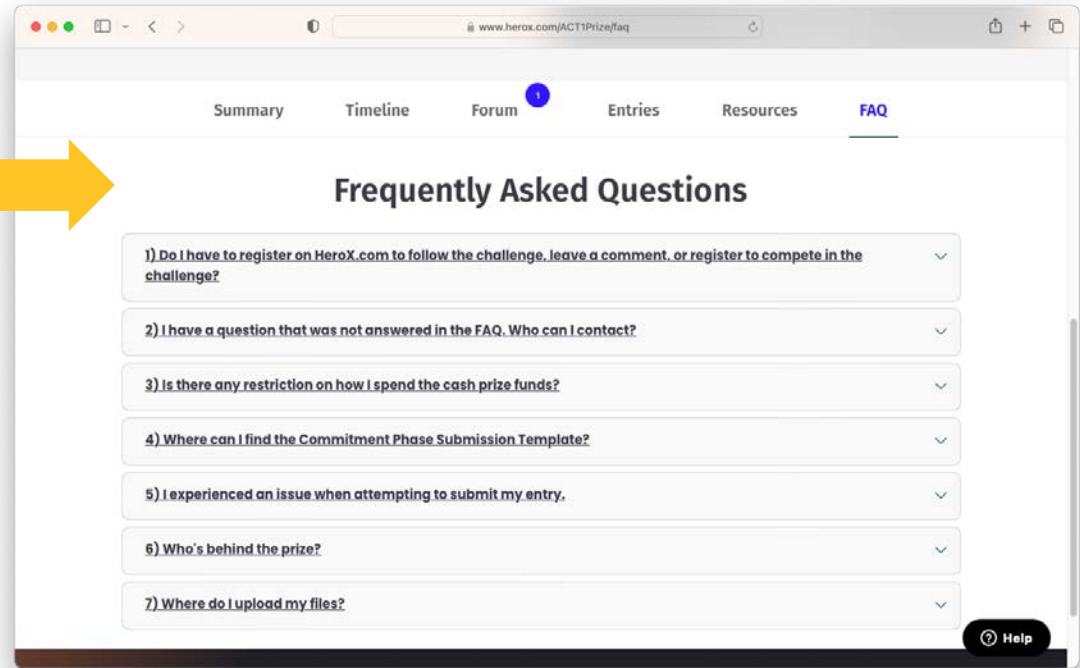
1. Follow the challenge on the HeroX Prize Platform:
<https://www.herox.com/ACT1Prize>.
2. Read the rules:
[HeroX](#) → [Resources Tab](#).
3. Start your submission package!
4. Upload your completed submission package by **5 p.m. ET on Nov. 29, 2023**.



Questions?


Submit your questions to: ACT.Prizes@nrel.gov.

FAQs are posted on the ACT 1 Prize HeroX Prize Platform.



Thank you

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NREL/PR-6A50-87444