



Media Release

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Call for Innovative Energy Solutions of the Future

~SEAI launch Award to find Ireland's brightest energy entrepreneur~

Irish early-stage companies developing innovative sustainable energy products and services have the potential to compete strongly on the international stage and are contributing towards the growth of our clean-tech economy. This is according to Prof J. Owen Lewis, CEO of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) who launched the first Sustainable Energy Innovation Award today.

SEAI is calling for entries for the inaugural Innovation Award for pre- or early-commercialisation stage sustainable energy products or services. This includes innovation at research, development, testing or demonstration stages which are not yet available on the market. Short-listed companies will be given the opportunity to present before a panel of judges in a *Dragons' Den* format at the annual SEAI Energy Show to take place at the RDS, Dublin on March 30th and 31st.

Announcing the Award, SEAI Chief Executive Prof J. Owen Lewis praised the concept; "The Sustainable Energy Innovation Award is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the strides Ireland is making in the area of sustainable energy. And of course our 'Energy Dragons' will be keeping applicants on their toes, ensuring that only the best idea emerges victorious at the end. Innovation is now at the heart of the burgeoning Green Economy which is a key pillar of our economic recovery."

Entries will be judged according to levels of innovation, energy performance and environmental impact, and the business potential of each concept. The deadline for receipt of completed application entries for the Innovation Award is March 9th and the shortlist of entries due to present at the Energy Show will be published during the week commencing March 14th. All winners will be announced on the opening day of the Show on March 30th. The winning entrant will receive financial support towards business costs

depending on their stage of development which could take the form of incubation space fees, mentoring and management consultancy or marketing consultancy. For more information and a copy of the entry form, visit www.seai.ie. Submissions are accepted by email only to innovationaward@seai.ie

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About SEAI:

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) has a mission to play a leading role in transforming Ireland into a society based on sustainable energy structures, technologies and practices. The Authority is financed by Ireland's EU Structural Funds Programme co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union.