

Attend a three-part webinar series.


[AAAS.ORG](#) | [FEEDBACK](#) | [HELP](#) | [LIBRARIANS](#)

Daily News

Enter Search Term

ADVANCED

[ALERTS](#) | [ACCESS RIGHTS](#) | [MY ACCOUNT](#) | [SIGN IN](#)
[News Home](#) | [ScienceNOW](#) | [ScienceInsider](#) | [Premium Content from Science](#) | [About Science News](#)
[Home](#) > [News](#) > [ScienceInsider](#) > [June 2012](#) > U.S. Agencies Unveil Competition to Develop Personal Pollution Sensor


U.S. Agencies Unveil Competition to Develop Personal Pollution Sensor

by Meghna Sachdev on 6 June 2012, 5:34 PM | [3 Comments](#)[Email](#)[Print](#)

3

[More](#)[PREVIOUS ARTICLE](#)[NEXT ARTICLE](#)

In a first, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is jumping into the science prize game. EPA, together with the National Institutes of Health's (NIH's) National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the Department of Health and Human Services, today announced a nationwide competition to develop new, highly portable sensors that can measure air quality while monitoring a person's physiological response to air pollution. Four finalists in the [My Air, My Health Challenge](#) will receive \$15,000 and the opportunity to present a working prototype to judges, with \$100,000 going to the winner.

[ENLARGE IMAGE](#)

Credit: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Obama Administration has been a fan of prizes as a way to stimulate innovation. But My Air, My Health marks EPA's first foray into competitions. EPA Science Advisor Glenn Paulson seems sold on the concept: "You're paying for the results, not for the research," he says. "It's one of the most effective and efficient ways to get something done."

[NIH has been slow to get into the prize game, as well](#), but NIEHS Director Linda Birnbaum is also a fan of a little competition. "Grants fund the proposals that are most likely to succeed, but challenges give the prize to someone who has already achieved success," she says. An additional benefit: "These challenges lead to attracting outside investment to an area that's been a federal priority."

The first phase of the challenge requires participants to send in a written proposal that details their sensor design. Proposals are due by 5 October, and the finalists will be announced on 8 November. The four finalists will have 6 months to come up with a working prototype before a winner is chosen in 2013.

Follow **ScienceInsider** on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)Posted in [Environment/Climate](#) | [Science Community](#)[Email](#)[Print](#)[Share](#)

7

2 retweet

[More](#)

Related on Insider



JUNE 12, 2012

Legislating Sea Level Rise



JUNE 4, 2012

BP Wins Right to Scientists' Oil Spill E-mails



MAY 21, 2012

Intruder Arrested at GM Field Trial

ADVERTISEMENT

Science Webinar
SERIES

Register for upcoming webinars.

Access Now!

ADVERTISEMENT

WEBINAR

Next Generation Sequencing and Translational Research

The Express Lane from Bench to Bedside

Recorded on
May 9, 2012

[Click to View!](#)

Science
AAAS

Sponsored by
Roche and
454 Sequencing

Like

Add New Comment

[Login](#)



Type your comment here.

Showing 3 comments

Sort by popular now



CompetitionsNow

I tried my best. I really did. I bought newspapers every week, sometimes even if it meant a trip to the store on a day we didn't need groceries. I poured over them, desperately trying to find coupons for items we use.



C Cook

I guess that if lots of data from personal monitors is sent in to whatever Government department is running this, legislation to limit air pollution still further will eventually ensue. In the UK, there is still a problem with pungent emissions from diesel engines and disgusting odours from sewage treatment plants, to name just two.



Christina_rush

Oh yes, lets make the masses even more paranoid. Great idea.

M [Subscribe by email](#) S [RSS](#)

Reactions



Trackback URL <http://disqus.com/forums>

[blog comments powered by DISQUS](#)