

Global call for creative and feasible energy solutions: Towngas and SPIC launch the 3rd “TERA-Award Smart Energy Innovation Competition”

- The contest, centred on zero-emission technological breakthroughs, is fostering partnerships between tech pioneers and energy start-ups.
- The global call for entries has officially commenced, inviting tech innovators from around the world to submit their projects by December 17, 2023.

In a bid to counteract the impacts of climate change, China is pivoting towards green energy solutions, given that fossil fuels currently account for 84 percent of the nation's total energy consumption.

China has outlined its dual goals: to hit peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. To galvanise global technological innovators and foster collaborations with energy startups, the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Ltd (Towngas) and the State Power Investment Corporation Ltd (SPIC) have come together to launch the TERA-Award.

The TERA-Award stands out for its comprehensive support to winners and exceptional projects. Recipients are not only granted investment from Towngas but also benefit from incubation support for the practical application of their solutions in real-world scenarios at Towngas.

On September 19, a joint ceremony was held by Towngas and SPIC to inaugurate the call for submissions for the 3rd TERA-



Miss Diane Wong (3rd from left), Under Secretary for Environment and Ecology; Dr Lee Ka-kit (4th from right), Chairman of Henderson Land Development Company Limited and The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited; Mr Lu Hongzao (3rd from right), Vice President of State Power Investment Corporation, Professor Cui Yi (2nd from right), Chairman and Chief Technology Advisor of EnerVenue, Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at Stanford University; Professor Vivian Yam (2nd from left), Founding Member of the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences, Chair Professor of Chemistry at the University of Hong Kong; Mr Peter Wong (1st from right), Managing Director of Towngas; and Mr Alan Chan (1st from left), Chief Investment Officer of Towngas, officiated at the launch ceremony of the 3rd TERA-Award.

Award. The competition, which offers a grand prize of US\$1 million to the Gold Award recipient, also includes cash prizes for the Silver and Bronze Award winners. In addition to these honours, entrants with promising projects will be given financial and corporate backing, providing them with the necessary support to transform their innovative concepts into reality.

At the ceremony, Dr Lee Ka-kit, Chairman of Henderson Land Development Company Ltd and Towngas said, “The past two competitions received 483 innovative projects from over 41 countries and regions worldwide. I firmly believe that by uniting scientists worldwide and harnessing the power of innovative technologies, we can create a truly comprehensive zero-carbon



Mr Lu Hongzao, Vice President of SPIC.

smart world, offering hope for resolving the global crisis that has befallen our Earth,” he noted. “The TERA-Award transcends being a mere competition; it represents the deep commitment and responsibility of Towngas as a century-old energy company. My vision for TERA-Award is for it to evolve into a global nexus where innovators and entrepreneurs in energy technology converge, attracting the brightest minds in the realm of science and technology.”

Resonating with Dr Lee's sentiment was Mr Lu Hongzao, Vice President of SPIC, noted, “The fundamental objective of the TERA-Award competition is to scour the globe for emerging champions in zero-carbon technology. By empowering groundbreaking products and solutions through a holistic approach encompassing financial rewards, resources, and application scenarios, we aim to expedite the practical implementation and widespread adoption of cutting-edge green energy advancements.”

Another officiating guest, Miss Diane Wong, Under Secretary for Environment and Ecology, HKSAR, said, “Climate change is a real global challenge that knows no borders. The United Nations Secretary-General has recently coined the term ‘global boiling’, and this highlights the urgency of concerted efforts of all quarters to rise above the challenge. The governments could not do it alone. We need to join hands with the private sector and civil society to ensure that swift and decisive actions are taken.”

Theme and focus areas

The 3rd TERA-Award, under the theme of “Exploring Zero-Carbon Innovations for the Future”, has broadened its scope to include six key areas: “Renewable Energy”, “Energy Storage & Conversion”, “Carbon Neutrality”, “Hydrogen”, “Energy Digitalisation”, and the newly introduced “Green Smart City”. The latter is designed to stimulate comprehensive solutions for zero-carbon applications.

The TERA-Award has been a catalyst in the green energy sector, propelling the commercialisation of innovative projects. Among these is Luquos Energy's “Safe and Low-cost Flow Battery” project, a recipient of the Bronze Award at the inaugural TERA-Award. This cost-effective liquid flow battery project, optimised for energy storage, attracted significant investment from Towngas.

Together, let us spearhead the advancement of a green economy, safeguarding our precious home.



Dr Lee Ka-kit, Chairman of Henderson Land Development Company Ltd and Towngas.



The kick-off ceremony concluded with a roundtable discussion, where top executives from green energy tech start-ups shared their insights. Mr Alan Chan (1st from left) moderated the roundtable discussion, with the four speakers being Professor Cui Yi (2nd from left); Professor Lu Yi-chun (1st from right), Co-founder and Chief Scientist of Luquos Energy; Mr Thomas Xu Tao (2nd from right), Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of StarFive; and Mr Philip Siu (centre), Chief Executive Officer of EcoCeres.

For more information about the 3rd TERA-Award, please visit the competition website:

