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Texas-based SOL-ARK named semi-finalist in the U.S. Department of Energy's [AMERICAN-MADE SOLAR PRIZE](#) competition

[PARKER, TEXAS] — [February 17, 2020] – **Sol-Ark**, a Texas-based solar engineering firm was named a semi-finalist in the U.S. Department of Energy's **American-Made Solar Prize** on February 11, 2020 for its latest “virtual power plant” nanogrid solution that makes backup power affordable for the general public while reducing utility company costs.

Sol-Ark's design integration changes the conventional customer-provider relationship between homeowners and utilities into one where interests become aligned. The power centers work with batteries to safely convert neighborhood homes into thousands of power banks that utilities can access to solve critical demand issues while providing homeowners with safe backup, solving two key issues: 1) utilities needing quicker, cheaper access to power for the EV age and growing economy, and 2) homeowners frustrated by frequent outages due to an unstable grid or storms. What makes Sol-Ark's design unique is that it allows utility companies to accomplish with only one unit what normally requires other brands two units. Sol-Ark boasts an industry leading power output of 9.6KW, reduces round-trip battery losses by half and requires less wiring.

“Home battery backup, which has previously been cost prohibitive for the vast majority of homeowners, can now be reduced in cost by nearly 50% while solving the utilities' headache of demand response in a world where there is rapidly increasing pressure on the power grid in the evenings. Homeowners get low cost battery backup and the utilities gain instantaneous locally available power to stabilize their grid and mitigate

risk.,” says Tom Brennan, Sol-Ark CTO. “We are humbled to be selected as a semifinalist in the American-Made Solar Prize,” Tom continues. “The competition is the perfect venue for us to showcase new technology and business models reducing costs. We are grateful to the DOE for its resources including world-class laboratories.”

About Sol-Ark

Founded by a team of military veterans and defense engineers, Sol-Ark designs and manufactures solar hybrid storage inverters. It has the most efficient solar storage inverter technology as well as proprietary defense technologies to protect against electromagnetic pulse (EMP), solar flares, and lightning. Sol-Ark has been a cost disruptor in the hybrid inverter space by saving installers thousands of dollars per install with low idle power and efficiency advancements. The company continues its mission to help families and businesses be less dependent on our vulnerable power grid in an affordable way.

About the American-Made Solar Prize

The American-Made Solar Prize is a \$3 million prize competition designed to revitalize U.S. solar manufacturing through a series of contests and the development of a diverse and powerful support network that leverages national laboratories, energy incubators, and other resources across the country. The American-Made Solar Prize is directed and administered by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office. [Learn more.](#)