

i6 Green Challenge Grant from Economic Development Administration: \$1.3M – Igniting Innovation Clean Technology Acceleration Center

Primary Investigator Tom O’Neil, University Central Florida, Co-PI: Dr. Tim Anderson, FESC, and Technological Research and Development Authority (TRDA)

Other Partners: Space Florida, and the Florida High Tech Corridor Council



The Florida Energy Systems Consortium in partnership with Technological Research and Development Authority (TRDA) and the University of Central Florida (Lead University) received \$1.3 million award from the Economic Development Administration. Space Florida and the Florida High Tech Corridor Council supported the application and provided matching funds.

The team will create the Florida Cleantech Acceleration Network (FL CAN). The “FL CAN” will be a unique distributed, virtual proof of concept model that consists of a network of Florida-based universities, business incubators, investors and industry resources to accelerate the commercialization of innovative clean technology into new business ventures or to license the technology into existing firms.

The Florida partners will work together to speed up the development and commercialization of research in clean technology and energy, such as solar power, building science, energy efficiency, and energy from biomass. The “FL CAN” will be a hub for connecting Florida’s most promising clean technology research with experienced entrepreneurs, entrepreneurial students, industry partners, venture capitalists, and other resources that can expedite the formation of new ventures. The center will provide focused entrepreneurship education programs, industry contacts in energy, mentorship by “been there, done that” technology executives, and access to investors.

“We proposed this network to utilize the existing resources we have in the state and bring them together to help jumpstart the development of clean technologies statewide,” said Tom O’Neil, associate vice president for UCF’s Office of Research and Commercialization and the lead investigator on the project. “Not only do we have outstanding energy research expertise, we have a skilled technical workforce located in Florida’s Space Coast to develop a strong energy innovation cluster in Central Florida,” O’Neil added.

As part of the grant, FESC will catalog all clean technology-related intellectual property developed at Florida universities. In addition, FESC will facilitate the accessibility of a network of laboratory facilities that are dedicated to clean technology development. Entrepreneurs, students, scientists and established companies interested in developing commercial products based on Florida-based research will have access to these user facilities.

UCF and TRDA will jointly manage the market research activities. The combined UCF and TRDA teams will provide extensive market research expertise to assess technologies and to develop strong marketing plans for the most promising projects within the center.

Link to web site: www.flcleantech.com