Prize Competitions & Challenge.Gov

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Prize Competitions - Historical Significance

CHALLENGE.GOV



Longitude Prize

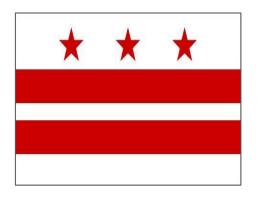
Problem: Inability to accurately determine longitude caused the British Navy many accidents and impacted their naval superiority.

Year: 1714

Sponsor: British Government

Prize Amount: £20,000 (Today's value >£2,000,000)

Winner: John Harrison, a watchmaker



DC Flag Design Competition

Problem: Over 100 years after the founding of the District of Columbia the U.S. Capitol was still without an official flag.

Year: 1938

Sponsor: U.S. Congress

Winner: Charles A.R. Dunn, a flag designer, who produced a design based on George Washington's family's coat-of-arms

2010 - America COMPETES Reauthorization Act (P.L. 111-358)

"Each head of an agency, or the heads of multiple agencies in cooperation, may carry out a program to award prizes competitively to stimulate innovation that has the potential to advance the mission of the respective agency."

The COMPETES Reauthorization Act mandated that GSA:

- "Facilitate the use of prize competitions across Federal Government"

March 8, 2010: M-10-11, Subject: "Guidance on the Use of Challenges and Prizes to Promote Open Government"

- "GSA will make available a web-based platform for prizes and challenges within 120 days" Established Challenge.Gov.

Challenge.Gov Overview

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Federal Prize Authority has been in place since 2010

Over 1,800 prize competitions launched





> 100 Federal agencies have participated

Over \$500M offered in prizes and other awards



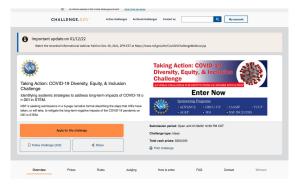
Challenge.Gov Program

- Consultative Services
- Support for Challenge & Prize
 Community of Practice
- Develop practical toolkits
- Knowledge products

Challenge.Gov Platform

- Advanced infrastructure
- Secure Fisma Moderate
- Intuitive User Experience
- Accessible
- Open Source Code





Prize Competition Examples

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Analytics



Entrepreneurship



Ideas



Design



Scientific



Software



Technology





Benefits to the <u>federal government</u>:

- Partnerships
- Attract leading edge innovators
- Brings out-of-discipline perspectives to bear
- Pay only for success
- Can be an onramp to follow-on direct activities

Benefits to <u>innovators</u>:

- Selection not based on past performance
- No-strings attached funding
- Intellectual property remains with the innovator
- Opportunities for follow-on funding

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