Providing Education and Training for the Operation and Maintenance of Clean Energy Technologies.

The U.S. government promotes renewable energy generation to help countries meet the energy needs of their populations while minimizing greenhouse gas emissions. The U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) VOCTEC program assists developing nations build local capacity to ensure the sustainability of their renewable energy investments.
The VOCTEC Team
USAID has selected Arizona State University to lead VOCTEC, a consortium of higher education institutions and service providers that will develop and implement clean energy training and education programs worldwide. The VOCTEC team is comprised of Arizona State University, Appalachian State University and Green Empowerment, a non-profit organization.

The team members are internationally recognized experts in the fields of clean energy technology, clean energy operations and policy implementation, educational assessment and design, and gender-conscious programming. Arizona State University’s role is focused on delivering training in the areas of solar and micro-grid technologies. Appalachian State University will provide training in wind energy, and Green Empowerment will focus on micro-hydro power generation.

VOCTEC can help USAID missions and bureaus meet energy, education, and workforce development goals. Together with the EGAT Energy Team, VOCTEC staff will provide technical assistance, program design and implementation services to achieve transformative results in the following areas:

### Short-term Training for Technicians and Policy Makers
VOCTEC can provide short-term, hands-on and classroom technical training on the operations and maintenance of solar pv, wind, micro-hydro, or hybrid energy systems at training facilities in the U.S. or in USAID-assisted countries. VOCTEC can also provide training on the financial and policy requirements of clean energy systems for policy makers contemplating investments in these areas.

### Curricula Development and Institutional Capacity Building Programs
VOCTEC can develop curricula for partner institutions and train local staff to deliver the course content. Online learning platforms and other innovative educational delivery mechanisms can be incorporated into the program. Curricula can include design, assembly, operation, and maintenance of clean energy systems; entrepreneurship skills training; as well as economic and policy requirements of decentralized clean energy and hybrid energy systems.

### Training Facilities Development
VOCTEC can assist partner institutions to establish their own training facilities. Services might include selection and procurement of equipment, installation, and establishment of connections with private-sector vendors.

### Accreditation Support
VOCTEC can help obtain professional credentials for clean energy vocational curricula in partner institutions and organizations.
THREE-STEP PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ASSOCIATE AWARDS

1. Confirm with Pam Baldinger, USAID VOCTEC Agreement Officer’s Technical Representative (AOTR), that the proposed activity/program fits within VOCTEC’s mandate and ceiling ($7 million for associate awards).

2. Send a detailed request to the AOTR and the VOCTEC project director outlining the scope of work, available budget and any specific requirements desired.

3. EGAT and the VOCTEC team will work with the mission to reach agreement on the program description, budget, and level of effort. The mission/bureau/office’s Agreement Officer makes the Associate Award. The Mission will appoint its own AOTR to manage the award.

Associate Awards may require a Country Assessment or Program Design assistance before they can be created. These activities may be conducted within the scope of the Associate Award, or in some instances, under the Leader with EGAT resources.

**Associate Awards**

- Are quickly and easily executed, as they have been pre-competed through the Leadership with Associates (LWA) Award.
- Will be managed by the USAID Mission or Office funding the activity and will have budget and reporting requirements separate from core funding requirements.
- Can be created anytime during the life of the Leader (which ends in April 2016) and may last up to five years.
An abundant supply of clean energy is critical for the health and well-being of a nation and its people. Clean energy drives economic growth and prosperity, along with the tools and equipment necessary for educating, feeding and caring for the health and wellbeing of a country’s citizens. But in order to build and maintain the infrastructure for clean energy, a nation must ensure that those who will manage and operate its facilities have the skills necessary for the job and the ability to transfer those skills to future generations as time and technology progresses. Too many clean energy systems fail because their beneficiaries lack the knowledge, training and connections to understand the budget and implementation requirements for the operations and maintenance of these systems.

All VOCTEC programs will incorporate common tools to ensure they meet USAID and partner objectives.

These tools include:

**Online Learning, Collaboration, and Dissemination Platform**
to promote best practices and analysis of outcomes and experiences.

**Assessment, Evaluation, and Project Planning**
utilizing advanced tools and methodologies and local partnerships with core organizations and experts.

**Advancing Gender-Conscious Programming**
to achieve maximum access and participation among women and disadvantaged groups in vocational education and subsequent employment.

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For more information, contact:

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