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Hydrovolts Makes the Semi-Finalist Round of the Pacific Northwest Clean Tech Open

SEATTLE, WA. May 12, 2009 – The judges for the [Clean Tech Open](#) picked Hydrovolts, Inc. of Seattle as one of twelve semi-finalists from the Pacific Northwest in its national competition for clean tech entrepreneurs and their innovative companies. Hydrovolts produces innovative micro-hydropower turbines that will make new sources of renewable energy around the world. In a few months three of the twelve semi-finalists will be named regional finalists and each will win \$50,000 in cash and services and a trip to the national finals against teams from California and the Rocky Mountains. The national winner gets a package of cash and services worth \$250,000 as well as national exposure.

Hydrovolts is on a roll - In April 2009 Hydrovolts was voted winner of the “First Look Forum” of the [Northwest Entrepreneur Network](#) (NWEN) out of a starting field of over 50 companies. In May the company won the [Zino Society's](#) Zenith Award for Best Investment Opportunity by popular vote of members at the [Green Investment Forum](#) and in June the company won a \$50,000 equity investment from the Zino Green Fund. The prize was awarded by a review committee of eight venture capital and finance experts and attorneys.



The latest recognition of Hydrovolts opens the door to national exposure. The **Clean Tech Open** is an organization of leading entrepreneurs, academics, investors and companies, working together to accelerate the development of clean technology startups. It provides resources, education and support for clean tech entrepreneurs.

Activities include the Annual Business Competition, Mentoring, Sustainability Workshops, a series of Public Symposia and a Resource Directory.

Started in California three years ago, the Open now has regional contests in California, the Pacific Northwest, and the Rocky Mountains. Eastern regions will be established soon. In the Open's annual business competition, clean tech applicants receive business counseling from volunteers to prepare the Executives Summaries of their business. These are submitted to judges who pick semi-finalists. In this first year of the Pacific Northwest Open, fifty-six clean tech companies in a wide variety of sectors applied. The twelve semi-finalists, including Hydrovolts, get a number of benefits including

- Clean Tech Open Accelerator — A weekend-long training camp of workshops designed to address every aspect of the business creation process, including financial and legal issues, business plan writing, funding presentations, marketing, and sustainability
- One-on-one mentoring by industry leaders
- Business Clinics — Access to specialists in financial planning, corporate structure, intellectual property, marketing, PR, sustainability, and fundraising
- Sustainability Starter Kit
- Mock Judging — Practice pitching to an expert panel with live feedback
- Judges' feedback on business plan and presentation
- Inclusion in CTO Alumni Directory
- Clean tech networking events
- Lifetime membership in CTO nation-wide Alumni network

The President of Hydrovolts, Burt Hamner, said, “This was a challenging contest because there were 56 applicants with an amazing range of really interesting business ideas. Some are true start-ups and others are already making money. All of them are promoting cleaner technologies for a better world. To be recognized as one of the twelve semi-finalists is exciting and humbling. The benefits and counseling we will get are great. We are going to live up to the expectations of the judges. And we really hope to win the \$50,000 cash prize and be one of the three out of twelve who are going to the national competition!”

The Hydrovolts technology enables distributed renewable energy generation from fast water currents found in canals, spillways, and other constructed water channels. The floating turbines are inexpensive to make and quick to install, with no site construction needed. The company is raising funds from private investors and is applying for the many grant funds available for renewable energy demonstration projects.

Information about Hydrovolts, including animation and video of its new turbine, are online at www.hydrovolts.com. For more information contact Burton Hamner, President, at 206-491-0945 or email burt@hydrovolts.com.

Clean Tech Open: <http://www.cleantechopen.com>

ZINO Society: <http://www.zinosociety.com/news/740/>

NWEN: http://www.nwen.org/index.php?option=com_events&Itemid=15&id=201

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