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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – NOVEMBER 25, 2024

Virginia Energy Announces First Round of Virginia Power Innovation Program Awards

Funding Supports Reliability, Safety, & Cost Saving Enhancements

RICHMOND, VA – The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) has announced the first round of awards for the Virginia Power Innovation Program (VIP), focusing on innovative advancements in energy transmission and distribution. The selected projects aim to enhance grid reliability, improve worker safety, and reduce energy costs for Virginia's ratepayers.

"Supporting innovative infrastructure projects like these is an investment in Virginia's economic future," said Caren Merrick, Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade. "A reliable and efficient energy grid is a critical part of our strategy to attract businesses, create high-quality jobs, and solidify Virginia's position as the premier state for business and innovation."

Virginia has over 3,000 electrical power-line installers who help maintain and expand the state's extensive energy infrastructure, which includes thousands of miles of transmission lines. The first round of VIP awards supports two innovative projects that will increase safety for lineworkers and extend the lifespan of critical transmission components

Linebird's UAS Payload System for Live Line Sensor Installations

Linebird has developed a revolutionary drone technology for electric infrastructure maintenance. Their Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) payload platform, the Osprey Nonconductive Payload System (NPS), enhances lineworker safety during live line work including sensor installations, mitigating some of the inherent dangers of working at great heights on energized power lines. Virginia Energy is backing this project to reduce risks associated with traditional maintenance methods, potentially saving lives and improving the efficiency of grid operations.

Heat Inverse's CoolFilm Technology

Heat Inverse has invented "CoolFilm," an innovative solution for regulating transformer temperatures. The film is applied to the exterior of transformers and effectively reduces internal temperatures, potentially doubling the lifespan of critical components. Virginia Energy is supporting this project for its potential to extend the life of vital grid assets, improve overall grid reliability, and reduce long-term costs for Virginia ratepayers.

"Enhancing our energy grid is a multifaceted challenge that requires innovative solutions at every level," said Virginia Energy Director Glenn Davis. "Through programs like VIP, we're addressing all



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aspects of our energy infrastructure, from generation to end-use efficiency. It's exciting to see innovators in the energy space leading the charge in developing technologies that will transform our energy landscape and help us build a more resilient, efficient, and sustainable grid for all Virginians."

VPIP is part of Virginia Energy's integrated strategy to ensure a reliable, affordable, and increasingly clean energy future for the Commonwealth. Additional awards may be announced in the coming weeks and months, highlighting projects that address a variety of critical infrastructure needs.

Learn more about the [Virginia Power Innovation Program](#).

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