



Contest finalist turns fat into jet fuel

By Donna Goodison

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A Boston company that plans to make synthetic jet fuel from grease and animal fat is among five teams vying for MIT's \$200,000 Clean Energy Prize.

Made in the Commonwealth, which won \$15,000 as the finalist in the competition's transportation category, plans to raise \$20 million to build a processing plant at an undisclosed location near Logan International Airport, according to co-founder Matthew Pearlson. It hopes to start producing the ultra-low sulfur jet fuel in 24 months.

"We're looking to produce about 5 percent of the Massachusetts diesel and jet fuel use," Pearlson said.

On Tuesday, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology narrowed a field of 25 entrants to Made in the Commonwealth and finalists in four other categories:

- **Clean non-renewables** — **PK Clean of Cambridge**, which has developed a patented process to transform plastic waste into fuel oil.
- **Energy efficiency and infrastructure** — **CoolChip Technologies of Somerville**, developer of an air-based cooler for computers' central processing units.
- **Deployment** — **LinkCycle of Cambridge**, whose online tool lets companies assess the environmental impact of their products.
- **Renewables** — **Ubiquitous Energy**, whose technology transforms paper or textile surfaces into a renewable energy source by depositing ultra-lightweight solar cells.

Zolar Chiller won the \$2,000 "audience award." Its portable, solar cooling system is designed to preserve food and vaccines in areas lacking electricity.

MIT Clean Energy Prize teams have raised a total of \$88 million in venture capital since the contest launched in 2008. Some 28 companies have been launched, employing more than 440 workers.

MIT President Susan Hockfield and Nstar CEO Thomas May will announce this year's winner at a luncheon Monday.