Collaborative Assessment of Standards and Testing Methods (CAST): A SEAD-funded CAST Initiative

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The Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment (SEAD) Initiative is proposing a self-funded APEC CAST initiative to promote harmonized test procedures and support the development of aligned energy efficiency standards and labels (S&L) in APEC economies. Working in collaboration with the EGEE&C and APEC economies, SEAD will fund one or more projects each year over a 5 year period to advance S&L development in APEC economies. Potential projects may include assessments of existing global standards, labels and test methods, assessments of global harmonization potential, laboratory assessments via round robin testing, or other activities as needed to best support S&L activities for APEC priority products.

The Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP), as the Operating Agent for SEAD, is soliciting project proposals from both the EGEE&C and SEAD partners. Projects may focus on one or more product areas. Following the guidance of the APEC Ministers, APEC-CAST projects are to focus on the products identified under the first Collaboration for Energy Efficiency Design (CEED) workshop, which largely overlapped with the products identified under the ESIS Mapping Exercise led by Japan in 2010. These products include air conditioners, refrigerators and freezers, domestic and commercial lighting, computers and monitors, televisions, clothes washers and dryers, and water heaters.

Based on the guidance from the APEC Ministers and an assessment of SEAD priorities for S&L harmonization, CLASP recommends focusing on the following candidate products for this initiative: commercial refrigeration, computers, distribution transformers, and motors. Each of these candidate products is globally traded and has minimal technological variation between economies. Additionally, each product is under consideration for S&L development in multiple APEC economies and is supported by SEAD international technical collaborations led by APEC economies.

It is requested that project ideas for consideration be submitted via email to CLASP (icorry@clasponline.org) by the end of 2011. Each submission should include a brief description of the project and its potential benefits. In December and January, CLASP will work with prospective sponsor governments to define evaluation criteria, identify resources, and select projects for initiation in early 2012. It is anticipated that all new initiatives will be well underway in early 2012.