



# Twenty start-ups set to pitch their best ideas for OPG in innovation competition

Twenty teams are set to deliver their most inventive concepts for the energy industry in a start-up pitch competition that seeks to foster Canadian innovation.

OPG has teamed up with Spark Innovation Centre, a non-profit that supports entrepreneurs in Durham Region and Northumberland County, to spearhead this year's Ignite Start-up Pitch Competition. The annual contest, now in its fifth year, seeks to inspire entrepreneurs, with the ultimate goal of creating jobs and economic growth in Durham Region.

OPG, which operates both the Darlington and Pickering nuclear generating stations in the region, hopes to collaborate with innovators, entrepreneurs and businesses to develop next-generation technology and improvements for the inspection industry.

More than 30 companies applied to this year's all-new OPG category. Twenty teams have been selected to proceed to the first round of the competition on Nov. 14, which will see participants deliver a three-minute pitch. In the second round, set to take place Nov. 29, teams will present a 20-minute keynote speech and hold a 10-minute Q&A session.

A well-rounded team of OPG executives will determine which teams present the best value proposition for OPG, with a winner being announced Dec. 5. The winning team will work with the company and receive \$25,000 of seed funding to further develop their brilliant idea.

Professionals from OPG's Inspection and Reactor Innovation (IRI) division will be providing mentorship to all contestants throughout the competition.

"Innovation is a key pillar of OPG," said Jason Van Wart, OPG's Vice-President of IRI. "We are proud to partner with Spark and the Ignite competition to spur innovation across Ontario."

OPG's IRI division utilizes industry-leading techniques and technology to inspect and maintain the Darlington and Pickering stations. The division also inspects the company's hydroelectric and thermal stations, and lends its services to the energy sector worldwide.

"OPG is looking to be a leader in the innovation space to improve its business," said Vinay Kirpalaney, Section Manager for Technology Innovation, IRI. "The main effort with this pitch contest is to reach out to communities and innovators to tell them we're interested in hearing their ideas."

The OPG category competitors come from many areas that include automation and robotics, drones (or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), underwater inspections, laser scanning and mapping, non-destructive examination, process management, and software solutions.

Those interested in attending the OPG Ignite events can email [iritech@opg.com](mailto:iritech@opg.com).