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## Grant to recruit clean-energy ideas

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FLORIDA TODAY

The Technological Research and Development Authority in Melbourne has received a grant to help find clean-energy entrepreneurs in four states.

The \$150,000 grant comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It wants the TRDA, off NASA Boulevard near the Melbourne International Airport, to locate "rural clean energy entrepreneurs" in economically depressed and natural disaster areas of four states: Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina.

The TRDA is also kicking in \$11,211 for the project.

At a check-signing ceremony in Melbourne; Monday, Ronald Whitfield, Florida director of USDA's Rural Development office, said there were "incredible opportunities" in the rural U.S. to develop clean energy.

In other TRDA announcements:

■ The authority received a contract to develop and advance the Southeast chapter of NASA's National Alliance for Small Business Opportunity and launch a grant program to help regional small businesses move NASA sponsored technologies to the marketplace.

■ The Veteran's Corporation awarded a \$37,500 grant to help service-disabled, veteran-owned businesses locate state and federal contracts. The grant will fund a one-year pilot program in Brevard County to register qualified businesses into the state's Vendor Procurement Systems.

The TRDA, launched in 1987, is a state agency that leverages federal, state and private resources to develop and implement technology-based programs in education, business incubation, energy and technology transfer. Go to [www.trda.org](http://www.trda.org) for more information. ■

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