



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Dr. Marnie LaVigne, President & CEO  
(716) 881-7576  
[mlavigne@launchny.org](mailto:mlavigne@launchny.org)

**LAUNCH NY TO RECEIVE  
\$250,000 GRANT FROM NATIONAL GRID**  
*Award will support mentoring & outreach efforts for Cleantech  
Incubator*

*Buffalo, N.Y., August 20, 2018* – Launch NY has won an economic development grant from National Grid to support Launch New York’s (Launch NY) new Emerging Cleantech Opportunity (ECO) Incubator.

National Grid will contribute up to \$250,000 to help Launch NY provide mentoring to cleantech startups and early-stage companies in a variety of areas that include product development, intellectual property, market research, and funding.

This grant builds upon support Launch NY received earlier this year from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), New York State’s energy innovation agency, to operate the ECO Incubator and expand entrepreneurs’ access to resources aimed at accelerating their new clean energy ventures.

Launch NY is Upstate New York’s first and only venture development organization to provide pro bono mentoring and capital access to high-growth potential startup businesses across the 27 westernmost counties of New York State.

National Grid made the grant through its CleanTech Incubation program, which provides grants to support initiatives that facilitate formation of new ventures or growth of high potential small ventures. More information about National Grid’s economic development programs may be found at [www.shovelready.com](http://www.shovelready.com)

“The award from National Grid will accelerate our efforts in launching our ECO Incubator,” said Marnie LaVigne, Ph.D., President and CEO of Launch NY. “Support and funding from state and regional funders will ensure that the region brings all the necessary resources to bear in growing its most promising cleantech innovations and companies.”

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“We recognize a strong entrepreneurial network is essential to fostering startups in this critical stage,” said National Grid regional manager Ken Kujawa. “We feel especially confident in supporting the ECO program because it is rooted in nationally recognized mentorship practices that guide young companies through some of the most challenging steps in bringing new products to market.”

The ECO incubator provides individual mentoring, commercialization resources, technical assistance, business development support, and funding for seed and early stage clean energy companies who contribute to the goals of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s Reforming the Energy Vision (REV), a strategy to build a clean, resilient, and more affordable energy system, while actively spurring energy innovation, bringing new investments into the State, and improving consumer choice. REV includes a mandate for 50 percent of the state’s power to come from renewable sources by 2030, in addition to having a 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels.

Nicholas Querques, Program Manager, Technology to Market, NYSERDA said, “Public-private partnerships such as this are critical to finding the solutions needed to support New York’s growing clean energy ecosystem, reduce emissions, and fight climate change. We are thrilled that Launch NY continues to expand its network and drive economic development to help accelerate Governor Cuomo’s commitment to providing clean energy to all New Yorkers.”

For more information about Launch NY, or to become involved in its programs (including Entrepreneur-in-Residence), mentorship or entrepreneurial opportunities, go to its website at [www.launchny.org](http://www.launchny.org), or follow Launch NY on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

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#### **About Launch New York:**

The mission of Launch New York, Inc. (Launch NY), a United States Treasury-designated Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) is to identify, support and invest in high-growth, high-impact companies, and catalyze the entrepreneurial culture in the 27 counties comprising the western half of Upstate New York. Launch NY is a 501(c)(3) non-profit venture development organization that promotes economic development through best practices, proven activities of experienced business mentoring and seed capital investing in order to create investment-ready companies which have the promise to create significant economic impact and jobs for our region.

Launch NY uniquely fills the gap in connecting all of Upstate New York’s entrepreneurship resources to a pathway to success via unique proof-of-concept capital and high-quality pro bono mentoring support through 22 experienced local entrepreneurs-in-residence and a

national mentor network of 2,000 industry, business and investment experts. Launch NY was formed as a result of a collaboration between private and public stakeholders in Upstate New York to create long term strategies that would foster a robust, self-sustaining entrepreneurial ecosystem built on regional collaboration. Launch NY is headquartered in Buffalo and has regional co-locations with partner organizations in Binghamton, Ithaca, Rochester and Syracuse. It has served over 800 companies comprising more than 2,600 jobs since starting operations in 2012.

### **About National Grid**

National Grid (LSE: NG; NYSE: NGG) is an electricity, natural gas, and clean energy delivery company that supplies the energy for more than 20 million people through its networks in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. It is the largest distributor of natural gas in the Northeast. National Grid also operates systems that deliver gas and electricity across Great Britain.

National Grid is transforming its electricity and natural gas networks to support the 21<sup>st</sup> century digital economy with smarter, cleaner, and more resilient energy solutions. Read more about the innovative projects happening across our footprint in [The Democratization of Energy](#), an eBook written by National Grid's US president, Dean Seavers.

For more information please visit our website: [www.nationalgridus.com](http://www.nationalgridus.com). You can also follow us on [Twitter](#), watch us on [YouTube](#), friend us on [Facebook](#) and find our photos on [Instagram](#).