

# Financing Solar in Hard Times: A Policy Review



The National Academies  
In cooperation with ITIF  
Washington DC  
March 13, 2008

Charles W. Wessner, Ph.D.  
The National Academies

# Welcome to the National Academies



- National Academy of Sciences
  - Chartered by Congress in 1863
  - A self-perpetuating Honorary Society
- National Research Council (1916)
  - The Operating Arm of the National Academies
- National Academy of Engineering (1964)
- Institute of Medicine (1970)

# The National Academies' Board on Science, Technology, and Economic Policy (STEP)

- Today's conference is convened under the auspices of the National Academies' Board on Science, Technology, and Economic Policy (STEP)
  - STEP has currently underway an active program of analysis of *Comparative National Innovation Policies: Best Practice for the 21st Century*.
  - We also have new work underway on *Best Practices in State and Regional Programs* —a growing source of funding and policy innovation.
  - Our group in the Academies is just completing a large scale study of the nation's \$2.3 billion SBIR program
    - The Small Business Innovation Research program (SBIR) was found to be "sound in concept and effective in practice."

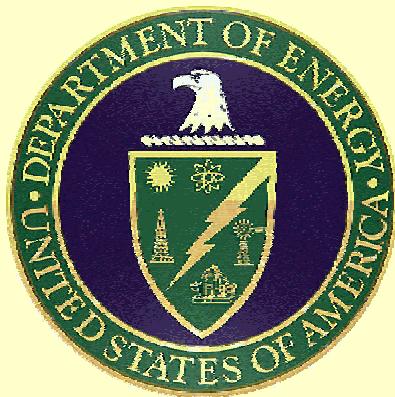
# Today's Conference: ‘Financing Solar in Hard Times’

- It will focus on practical steps needed to bring existing solar technologies forward.
- Committee member Clark McFadden will describe the goals of today's meeting.

# We Look Forward to a Lively and Constructive Discussion

- We thank our distinguished speakers, moderators, and participants for their willingness to join us today—some of whom have come a long way.
- We are particularly grateful to Dr. Robin Gaster, a fellow at the ITIF, for his role in organizing this event.
- We also welcome your participation in this meeting. It is an important area of national policy, where the experience of the STEP Board can be a valuable contribution to national policy.

# We thank our Sponsors



**The Department of  
Energy**



**The National Institute for  
Standards & Technology**



**The Economic Development  
Administration**

## THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS

Howard Heinz Endowment • Vira I. Heinz Endowment

**Their collective efforts and your participation  
make this conference possible**