

Opportunity to Participate in XPRIZE Wildfire

The combustion community has long focused on solving societal challenges related to energy and transport, improving efficiency and reducing pollution from a myriad of combustion devices. With the drastic uptick in destructive wildfires, renewed focus has been placed on the study of wildland fires and our need to better prevent, predict, and suppress unwanted wildfires. An exciting opportunity has recently arisen for the combustion community to participate in: the \$11 million **XPRIZE Wildfire**. The 4-year competition hosted by the XPRIZE Foundation is aimed at innovating firefighting technologies that will end destructive wildfire. The competition is designed to synergistically transform how fires are managed and fought across two tracks: a \$5M Autonomous Wildfire Response Track and a \$5M Space-Based Wildfire Detection and Intelligence Track (with a \$1M Lockheed Martin Accurate Detection Intelligence Bonus Prize).

The reason we write to you today is to encourage members of the combustion community to get involved with these and other initiatives aimed at tackling the current wildfire crisis. The combustion community has a range of relevant expertise: from the behavior of the fire itself, the production of emissions, chemical kinetics, fire suppression, advanced diagnostics, and more. There are many opportunities for members to get involved and we hope that you will reach out to your colleagues and consider joining this competition to represent our community. While neither of us are directly involved in this competition, we believe that it is an excellent opportunity to showcase and use the range of expertise combustion researchers have gained over the years and apply it to new and challenging societal problems. Please note registration for the competition closes on **31 October 2023**.

We look forward to seeing the combustion community represented in this competition as well as many other aspects of wildland fire. If you have any questions about the field in general, please reach out to us.

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