

Kent Innovation Challenge 2009 – Competition Rules

Competition:

- 1 These rules govern the Kent Innovation Challenge 2009 (“Competition”) to find the most innovative and entrepreneurial individual(s) / company looking to commercialise their ideas or business.
- 2 The Competition is organised by the Sittingbourne Enterprise Hub Limited (SEHL).
- 3 The Competition is sponsored by South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), Sittingbourne Enterprise Hub Ltd., Medway Enterprise Hub, Canterbury Enterprise Hub, Kent County Council, Kent Science Park, Business Link Kent, KOS Media The Kent Messenger Group, Vertex Law LLP, NatWest, Coast Communications, Lavender Blue Media, University of Greenwich, Skills for Business, and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).
- 4 The Competition will be judged by a panel of judges including judges selected from the Sponsoring Organisations.
- 5 The Competition may be terminated at any time if there are, in the sole opinion of the Judges, an insufficient number of entries, OR if the Submissions (defined below) are not of an appropriate standard for a competition of this nature.
- 6 The Organiser shall have the sole discretion, to disqualify (without right of appeal) any entrant it finds to be adversely affecting the process or the operation of the Competition or Website, or to be in breach of these rules, or acting in a disruptive manner or with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any other entrant.
- 7 The Organiser has the right to amend and add to these rules from time to time. Revised rules will be posted on the Website and it is a condition of entry to the Competition that entrants agree to comply with such amendments from time to time.
- 8 Other than liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence, neither the Organiser nor the Sponsoring Organisations accept any liability to any entrant or winner for any loss or damage whatsoever and howsoever arising in relation to the Competition.

Entry process:

- 9 Entries to the Kent Innovation Challenge 2009 can only be submitted by using the form (“Submission”) found at the website (www.kentinnovationchallenge.co.uk) (“Website”)
- 10 The closing date for submission of entries is midnight (GMT) on 20 February 2009.
- 10.1 The Organiser will endeavour to ensure that the Website is available for submission of entries but if the Website is not available for any reason there will be no extension to the Closing Date.
- 10.2 Proof of transmission will not be proof of receipt and only a valid email from the Organiser confirming receipt will be confirmation of submission of the entry.
- 10.3 Submission of an entry does not guarantee participation in the Competition. Only one entry per entrant can be submitted.
- 10.4 All entries submitted will be treated as being confidential and no confidential information will be disclosed as part of any permitted publicity activities. Neither the Organiser nor Judges nor Sponsoring Organisations will enter into any confidentiality agreements with entrants.
- 10.5 Entries can be withdrawn at any time up till the 20 February. Finalists must agree to attend the award ceremony at the 2020 Vision Event at the Detling Showground on 2 April 2009 to claim their prize.
- 11 By the process of submitting an entry form, all entrants:

- 11.1 Authorise the Organiser and Sponsoring Organisations to use their submission and any personal data (as defined in the Data Protection Act 1988) for the purposes of running and promoting the Competition and Sponsoring Organisations and all SEEDA Enterprise Hub network publicity.
- 11.2 Agree to be bound by these Competition rules.
- 11.3 Authorise the Organiser and Sponsoring Organisations to publish the Submissions (subject to paragraph 10.4 above). Neither the Organiser nor the Sponsoring Organisations will be responsible for any inaccuracy, error or omission contained in any such reproduction or publication.
- 12 Failure to comply with these rules may result in disqualification.

Qualification for entry:

- 13 The Competition is open to full time United Kingdom residents (individuals aged at least 18, or companies incorporated in the United Kingdom) living or based in the SEEDA region (Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes and willing to work with the SEEDA Hub network in Kent.
- 14 Entries may not be submitted by an agent whether acting on behalf of an undisclosed principal or otherwise.
- 15 All SMEs: **small and medium-sized enterprises are defined by the European Commission as independent enterprises that have fewer than 250 employees, and an annual turnover not exceeding £34 million or a balance-sheet total not exceeding £29 million.**
- 16 The Competition is NOT open to:
 - 16.1 The Judges or any of their direct families.
- 17 Entries must:
 - 17.1 Be the entrant's original work.
 - 17.2 Demonstrate an innovative use of technology or a pioneering invention.
 - 17.3 Be sympathetic to the environment in which they are based.
 - 17.4 Be in English (corrupted or incomprehensible entries will be rejected).
- 18 Entries must NOT contain material which is offensive, abusive, unlawful, defamatory, obscene, racially offensive or objectionable or pornographic.
- 19 Entrants must demonstrate an entrepreneurial attitude and have an idea which has a clear market and is scalable.
- 20 Entrants must either (i) be established and trading, or (ii) intend to commence trading during 2009.
- 21 Entrants must anticipate achieving a turnover in excess of £1 million within the first five years of trading.

Obligations on Entrants and Winners:

- 22 Entrants:
 - 22.1 Agree to positively participate in all publicity surrounding the Competition.
 - 22.2 Hereby grant the Organiser and Sponsoring Organisations the right to use their likeness, photographs, logos, trademarks, audio or video recordings without restrictions for the purposes of publicity.

- 22.3 Agree to be responsible for all their own expenses and costs in preparing for and entering and participating in the Competition and for any other incidental costs or expenses, including travelling costs and expenses incurred in attending the “pitches” and prize award ceremony.
- 22.4 Confirm that they have all appropriate intellectual property rights in relation to their entries and Submissions and as used or to be used in their businesses or proposed businesses and hereby indemnify the Organiser and Sponsoring Organisations from any claim by a third party that use of any material provided by an entrant to the Organiser or Sponsoring Organisations infringes the intellectual property rights of the third party.
- 22.5 Must not act in any manner, or fail to act in any way, which would have a negative impact on the reputation of the Organiser, the Sponsoring Organisations or the Competition.
- 23 Winners:
- 24 The overall winner will be required to affiliate themselves with one of the participating Hubs and the cash prize will be disbursed on agreed business milestones in the first 6 months.
- 24.1 Agree to be responsible for all applicable taxes, duties or other charges payable in relation to any prize.
- 24.2 Agree to positively participate in all publicity following the Competition and in promoting future competitions.
- 24.3 Winners may use “Kent Innovation Challenge Winner 2009” in publicity material but this must be approved by the Organiser in writing in advance.
- 24.4 Must not act in any manner, or fail to act in any way, which would have a negative impact on the reputation of the Organiser, the Sponsoring Organisations or the Competition.

Selection process:

- 25 The selection process will be carried out by the Judges who will follow the following outline process:
- 25.1 Review of the Submissions from which a Initial Shortlist will be drawn.
- 25.2 From the Initial Shortlist certain entrants will be invited to come and make “pitches” to the judging panel and submit a concise business plan.
- 25.3 A further Final Shortlist will be drawn following the performance at the “pitches”.
- 25.4 The winners will be selected from the Final Shortlist by the Judges in their absolute discretion.
- 25.5 Judges deliberations are confidential and will not be disclosed and the Judges decision is final and without right of appeal. No correspondence will be entered into.
- 25.6 The selection process will be completed by 16 March and finalists will be notified by email and posted on the Website by no later than 20 March. The winner/s will not be announced until the evening of the 2 April at the award ceremony. Non attendance at the award ceremony will mean that the prize will be forfeited. Details of the winners will also be published in the media.
- 26 Entrants will be assessed by the judges in the following categories:
- 26.1 Originality.
- 26.2 Innovation.
- 26.3 Environmental impact.
- 26.4 Entrepreneurial attitude.
- 26.5 Presentation skills.

26.6 Business Potential.

26.7 Market potential

Prizes:

- 27 Prizes will only be paid and/or provided if the winning entrant(s) attend the Kent Innovation Challenge 2009 Award Ceremony in April 2 2009 to formally receive their prize.
- 28 Prizes (whether cash or services to be provided) must be accepted and taken by no later than 1st November 2009 otherwise they will lapse.
- 29 If a winner declines or fails to accept a prize then the prize will be forfeited and awarded to the next appropriate entry as determined by the judges.
- 30 Any cash prize may be paid in stage payments against stated Business Plan targets or milestones. Cash prizes and services to be provided as prizes must only be used and will only be paid or provided for the sole purpose of starting up and/or developing the business described in the executive summary of the Business Plan submitted by the winning entrants and breach of this requirement may result in the withdrawal of future stage payments and / or the Organisers re-claiming payments made to date.
- 31 The winning business must be associated with or started up at one of the Kent Enterprise Hubs, breach of this requirement may result in the withdrawal of future stage payments and / or the Organisers re-claiming payments made to date.
- 32 In addition to the £20,000 cash prize, the winner will also receive:
- 32.1 Rent free accommodation for them for one year at the Kent Science Park
- 32.2 Free business and banking support from NatWest for 18 months
- 32.3 Up to 10 days free business mentoring from Business Link Kent
- 32.4 Legal support from Vertex Law (according to certain restrictions) to the value of £5,000
- 32.5 Filming and production of a corporate video to the value of £5,000 by Lavender Blue Media
- 32.6 Business Support by Skills for Business up to the value of £6,000.
- 33 It may be that no prizes are awarded.

Governing law:

- 34 Headings are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation or construction of these rules.
- 35 These rules will be governed by the Laws of England and Wales.