

ALGORAND FOUNDATION

STARTUP CHALLENGES AND STARTUP CHALLENGES PITCH COMPETITION

Official Rules

1. Overview

The Startup Challenges and accompanying Pitch Competition, presented by the Algorand Foundation, support early-stage builders solving real-world problems on Algorand. This program blends technical sessions (Algorand integration and POC development) with business sessions (market validation, growth strategies, pitching). It's delivered as a series of practical challenges; while participation in individual tasks is optional, teams that engage consistently and show strong progress are more likely to be rewarded. Finalists will pitch for a up to \$125,000 USDCa prize pool.

Projects will be evaluated in the Pitch Competition by a panel of judges based on technical merit, product-market potential/traction, and alignment with the program's goals. Legal or regulatory feasibility is not part of the judging criteria. All entrants are responsible for complying with applicable laws and regulations when launching any software developed during the program or for the pitch competition.

The educational and inspirational resources provided by the Algorand Foundation are solely for enlightenment. The Algorand Foundation neither promotes nor approves the deployment of any applications in contravention of prevailing laws or regulations. This is a skill-based contest; chance plays no part in determining winners.

This includes, but is not limited to, the use of any such applications:

- In defiance of the export control or sanctions laws of the United States or any other relevant jurisdiction.
- By individuals located in or ordinarily residing in regions subjected to comprehensive sanctions overseen by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).
- By or on behalf of a Specially Designated National (SDN) or any Individual subjected to similar blocking or denied party restrictions.
- In violation of the U.S. Commodities and Exchange Act.

The Algorand Foundation strictly prohibits any deployment, integration, or use that contravenes these guidelines.

2. Defined Terms

“Administrator” means Algorand Foundation Ltd. (Company Registration No 201907381G), a company established under the laws of Singapore and having its registered address at 1 George Street #10-01, One George Street, Singapore 049145.

“Content” means all materials, submissions, information, code, or otherwise submitted by Entrant hereunder.

“Contest” means Startup Challenges Pitch Competition.

“Contest Sponsor” means a promotional sponsor of the Contest that is procured by Administrator.

“Program” means Startup Challenges.

“Creative Materials” means Contest-related marketing materials, which Administrator may produce based upon the Contest and which may include Entrant’s name, image, likeness, and Content.

“Entrant” means an Individual that meets the applicable eligibility requirements set forth in Section 3 of these Official Rules and that signifies agreement to these Official Rules in full and participates in the Contest.

“Official Rules” means this document.

“Member” means an Individual participating in the Contest as part of a Team.

“Prize Acceptance Documents” means any document required to be executed by Administrator as described in the Official Rules by a potential winner prior to being confirmed and validated as a winner in the Contest.

“Partner” means the company hired to produce the Contest in the region, if applicable.

“Profile Information” means the information, including personal information, required to enter the Contest. This information may be used to identify an Individual.

“Project Submission” means the work product that an Entrant submits for entry into the Contest.

“Individual” means a natural person.

“Team” means a group of Individuals, including a Team Leader, who participate together in the Contest.

“Team Leader” means the Individual who provides the Profile Information of Members of the Team and acts as the contact and representative for the Team.

3. **Eligibility**

This Contest welcomes Entrants who fulfill the criteria outlined below:

- (a) **Age Requirements:** Entrants should either be of legal age in their respective countries or a minimum of 18 years old at the commencement of the Contest. If you're below the stipulated age but wish to participate, kindly contact us at bootcamps@algorand.foundation. Each case will be reviewed individually at the discretion of the Administrator.
- (b) **Exclusions:** Owing to increased compliance risks with U.S., UN, EU, and other sanctions, as well as export control regulations, the following individuals are ineligible:
 - i. Those residing or ordinarily based in Afghanistan, Belarus, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Somalia, Syria, Crimea/Sevastopol, Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson regions of Ukraine, Venezuela, and Yemen. This also applies to those in any country where participation would be legally challenging or place undue burden on the participant or the Administrator due to jurisdictional restrictions.
 - ii. Individuals under U.S. or other relevant sanctions, including those by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control.
 - iii. Anyone affiliated with entities under U.S. blocking sanctions, Entity List restrictions, or other relevant asset freeze or prohibited party sanctions.
 - iv. Employees, contractors, directors, and officers of the Administrator, Contest Sponsors, or any associated entities, including their immediate families.
- (c) **Professional Obligations:** Entrants affirm that their involvement in the Contest would not infringe on the rights or obligations of third parties. This includes, but is not limited to, employer policies, contractual commitments, or any other third-party restrictions.
- (d) **Language Proficiency:** It is imperative for Entrants to be proficient in English, encompassing speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension. All Contest-related communications will be in English.
- (e) Participation is null and void where legally prohibited.

4. **Terms and Conditions**

- (a) **Rule Acceptance:** By selecting the 'Official Rules' checkbox during registration, Entrants confirm their full agreement with these rules. Winning and receiving any prize from this competition depends on Entrants adhering to all the stipulated rules.
- (b) **Decision Finality:** Entrants acknowledge that the Administrator's decisions regarding winner selection are conclusive and indisputable.
- (c) **Integrity Assurance:** The Administrator does not solicit any undue advantages or commitments for itself or its associated entities in return for participation in the Contest. Entrants, by entering, assert and ensure that:
 - i. Their involvement, including any prize acceptance, does not breach any laws, regulations, or rules of their locality.
 - ii. Any potential prize is not a quid pro quo for influencing any act or decision that could provide the Administrator with business benefits.

- (d) **Contest Modification:** Entrants agree that, where legally permissible, the Administrator holds the right to alter, pause, or terminate the Contest due to reasons like fraud, technical glitches, or any factor that might compromise its integrity. The Administrator shall not be liable for any failure or delay due to causes beyond its reasonable control, including acts of God, epidemic, governmental actions, labor disputes, network outages, or platform failures; the Administrator may modify, suspend, extend, or cancel the Contest in whole or in part in such circumstances.
- (e) **Fair Play:** Entrants accept that any deliberate attempt to disrupt the Contest's legitimate proceedings may be legally actionable. The Administrator retains the right to pursue legal remedies, including requiring the violating participant to cover the Administrator's legal costs, against any participant found engaging in such activities.
- (f) **Accuracy of Information:** The Administrator is not liable for any inaccuracies in the entry details or Content provided by participants, whether due to technical issues, human errors, or external interferences.
- (g) **Rule Amendments:** Entrants acknowledge that the Administrator can revise these Official Rules whenever deemed necessary. The Administrator commits to making reasonable efforts to inform Entrants about any such changes.
- (h) Unless expressly stated otherwise, Entrants are responsible for all costs associated with participation, including internet access, equipment, etc.

5. Timeline

- **Program Registration Window:** The registration phase commences at 11:45 pm Singapore Time on September 3rd, 2025, and concludes at 11:45 pm on October 10th, 2025.
- **Contest Registration Window:** The registration phase commences at 11:45 pm Singapore Time on October 30th, 2025, and concludes at 11:45 pm on November 20th, 2025.
- **Contest Shortlist Window:** The shortlist window phase commences at 11:45 pm Singapore Time on November 21st, 2025, and concludes at 11:45 pm on November 27th, 2025. Selected participants will be notified via email on November 28th.
- **Contest date:** The pitch competition will take place on Wednesday– December 3rd, 2025, at 12:00 am Singapore Time.
- **Winner Declaration:** The winners of the Startup Challenges Pitch Competition will be unveiled by December 10th, 2025, at the latest.

For the purpose of this Contest, the official time will be determined by the Administrator's computer system. Entrants should ensure they align their submissions with the corresponding time in their respective regions. Please note that the dates mentioned might undergo minor adjustments. In the event of any changes, the Administrator will update the Program's official website.

6. Registration and Submission for the Contest

- (a) **Registration:** In order to register in the Contest, those interested in participating must fill out the registration form and submit the requested information before 11:45 pm Singapore Time on November 20th, 2025. The form link, along with all the information related to the Startup Challenges Pitch Competition, will be sent to applicants via email. After 11:45 pm Singapore Time on November 20th, 2025 the registration form will be disabled.
- (b) An Entrant's failure to provide Profile Information and provide express consent in accordance with this Section is grounds for disqualification from the Contest.
- (c) The Profile Information must conform to the guidelines and Content restrictions set forth below in Section 12. Failure to conform constitutes grounds for disqualification. Administrator reserves the right to require a Team to modify its name as needed to conform to the guidelines and Content restrictions set forth in Section 12, or to otherwise avoid confusion.

7. **Restrictions**

- (a) **Team Membership:** Each participant can be affiliated with only one team.
- (b) **Project Submission:** Each team is allowed to submit one (1) project.
- (c) **Confidentiality:** Entrants should be aware that any data or information shared in relation to their project or profile will not be treated as confidential.

8. **Assessment Criteria**

A designated panel of judges, appointed by the Administrator, will evaluate each Project Pitch and presentation based on the following criteria:

- (a) **Team:** Ideally a strong team that can demonstrate the ability to work effectively with complementary skills.
- (b) **Functioning POC:** The project should showcase a solid integration with the Algorand protocol. The project should also prioritize providing an intuitive and seamless user experience. The project should consider the needs and preferences of its target users and demonstrate a clear understanding of their pain points.
- (c) **Pitch and presentation:** A well-prepared and compelling pitch or presentation is essential to showcase the project's value proposition, market potential, user traction, and technical capabilities. The team should be able to articulate their project clearly, concisely, and convincingly to the judges.
- (d) **Product Market Fit:** Projects should demonstrate real adoption and market impact. They should have a clear understanding of their target audience, the competitive landscape, and how they differentiate themselves.

9. **Entrant's Intellectual Property Rights**

The Administrator does not assert any rights over the projects submitted. Entrants maintain all intellectual property rights they possess in their Project Submissions, both during and post the Contest. It is the Entrant's exclusive responsibility to safeguard such intellectual property. Entrants must ensure that no third parties hold rights or claims over any content or software code

incorporated in their Project Submission. Furthermore, Entrants commit to notifying the Administrator about the status, ownership, or any open-source affiliations, intellectual property registrations, or related searches concerning their project.

10. **Intellectual Property Retained by Administrator**

Administrator shall, at all times, retain all rights, title, and interest, in and to any Creative Materials.

By entering, Entrant grants Administrator and Contest Sponsors a worldwide, royalty-free, non-exclusive, sublicensable license to use Entrant's name, image, likeness, biographical information, and non-confidential portions of the Project Submission to administer, promote, and report on the Program and Contest, in any media now known or hereafter devised, without further notice or compensation, subject to applicable law. Nothing herein transfers ownership in Entrant's Project Submission.

11. **Entrant's Personal Information**

All information provided by Entrants in the Contest will be processed in line with the Administrator's Privacy Policy as found at <https://algorand.co/algorand-foundation/privacy-policy>. By actively agreeing to these rules and participating in the Contest, Entrants consent to share their information with the appointed judges, Contest Sponsors, and with the Partner as a function of the Partner's administration of the Contest and to receive emails from the Administrator or the Partner.

Furthermore, Entrants acknowledge that their personal data might be stored on servers outside their home country and processed by Administrator in line with its Privacy Policy.

Collected data, such as names, email addresses, postal addresses, and locations, will be used for Contest-related communication or, if opted into, for sending additional information from the Administrator.

Participants can access, modify, or withdraw their personal data and can oppose data collection under specific conditions. To exercise these rights, Entrants can email Legal@Algorand.Foundation. The Administrator will only share personal data when necessary to:

- (a) manage the Contest;
- (b) adhere to legal mandates from government authorities;
- (c) safeguard and assert the rights or assets of the Administrator; or
- (d) enforce these Official Rules.

For Participants in the European Economic Area (EEA) Only: Participants should be aware that they can:

- i. Withdraw consent regarding their personal data at any time, without affecting prior lawful data processing.
- ii. Exercise rights over their personal data held by the Administrator, including access, rectification, erasure, restriction, and data portability.
- iii. Obtain a machine-readable copy of their personal data or have it transferred to another entity.
- iv. Understand that the Administrator will retain their personal data as long as necessary for the original marketing and promotional purposes.

- v. Lodge a complaint with an EEA member state's data supervisory authority if unsatisfied with the Administrator's data processing.

12. **Content Guidelines & Restrictions**

All Content must comply with the guidelines and restrictions stated below:

(a) **Technical Guidelines and Restrictions:**

All Content must be in English.

(b) **Content Restrictions:**

- i. Participants must possess or have secured all necessary rights to their Profile Information to participate in the Program and Contest and to grant the required permissions to the Administrator.
- ii. Content should not infringe upon the rights of others, including but not limited to intellectual property rights, privacy, and publicity.
- iii. Content should not tarnish or negatively impact the reputation, brand, or goodwill of the Administrator or any affiliated Individual or entity.
- iv. If content features any individuals, Entrants must have obtained their explicit consent to use their likeness and grant the rights outlined herein.
- v. Content should be free from malicious components such as viruses, worms, spyware, or any other harmful elements.
- vi. Content should not be inappropriate, indecent, offensive, defamatory, or libelous.
- vii. Content should not endorse or promote prejudice, racism, or harm against any Individual or group, nor should it discriminate based on race, gender, religion, nationality, disability, sexual orientation, or age.
- viii. Content should comply with all applicable laws and regulations of the country where it is created and should not breach the terms of any third-party platforms where it might be uploaded.

13. **Contest Winner Announcement and Requirements**

The winners of the Startup Challenges Pitch Competition will be announced within 7 days of December 3rd, 2025 via email.

To be officially recognized as a winner, Entrants must complete the Prize Acceptance Documents and any other paperwork deemed necessary by the Administrator and/or the Contest Sponsors. Additionally, winners must successfully meet the due diligence standards set by the Administrator and/or the Contest Sponsors. Winners may be required to complete identity verification and sanctions screening (KYC/AML) as a condition of prize award. Failure to timely satisfy these requirements may result in disqualification and selection of an alternate.

14. **Contest Prizes**

- (a) The First-place award is 25,000 USDCa, the Second-place award is 20,000 USDCa, the Third-Place award is 15,000 USDCa, the Fourth-place award is 9,500 USDCa, and from the Fifth to Tenth-place the award is 8,000 USDCa.
- (b) Best Pitch award is 2,500 USDCa.
- (c) Best POC award is 2,500 USDCa.
- (d) Best female-lead team award is 2,500 USDCa.
- (e) The Administrator has the authority to not grant the Best female-lead team award if it determines, at its own absolute discretion, that no submitted projects meet the standards for this distinction.

15. **Taxes and Other Restrictions and Limitations**

- (a) For the avoidance of doubt, the prize amount is the gross amount that the prize winner shall receive under this Agreement, the prize winner shall not receive any gross-up or reimbursement of any kind for any taxes, social security contributions and/or any levy payable by the prize winner as a result of collecting the prize.
- (b) All awards, whether in cash or its equivalent, will be directed to the Team Leader.
- (c) Winning teams might be instructed to establish a wallet address, as specified by the Administrator, to access the USDCa portion of their prize.
- (d) Prizes are strictly non-transferable. Any alterations or substitutions are only permissible with the explicit consent of the Administrator.
- (e) Winners bear the responsibility for any tax declarations and payments as mandated by their local laws.
- (f) Upon accepting any prize, winners, in accordance with the law, absolve the Administrator and associated parties from any claims or actions, including property damage or loss, stemming from their participation in the Contest or from the utilization or mishandling of any prize. This waiver does not encompass claims against the Administrator or associated parties due to personal injuries, fatalities, or any damages resulting from intentional or gross negligence.
- (g) If, for any reason, a prize or its segment cannot be granted, the Administrator retains the authority to replace the prize with another of comparable or superior value.
- (h) These Official Rules are not designed to override, limit, or alter an Entrant's rights under prevailing consumer protection laws.

16. **Contest Prize Recipient Information**

The prize winners shall share their name and country of domicile with the Administrator for the purposes of prize payment.

17. **No Employment Implication**

These Official Rules do not constitute an employment offer or contract with any participant. Entrants recognize that their Profile Information and Project Submission are provided willingly and not under any form of confidentiality or trust. They also acknowledge that no confidential, fiduciary, agency, or implied contractual relationship exists between them and the Administrator or any associated parties due to the submission of any Content as per these Official Rules.

18. **Entrant Behavior**

Throughout the Contest, the Administrator may, at its sole discretion, conduct background checks on Entrants. If Entrants receive sponsorship from third parties, including brands, such endorsements must receive prior written approval from the Administrator. Entrants, including their sponsors, must not use or allow the use of the Administrator's trademarks, logos, or other intellectual property without prior written consent.

19. **Limitations of Liability**

Within the bounds of applicable law, neither the Administrator nor parties associated with the Administrator will be held responsible for:

- (a) Any inaccuracies, be they caused by the Entrant, printing errors, or equipment or software related to the Contest.
- (b) Technical disruptions of any nature, including but not limited to, equipment or network failures or botting.
- (c) Unauthorized interventions in any part of the Program and Contest.
- (d) Delays or failures in communication, including mail.
- (e) Any damage claims resulting from the Program and Contest participation or prize acceptance.
- (f) Claims by Entrants regarding similarities or competitiveness between their submissions and products or technologies independently developed by the Administrator or received from third parties, including other Entrants.

20. **Dispute Resolution**

- (a) Unless otherwise restricted, Entrants consent to the following:
 - i. All disputes or claims arising from or related to this Program and Contest or any awarded prize will be addressed individually, excluding any form of collective action.
 - ii. All claims and awards will be restricted to genuine out-of-pocket expenses, including those related to Program or Contest participation, excluding attorney fees.
 - iii. Entrants will not seek awards for indirect, punitive, incidental, or consequential damages or any other damages, barring genuine out-of-pocket expenses. Entrants also relinquish any rights to amplified or increased damages.

- (b) These Terms are governed by the laws of the Republic of Singapore. Any dispute arising out of or in connection with these Terms, including any question regarding its existence, validity or termination, shall be referred to and finally resolved by arbitration administered by the Singapore International Arbitration Centre in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (“SIAC Rules”) for the time being in force which rules are deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Section. The seat of the arbitration shall be in Singapore. The Tribunal shall consist of one (1) arbitrator. The language of the arbitration shall be in English.

21. **Severability**

Should any provision of these Official Rules be deemed invalid, illegal, or unenforceable due to its application to specific circumstances by a competent court, arbitration panel, or other tribunal, the following will apply:

- (a) The integrity, legality, and enforceability of that provision in other circumstances, as well as the remaining provisions, will remain unaffected.
- (b) Efforts will be made to enforce the provision to the fullest extent permissible. If any provision is considered overly broad in terms of duration, geographical reach, activity, or subject, it will be narrowed to ensure its enforceability in line with applicable law. Any failure by the Administrator to enforce a provision of these Official Rules does not imply a waiver of that provision.

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