



IDIAP CREATE CHALLENGE (ICC)

Terms and Conditions

(version 20260415)

1. Objectives

The Idiap Research Institute (www.idiap.ch) organizes and hosts the Idiap Create Challenge (ICC, <https://icc.idiap.ch>), with the support of The Ark (www.theark.ch), to foster innovative projects in Artificial Intelligence. The ICC is a in-person hackathon, which goal is to support the creation and development of working prototypes and business ideas, along with a compelling pitch that highlights societal impact and a clear path to market viability.

The ICC aims to foster the development of new ideas and support technology transfer aligned with Idiap's research programs: Human-AI Teaming, Sustainable and Resilient Societies, AI for Life, and AI for Everyone. It further aims to support projects demonstrating market viability with financial and logistical rewards and provide coaching to teams towards the development of their ideas into start-ups. The ICC is free of charge for selected participants.

2. Date and Place

The ICC typically last nine days and takes place toward the end of August (usually during the second-to-last or last week of the month) at the Idiap Research Institute (Rue Marconi 19, 1920 Martigny, Switzerland). Exact dates are announced in due course on the ICC website.

3. Application

Applicants will be selected based on the information submitted via the online forms available on the [ICC website](#). Only complete applications submitted successfully will be considered. The application process is designed to accommodate both candidates who already have a team and project idea, and those who wish to connect with others before submitting:

Direct project submission

Applicants who already have a complete team (up to 3 participants) and a project idea may directly submit their application. The submission must include:

- A completed project proposal using the official template (available on the [ICC website](#))
- A CV for each team member (maximum 1 page per person)
- A short video presenting the project

Team formation prior to project submission

Applicants who do not yet have a complete team or project idea, but wish to join or form a team, may register to join the ICC pool of registered participants. Registered participants will gain access to a dedicated communication platform to connect with others, exchange ideas, and form teams.

Once a team is formed and a project defined, participants can proceed to submit their application as described above.



Idiap Create Challenge

The data submitted by applicants will be treated confidentially. The organizers reserve the right to verify all information provided. Important deadlines, including registration and submission deadlines, are available on the ICC webpage.

The data submitted by applicants will be treated confidentially. The organizers reserve the right to verify all information submitted by applicants. Important deadlines, such as for registrations and projects submissions, can be found on the [ICC website](#).

4. Selection

4.1 Criteria

Applicants must be over 18 at the moment of registration. They should have expertise in one or more of the following areas: software development and programming, web design, statistics, mathematics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, business strategy, and marketing.

Projects will be selected based on their potential to become a prototype during the ICC, its market potential, and on how well they fit into the eligible research and technology areas. Furthermore, projects should develop technology within the field of Artificial Intelligence.

The submitted project must not have been developed or substantially worked on prior to the start of the Challenge. No existing prototype or advanced development should exist before participation. The Challenge is intended to generate meaningful and measurable progress during the 9-day program.

If an applying team is already incorporated as a startup, it is eligible provided that:

1. The startup is not currently incubated, accelerated, or formally supported within another ecosystem, and does not have confirmed plans to enter another ecosystem.
2. The proposed project is a new initiative and not an existing product, service, or feature of the startup, nor an improvement of an existing offering.

4.2 Committee

A selection committee of experts in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Business Development will be in charge of the selection process. The selection committee reserves itself the right to select a smaller number of participants and possibly none, if it estimates that the submitted applications do not meet the above mentioned selection criteria. The decisions of the selection committee shall be without appeal and its deliberations are confidential.

5. Logistics

The organizers will provide the participants with on-site Wi-Fi Internet access during the ICC. Teams are responsible to bring the necessary equipment for the hackathon. In particular, no computers and no screens will be provided. However, participants might express technical requirements with the project submission. No later requests can be taken into account. The organizers will try to meet timely submitted requests where possible. They will inform the concerned candidates about their decision before the start of the ICC.

6. Endowments

At the end of the ICC, the best projects/prototypes/teams will be granted different prizes and support packages.



Idiap Create Challenge

The winning teams will share a cash prize, with the exact distribution to be decided by the jury during the final selection process. The ICC Jury reserves the right to adjust the number or size of the cash prizes awarded. Additional prizes, including cash and other rewards, may be offered depending on available sponsorships. The details of these prizes will be announced on the [ICC website](#) as they are confirmed. The prize money will be sent to the bank account(s) specified by the winning team at the end of the ICC.

7. ICC Jury

The ICC jury will be responsible for evaluating the projects to determine the distribution of prizes. The ICC jury will be composed of experts in AI technologies, entrepreneurship, and business. A representative of The Ark will serve as the ICC jury's chairperson. The jury reserves the right to award no endowment if it considers that the work done during the 9 days is deemed insufficient or if the jury discovers that the work was done prior to the challenge. The decisions of the jury are taken by majority vote. In case of a tie, the chairperson has the final vote. The jury is independent and sovereign. The decisions of the jury shall be without appeal and its deliberations are confidential. However, the results of the vote will be publicly known.

The jury decision will be based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Team – The experience, skills, and synergy within the team.
- Innovation & Technical Quality – The originality of the idea and the quality of the technical approach, including the effective use of AI.
- Market Potential – The opportunity and demand for the solution.
- Value for Society – The potential positive impact on society and contribution to progress.
- Business Viability – The feasibility and sustainability of the business model.
- Pitch & Communication – The clarity, enthusiasm, and persuasiveness of the final presentation.
- Prototype Functionality – The quality and functional state of the developed prototype.

8. Opening and Awards Ceremonies

The opening ceremony will take place **on the first day** of the ICC at the Idiap Research Institute, Centre du Parc, Martigny. As part of the ceremony, each team will briefly present its planned activities for the challenge.

The awards ceremony will take place **on the last day** of the ICC, also at the Idiap Research Institute, Centre du Parc, Martigny.

The awards ceremony consists in each team presenting their prototype and its market viability, explaining the progress made in the 9 days of the challenge and their future plans. The Jury is present and will designate the winners at the end of the presentations session.

All team members are expected to participate in both the opening and closing ceremonies of the event.

9. Communication and Promotion

During the hackathon, the organizers may take pictures and record videos of the team members for promotional purposes. Idiap Research Institute wants to increase the visibility of the Idiap Create Challenge by recording and making available online the presentations given by the participating teams and invited speakers, as well as by publishing pictures and videos of the event on the Idiap Research Institute social media accounts.

By submitting a project proposal, each team member authorises the recording and picture taking of themselves, and the use of the data (audio, video, picture) generated during the challenge. The use of this data will be strictly limited



Idiap Create Challenge

to the communication related to the Idiap Create Challenge. The recorded data may be added to the [ICC website](#), and access will be public by default.

Consent can be withdrawn anytime at the following address: data-manager@idiap.ch. At receipt of a consent withdrawal, Idiap Research Institute will promptly modify, correct, or erase and destroy the data under its direct control.

Candidates remain solely responsible for the content of their statements and behaviour. In case of concern about the content of personal inputs, Idiap should be advised immediately, but no later than 7 days after the presentation or meeting concerned.

10. Participation Fees, Accommodation, and Meals – Expenses Policy

Participation to the ICC is free of charge for the selected teams. For on-site participants, living expenses for accommodation and meals (excluding drinks) will be reimbursed upon submission of an expenses report, including the original receipts. This only applies to candidates participating in the challenge on-site. Office spaces will be provided during the challenge for on-site participants. Participants are responsible for any additional costs, including submission and travel costs to/from Martigny, as well as any administrative tasks related to their stay in Switzerland (e.g., visa application). No requests for refunds will be accepted.

Accommodation: For participants living more than 100 km away from the Idiap Research Institute, Idiap will cover hotel costs up to CHF 65 per night (including breakfast). Accommodation is covered for the night preceding the first day of the Challenge and for each subsequent night up to and including the night before the final day. The night following the closing ceremony is not covered. No refund will be given for candidates who do not book a hotel room, bed and breakfast, or similar accommodation.

Meals:

- Dinner: Most dinners during the challenge will be organized for participants. However, for those that are left to participants' choice (as indicated in the programme), up to CHF 20 per meal may be reimbursed, provided the meal is taken at a restaurant on those dates.
- Lunch: Ordering options will be provided for on-site ordering; however, participants may also choose a restaurant of their choice. Up to CHF 20 will be reimbursed for lunch.

Alcohol will not be reimbursed. Breakfast are not included

Travel Costs: Travel expenses related to the program are the responsibility of the participants, including if the event is cancelled.

Reimbursement Request Deadline: Participants must submit their completed expenses report (template provided) along with original receipts by the end of the month of August. The report can be submitted by email to secretariat@idiap.ch using the reimbursement form provided to participants.

11. Visa

Selected ICC participants requiring a visa to enter Switzerland are solely responsible for obtaining this visa. The organizers of the ICC cannot be held responsible should the visa be refused or not arrive in time and thereby prevent a selected candidate from participating in the ICC. The Idiap Research Institute can issue an invitation letter to support the visa application process.



Idiap Create Challenge

12. Intellectual property

Applicants certify to hold the legitimate intellectual property rights to the projects they submit. They shall be responsible for managing the intellectual property rights with the involved institutions (employer, partner, and so forth). The organizers claim no intellectual property rights to the submitted projects and their responsibility cannot be held thereby.

Idiap employees participating in the ICC remain subject to Idiap staff regulations, unless otherwise agreed with Idiap management and the direct supervisor.

13. Responsibility and liability for damage

The organizers shall not be responsible for any personal injury, loss or damage to any of the participants' property. The participants shall be held responsible for any damage or loss occasioned to their personal office space and/or hotel room during the ICC.

14. Applicants' commitment

Applicants undertake to guarantee the correctness and veracity of the information they submit. Any inaccuracies or omissions that may lead to an erroneous evaluation will result in the cancellation of the application. Successful candidates commit to having all their team members onsite, working on their project at Centre du Parc, Rue Marconi 19, 1920 Martigny, Switzerland, during the dates of the event as communicated on the [ICC website](#).

They also commit to participate in the opening and award ceremonies according to instructions they will be provided with. The unjustified absence of the team members of the awarded projects will result in disqualification. Successful applicants commit to participate in public relations and news events relating to the ICC. The participants authorize the organizers to refer to their names and projects, as well as to use pictures of them taken during the ICC for public relations and communication purposes.

The Jury reserves the right to withdraw any award, should irregularities be proven. The organizers reserve the right to modify, shorten, extend or cancel the ICC if required by circumstances. Responsibility of the organizers cannot be held thereby.

15. Other

The organizers of the ICC reserve the right to modify the present terms and conditions up to the project submission deadline (see the [ICC website](#) for the deadline). If such modifications occur, ICC applicants will be notified accordingly and the updated terms and conditions will be made available on the ICC website.

Martigny, April 2026