



Emerging Technologies Competition Rules of Competition

Please read these Rules of Competition carefully before submitting an application. When you submit an Application through the Competition online application system, you will be asked to “click” to confirm you have read and accept these Rules of Competition and agree to comply with them.

The application system is operated by a third party service provider on behalf of the Royal Society of Chemistry. When you submit an application through the application system, you are submitting it to that service provider.

How to enter the Competition

All applications must be made using the competition online application system, a link to which can be found on the Competition website. Applications must be received by the Closing Date.

Any Application received after midnight GMT on the Closing Date will NOT be considered for assessment by the Judges.

The Royal Society of Chemistry is not responsible for Applications which are lost, damaged or late due to computer, network or telecommunications failure. Any ineligible applications will not be considered for assessment by the judges. These include applications where forms have not been fully completed or where the applicant is not eligible to apply.

Applicants may submit more than one application, provided that the technology submitted is, in the opinion of the Royal Society of Chemistry, different in each application. Previous applicants can re-apply as long as, in the opinion of the Royal Society of Chemistry, significant progress has been made since their last application.

Applicants will be able to select a preference for the competition category into which they wish their application to be placed. However, the Royal Society of Chemistry reserves the right to move the application into another category.

The Royal Society of Chemistry will use the contact details provided in the application to contact the applicant about the competition. The Royal Society of Chemistry is not responsible for inaccuracies in the details which have been submitted.

Any questions contact the Programme Manager, Katie Springham, springhamk@rsc.org

Eligibility

The Competition is open to the following legal entities:

1. Small companies which at the closing date have:
 - been incorporated and registered for at least three months in the United Kingdom, one of the European Union Member States (see below), Switzerland, Norway or Iceland;
 - a UK or European Union bank account in the company's name;
 - less than 20 employees; and
 - have raised less than £/€1 million in equity funding excluding any grant funding
2. Universities.

Applicants must be based in the United Kingdom, one of the European Union Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden) or Switzerland, Norway or Iceland.

All applications must be in the English language.

The technologies submitted must have a strong chemistry component, and must be relevant to one of the following four Competition categories:

1. Enabling Technologies
2. Energy
3. Environment
4. Health

Applicants must take all necessary measures to prevent any risk of conflict of interest which could affect the impartial and objective performance of the competition. Applicants must disclose if they have an existing or prior relationship with any Judge or are aware of any affiliation, relationship, financial arrangement other situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interest during the competition by notifying the Royal Society of Chemistry, in writing, without delay.

By entering the competition and registering their application on the competition website, Applicants represent and warrant that the information submitted in support of their application is both accurate and truthful to the best of their knowledge.

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Intellectual Property Protection: IMPORTANT NOTICE

Applicants are responsible for the protection of their intellectual property and other rights.

Applications will be treated as having been submitted on a non-confidential basis whether or not any ideas or material are marked or referred to by applicants as confidential. The Royal Society of Chemistry cannot, and will not, take responsibility for the protection of intellectual property or other rights of applicants.

Applicants accept that it is their responsibility to secure appropriate protection for any idea or material and, if they consider appropriate, obtain legal advice on this before submitting their application. University applicants are advised to contact their technology transfer or other relevant commercialisation office before submitting their applications.

Applicants should take care about disclosing any patentable concepts in their applications and, where appropriate, apply for patent protection before submitting their applications to the Royal Society of Chemistry. Applicants should understand that they may not be able later to apply for patent protection for an idea, which they have disclosed on a non-confidential basis. Applicants should not include more detail about their ideas than they feel comfortable with or than is indicated in the application system, and if in any doubt, should take their own legal advice or leave it out. However, applicants should note that if insufficient detail is provided for the Royal Society of Chemistry and Judges to make a proper assessment of the application, applicants will not be contacted for further information and their applications may be rejected.

By submitting an application, applicants declare that they have obtained, or will obtain, all authorisations, consents and permissions necessary to submit their application, carry out their proposals, implement their ideas and comply with these Rules of Competition and, to the best of their knowledge and belief, their applications will not infringe any intellectual property or other rights belonging to any third party or breach any contractual obligation.

Personal Data

In order to use the application system to register for and enter into the competition, the applicant's representative is required to provide certain personal data as stated on the application system, including his/her:

- name;
- address, which may be his/her work address;
- telephone number, which may be his/her work telephone number; and
- email address, which may be his/her work email address.

We are processing this data for the purpose of operating the competition. Personal names and organisation names will be shared with the Judges who are responsible for the sector that the technology falls within. This information is shared for the purpose that Judges are able to identify any conflict of interest which would prevent them from judging the application.

By registering on the application system and entering into the competition, the applicant's representative explicitly authorises the Royal Society of Chemistry to use the personal data he/she provides for the purposes of the organisation, performance, management and monitoring of the competition (including arranging receipt of and/or participating in the prizes) and communicating with applicants in relation to the competition.

The Royal Society of Chemistry will always comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 and GDPR (2016/679) and all other applicable laws and EU Directives. The Royal Society of Chemistry will not keep personal data relating to Applicant Representatives for longer than is necessary. Data relating to applicant representatives will be retained by the Royal Society of Chemistry for a reasonable period after the competition closes to assist the Royal Society of Chemistry in dealing with any queries relating to the competition. Personal data will be kept for a period of 12 months following the final.

Applicant representatives will have the right to access their personal data and the right to rectify any such data. Should applicant representatives have any queries concerning the processing of their personal data, they should address them to emergingtech@rsc.org. Further information about RSC privacy can be found in the policy on the RSC website.

Promotion and Publicity

Applicants will be asked to submit a technology summary of their application on the online competition application system. By entering the competition, applicants agree to the use of their name, logo, and technology summary by the Royal Society of Chemistry to promote the competition in printed and online material. The Royal Society of Chemistry may adapt the technology summary to make it more understandable to the competition audience.

Judging

Applications will be reviewed in the first instance by the Royal Society of Chemistry for compliance with these Rules of Competition and suitability in general before being submitted to the Judges.

The Judges and the Royal Society of Chemistry reserve the right to disqualify any application that, in their opinion, violates the letter or the spirit of the competition.

Applications will be judged by the Judges according to the following criteria:

- the scientific feasibility of the technology
- the market opportunities and potential impact of the technology
- the approach to commercialisation.

The stage of development of the technology will be considered in order to make a fair assessment of the application.


Six applicants from each category will be shortlisted to pitch their application at the competition final.

Applicants will be informed of the date set by the Royal Society of Chemistry for the competition final, whether their application has been shortlisted or not. If an applicant is not shortlisted, the Royal Society of Chemistry reserves the right not to enter into any further correspondence with the applicant in relation to their application.

The winners of the competition in each category, will be selected by the Judges at the competition final and will be announced at the awards ceremony, taking place that evening.

Decisions regarding all matters relating to the judging of the competition will be made by the Judges and where appropriate, the Royal Society of Chemistry. The decisions of the Judges and where appropriate, the Royal Society of Chemistry, are final and binding and there is strictly no appeal process available.

Any questions contact the Programme Manager, Katie Springham, springhamk@rsc.org



Applicants must not seek to contact the Judges directly to discuss their application or the competition. No discussion on the decisions of the Judges and where appropriate, the Royal Society of Chemistry, will be entered into with applicants prior to conclusion of the competition. The Royal Society of Chemistry reserves the right not to enter into any further discussion or correspondence with applicants in relation to their application or the competition following the conclusion of the competition.

Prizes

Any prize money awarded to a winning applicant is at the discretion of the Royal Society of Chemistry and is subject to change. The Royal Society of Chemistry reserves the right to withhold any prize money or change its terms, conditions and rules, without notice.

Unless expressly agreed in writing by the Royal Society of Chemistry, prize money will be paid to the applicant's institutional account. Prize money cannot be deferred or transferred without the prior written consent of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Any applicant receiving prize money shall be fully responsible for any personal or incidental expenses and/or tax liabilities incurred in claiming and using the prize money.

Prize money must not be used for any purpose other than the furtherance of a winning application and no material changes should be made to a winning application without the prior written approval of the Royal Society of Chemistry. If an applicant fails to comply with these requirements, the Royal Society of Chemistry may require an applicant to repay the prize money in full. The Royal Society of Chemistry may request verified accounts from the applicant if it has concerns about the manner in which the prize money is being used or the applicant's financial activities.

Winning applicants may receive further media coverage for their winning work through, for example, press releases to university press offices, local press and a possible feature in Chemistry World.

The award of prize money and other media benefits does not constitute a guarantee of further support from or funding by the Royal Society of Chemistry and does not imply that an application is necessarily commercially marketable or fulfils a particular need, and the Royal Society of Chemistry is under no obligation to further assess in any way, any application submitted to the competition.

The Royal Society of Chemistry will not be involved in any potential commercial arrangements between applicants and the partners following the competition. The Royal Society of Chemistry shall not be liable for any loss of business, loss of reputation, loss of profits incurred due to arrangements with the partners.

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Competition final

The competition final is taking place at the Royal Society of Chemistry's Burlington House in London, United Kingdom on 11 July 2023. Each shortlisted applicant is expected to be available for the whole day.

The Royal Society of Chemistry will be showcasing the best technologies emerging from the competition and will require the winners to provide general information about their winning work. This will be used to produce feature articles, case studies and other publicity materials.

The Royal Society of Chemistry will contact the finalists in advance to seek permission for any materials and media requests.

General

To the extent permissible by law, the Royal Society of Chemistry will not be liable whether in contract, tort, by statute or otherwise in respect of any loss of profits and/or loss of business for any special, indirect, incidental or consequential loss or damage arising out of or in connection with the Competition, including without limitation, loss of revenue, loss of anticipated savings, loss of business and/or goods, loss of goodwill, loss of use, loss and/or corruption of data and/or other information, resulting from application to the competition; arrangements with competition partners or failure to enter into arrangements with competition partners or acceptance and/or use of the prize money or other benefits.


Nothing in these Rules of Competition shall exclude or restrict the liability of the Royal Society of Chemistry for fraudulent misrepresentation and/or for death or personal injury to the extent that such injury results from its negligence or wilful default.

These Rules of Competition do not create or confer any rights under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 enforceable by any person who is not a party to these Rules of Competition. The Royal Society of Chemistry reserves the right to amend these Rules of Competition at any time. Any changes will be posted to this page and it is the responsibility of Applicants to ensure that they are aware of any such changes.

These Rules of Competition will be construed in accordance with the Laws of England.

Definitions

Any questions contact the Programme Manager, Katie Springham, springhamk@rsc.org



Applicant	entities entering into the Competition and complying with these Rules;
Applicant's Representative	the person authorised to complete and submit the Application on behalf of the Applicant;
Application	an application in the form prescribed by the Royal Society of Chemistry submitted to the Competition by an Applicant;
Application System	the FluidReview online application system provided by SurveyMonkey Inc. on behalf of the Royal Society of Chemistry for the submission of Applications and which can be found at https://roysocchem.smapply.io/prog/ETC_application_portal ;
Closing Date	the last date by which Applications to the Competition may be submitted;
Competition	the Emerging Technologies Competition organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry, a company incorporated in England by Royal Charter (Registered No. RC000524) and a registered charity (Charity No. 207890), with its registered address at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BA, UK;
Competition Final	the competition final taking place in person;
Competition Website	The Emerging Technologies Competition website at https://www.rsc.org/competitions/emerging-technologies/ ;
Judge	a judge selected by the Royal Society of Chemistry to be on the panel of judges to review Applications and select the best Application in each of the Competition categories;
Partners	those entities supporting the Competition through the provision of a representative to act as a Judge;
Prize Money	prize money awarded to successful Competition Applicants in the Competition.