

**INVENT 2024 Terms and Conditions**

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## 1. General Terms and Conditions

Throughout these terms and conditions, the term 'Organiser' refers to Catalyst, the entity responsible for managing and conducting the INVENT 2024 competition. The term "Entrant" refers to those applying to be a part of the competition, subject to the rules and guidelines outlined herein.

Applications will be assessed and shortlisted by an independent selection panel to determine entry into the competition, following basic background research on the Entrant conducted by the Organiser to ensure eligibility criteria is met. Shortlisting will be based on the information submitted in the application form. Each category will be shortlisted to a maximum of 15 Entrants progressing to the Qualifying Round Stage of the competition.

Entrants will self-select a category to compete within. The category chosen by the entrant may be subject to change at the discretion of the Organiser. Entrants will be notified accordingly if a change is made.

Entrants must be willing to devote the time and commitment necessary to all components of the competition with a genuine ambition to progress their innovation.

Entrants may submit multiple innovations. If more than one innovation progresses to the semi-final stage, Entrants must select one to proceed further in the competition. Failure to choose within the specified timeframe may result in disqualification for all submitted innovations.

Applications for the INVENT 2024 competition will open on 26th February 2024 and will close on 22nd April 2024 at 1 pm BST. Interested applicants can apply via [our website](#).

By entering the competition, Entrants are agreeing to be bound by these terms and conditions.

## 2. Eligibility Criteria

- Entrants may or may not have incorporated a company.
- Entrants must have no more than 5 paid employees.
- Founder(s) and Innovation Development must be based in Northern Ireland or County Donegal, Ireland. This will be determined based on the postcode provided by the Entrant in the application form. The Organiser reserves the right to request proof of residence at any stage. Entrants must ensure that their

innovation's development is within the specified geographical areas to qualify for participation in the INVENT 2024 competition. Failure to provide satisfactory evidence of residence and/or location of Innovation Development may result in disqualification from the INVENT competition.

- Innovations which have previously qualified for the final round of INVENT and formerly named '£25K Awards' are not eligible to apply.
- All individual participants forming an Entrant must be aged 18 or over by the point of application deadline.
- Innovations must have a basic prototype [See below for more detail].

## a. **Prototype**

Entrants must have at least developed a basic prototype for the innovation being entered into the competition. This prototype can be in digital or physical form.

We consider a prototype something which has been created to test an Entrant's idea's feasibility and/or relevance to the customer, and provides reasonable proof that the innovation is beyond concept stage.

Innovations which do not have prototypes will not advance past shortlisting stage of the competition. Entrants will be expected to demonstrate how they have prototyped their innovation at Qualifying Round Stage. It is the responsibility of the Entrant to describe in the application form how the innovation has been prototyped.

It remains the decision of the Organiser if the prototype is suitable for the competition. The Organiser's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into. Please contact the Organiser if further information is required.

- At the point of application, Entrants must not have received capital or loan funding of £200,000 from any source. Grants are permitted and do not count towards the £200,000 limit. Entrants must disclose all funding received at point of application. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the INVENT competition.

By entering the competition, the Entrant is confirming that that it/they meet the eligibility criteria. The Organiser may require an Entrant to provide proof

of eligibility. Any failure to meet any part of the eligibility criteria or to provide proof on request may result in disqualification from the INVENT competition. The Organiser's decision is final.

### **3. Scoring Criteria and Judging**

Please see [here](#) for scoring criteria.

#### **a. Decisions and Feedback**

The Judge's decision at each stage of the competition is final. Feedback is available to each Entrant. If an Entrant wishes to receive feedback, they must contact the Organiser within 1 week of receiving their results. Please note that feedback will only be provided via an online call with the Organiser.

#### **b. Inclusive Innovation Award**

Finalists are eligible to win the Inclusive Innovation award, as well as their chosen category.

Inclusive innovations are ideas that can improve the lives of others. The innovation can come from any area and be applied to any part of the economy [Medtech, Sporttech, Greentech, Fintech, agriculture – the list is not exhaustive]. The final Judges decide the winner of the Inclusive Innovation Award at their own discretion following the final pitch.

### **4. Prize Money**

The winners of INVENT 2024 will be announced at the INVENT Awards ceremony on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024. Winners must send the Organiser their bank details within 2 weeks of the announcement and the Organiser will ensure payment within 2 months of receiving these details.

The Organiser will not be responsible if the Entrant fails to provide its bank details.

### **5. Intellectual Property**

Intellectual Property must be owned by the Entrant or alternatively the Entrant must have appropriate permission from the owner to enter the competition. For the avoidance of doubt, Entrants are responsible for ensuring that they own the relevant intellectual property in their innovations or have the appropriate permissions to use the intellectual property for the

purpose of entry into the INVENT competition and otherwise, and the Organiser shall have no responsibility to the Entrant(s) in this regard.

Before submitting applications, all Entrants are encouraged to confirm with legal advisors that any intellectual property described in their application is protected by the owner, i.e. by appropriate intellectual property filings, notices, (patent, copyright, etc).

The Organiser also recommends that Entrants determine in advance whether the innovation described in their application relates to an invention, copyrightable work or other intellectual property owned by a third party and that they have been granted permission to use the innovation and to enter this competition in accordance with the relevant third party's policy. If an Entrant is applying from a university or research institution, the relevant Technology Transfer Office is available to answer any related questions.

For any doubts about the legal status of the Entrant's own or third-party intellectual property or any other aspect of their application, the Organiser advises the Entrant to seek independent legal advice.

The Entrant agrees that the Organiser may, in its sole discretion, make the entry available on its [website](#) and in any other media, whether now known or invented in the future, and in connection with any publicity of the competition. The Entrant hereby grants the Organiser a non-exclusive, worldwide, irrevocable licence in perpetuity, for the full period of the intellectual property rights in the competition entry and any accompanying materials, to use, display, publish, transmit and store the intellectual property rights in the entry and any accompanying materials for such purposes.

## **6. Catalyst Data Protection Policy**

The Organiser takes Entrant's privacy seriously and will only process Entrant's personal information for the purposes of carrying out the INVENT programme. Our privacy policy can be found here:

<http://www.wearecatalyst.org/programme/privacy-policy/>

Any personal data relating to Entrants will be used solely in accordance with current (UK) data protection legislation and will not be disclosed to a third party without the Entrant's prior consent.

## **7. Publicity and Promotion**

Photography and videography may be taken at events throughout the programme, including but not limited to, the Qualifying Round, Semi-Final, and Final stages. These images and videos may be used for promotional and marketing purposes related to the INVENT 2024 competition.

At the Semi-Final and Final stages, successful Entrants will be announced on public channels, including Catalyst's website, social media platforms, and press releases. By participating in the competition, Entrants consent to the use of their name, image, and relevant information for these promotional activities. If there are any concerns or objections regarding the use of specific content, Entrants are encouraged to communicate this to the Organiser.

## **8. Liability and Indemnification**

The Organiser shall not be held liable for any claims, damages, losses, or liabilities arising out of or related to an Entrant's involvement in the INVENT 2024 competition. Entrants agree to indemnify and hold the Organiser harmless from any legal actions, disputes, or liabilities that may arise during or after the competition. This includes, but is not limited to, claims of intellectual property infringement, breaches of confidentiality, or any other legal disputes between entrants. Entrants acknowledge and accept that they participate in the competition at their own risk, and the Organiser shall not be responsible for any consequences resulting from the Entrants' involvement.

## **9. Ethical Considerations**

The INVENT 2024 competition places a strong emphasis on ethical considerations throughout the innovation process. Entrants are expected to ensure that their innovations align with ethical norms and legal standards. This includes a commitment to avoiding any innovations that may cause harm, discrimination, or violate established regulations. Entrants should prioritise transparency, integrity, and social responsibility in the development and presentation of their innovations.

The Organiser reserves the right to assess and evaluate entries based on ethical criteria, and any concerns regarding ethical considerations will be thoroughly reviewed. If at any stage it is determined that an Entrant's innovation raises ethical concerns, the Organiser may take appropriate actions, including disqualification from the competition. Entrants are

encouraged to seek guidance from the Organiser if they have questions or require clarification on ethical considerations related to their innovations.

## 10. Code of Conduct

Entrants, Mentors, Judges and any other involved parties are expected to adhere to a high standard of conduct throughout the INVENT 2024 competition. This includes, but is not limited to, respectful and professional behavior, honesty, integrity, and collaboration. Disruptive, offensive, or unethical conduct is strictly prohibited.

It is essential for all individuals to contribute to a positive and inclusive environment, fostering innovation and collaboration.

Any concerns or reports of a breach of the code of conduct should be promptly communicated to the Organiser for review and resolution.

## 11. Governing Law & Jurisdiction

These terms and conditions are governed by the laws of Northern Ireland. The Entrant irrevocably agrees that the courts of Northern Ireland shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute or claim (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with these terms and conditions or its subject matter or formation.

## 12. Breach of Terms and Conditions

If there is any reason to believe that there has been a breach of the Terms and Conditions, the Organiser may, at its sole discretion, reserve the right to exclude an Entrant from the competition

The decision of the Organiser in such matters is final, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the decision.

## 13. Key Dates 2024

**Please note the mandatory dates.** If an Entrant is not able to attend the mandatory dates, the Organiser reserves the right to withdraw the Entrant from the competition.

[Dates are subject to change at the Organiser's discretion]

26th February 2024	Applications open
22nd April 2024	Applications close at midday – Entrants informed of results by 30th April
8th May 2024	Communications Workshop with Emer Maguire (Online, Evening)
14th May / 16th May 2024	Finance Essentials with Michael Black (Both sessions are the same; Entrants will have the option to choose between the 14th and 16th dates. In-person at Catalyst, Belfast, Evening)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May Green Horizons and Creative Leisure	<p><b>MANDATORY Qualifying Round Pitches.</b> For the Qualifying Round only, Entrants have the opportunity to choose to pitch either online via Microsoft Teams or In-person at Catalyst, Belfast.</p>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May BioBreakthroughs and Living Well	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May Future Business and Unchartered Ideas	
6th / 11th June 2024	1:1 Pitch Clinics with Catalyst’s Head of Scaling (Semi-Finalists will be allocated a 30-minute slot on either 6th or 11th for their session. Semi-Finalists can choose to attend their session online via Microsoft Teams or in-person at Catalyst, Belfast)
12th June 2024	Marketing and PR Masterclass followed by a social event (In-person at Catalyst, Belfast)
19th June 2024	IP Learning Session with Legal Expert (Online, Evening)



25th / 26th June 2024	<b>MANDATORY Semi-Final Pitches</b> (In-person at Catalyst, Belfast)
4th July 2024	Silent Decks with Clarendon Fund Managers (Online, Evening)
8th – 21st July 2024	Programme Break
24th July 2024	Mentor Day (In-person, Venue TBC)
2nd August 2024	Funding Day with Bank of Ireland (In-person at Catalyst, Belfast)
8th August 2024	<b>MANDATORY Finalist Filming/Photography</b> (Ahead of the INVENT awards night, we conduct filming and photography to allow us to showcase our finalists at the event and on social media. At least 1 team member must attend this session. Please let the programme manager know as soon as possible if this is an issue.)
30th August 2024	<b>MANDATORY</b> Silent Deck Submission
10th September 2024	<b>MANDATORY</b> Final Pitches (In-person at Catalyst, Belfast)
3rd October 2024	<b>MANDATORY</b> INVENT 2024 Awards Night and Elevator Pitches (At least 1 team member must be available to attend the INVENT awards night)

The Organiser reserves the right to cancel or amend the competition and these terms and conditions. Any changes to the competition will be notified to the Entrants as soon as possible via email.

## 14. Contact Details

For any questions, please contact the Organiser using this email address: [invent@wearecatalyst.org](mailto:invent@wearecatalyst.org)

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