



## Innovators' Pitch 2026

### Conditions of Participation

get started  
by bitkom

# Conditions for Participating in Innovators' Pitch 2026

By submitting their application, participants agree to the following conditions:

- The competition is held by Bitkom e.V.
- All startup companies that were founded no more than 6 years ago (as per 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026), that do not have more than 50 permanent employees, that are organized under private-law and that are not partly owned by the state or are a subdivision of it are eligible to take part.
- The participating startups shall delegate a natural person as their contact, who shall have reached the age of 18 years at the time of the participation and who shall be the proprietor or managing director of the company in question.
- Further requirements for participation:
  - Submission of a fully completed application form
  - Submission of a pitch deck that represents your idea and the current product development, funding, first partners, etc., represents your team and sufficiently describes your solution for the area of the categories "Future Technologies in Logistics" and "Future Technologies in Education" (hereinafter: "provided content"). The provided content must not violate any rights of third parties or contain inadmissible content.
- Each participant may participate only once.
- Applications will be accepted until "23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2026.

## Conditions for Participating in Innovators' Pitch 2026

- A jury of experts (hereinafter: "the jury") drawn from the partners of the event and the employees of Bitkom will choose from the applications submitted 3 finalists in 2 different categories. These finalists will be notified by email.
- The finalists may take part in the Live Pitch on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2026 to represent their startup. The pitch should be performed by the founder of the startup. If this is not possible, Bitkom must be informed in advance.
- Based on the live pitch, the jury will choose the winning startups of each category by means of voting. Each category will have its own jury that will select the winners at the Innovators' Pitch on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The finalists and winning companies will be publically announced, in particular on [www.innovatorspitch.com](http://www.innovatorspitch.com). The finalists and winning companies agree that their name and location, as well as their Internet address, their corporate idea, and their company logo shall be published.
- Material prizes cannot be exchanged for money or other material rewards.
- Transfer of the prize to third parties is not possible.
- Participation in the competition does not give rise to any claim to publication or awarding of a prize to the application.
- The decision of the jury is final.

# Innovators' Pitch 2026 Prizes

The winners of the Innovators' Pitch 2026 will receive the following prizes:

- 1. 5,000 euros per category as prize money**
- 2. Free one-year Get Started membership of Bitkom** for companies fulfilling the requirements for a Bitkom Get Started membership  
-> (see Conditions on next page)

## Innovators' Pitch 2026 Prizes

The prize of a **free startup membership of Bitkom** is subject to fulfilling the requirements for a Bitkom Get Started membership:

- Company was founded no more than six years ago;
- 3-50 employees who are subject to mandatory social insurance contributions, and the company's founder is actively involved in its management;
- Not more than 10 million euros revenue/financial year;
- Company is not a spin-off;
- Company with place of business in Germany

If these conditions are not met, this part of the prize will expire.

# Conditions for Participating in Innovators' Pitch 2026

- Participation is free of charge. The purchase of products or services does not influence the outcome of the competition.
- Employees of the Bitkom Group shall be excluded from taking part.
- Participants who use unauthorized aids or otherwise attempt to gain an advantage through manipulation will be excluded from participation.
- Applications that violate these conditions for Participating in Innovators' Pitch 2026 or are submitted using false information or are otherwise intended to gain an advantage through manipulation will be excluded from the competition
- Bitkom reserves the right to terminate, discontinue, interrupt or modify the competition should unforeseeable circumstances arise that are beyond the control of Bitkom and that make it impossible for Bitkom to conduct the competition as planned. This applies in particular to the payment of the prize money.

## Conditions for Participating in Innovators' Pitch 2026

- Bitkom shall be liable in accordance with Section 521 of the German Civil Code (BGB) with regard to the prize only for intent and gross negligence. To the extent that Bitkom's liability is excluded, this shall also apply to tort claims or claims for reimbursement of futile expenses in lieu of performance as well as to the personal liability of its legal representatives, employees or agents.
- Cash payment of the non-cash value, transfer of the prize to third parties or exchange of the prize is not possible.
- The right to take legal action is excluded.

# Conditions for Participating in Innovators' Pitch 2026

## Indemnity

- Participants undertake to indemnify Bitkom against all claims by any third parties that are based on the use of the participants' contribution by Bitkom, unless the participant is not responsible for the infringement.

## Privacy Policy

- The personal data collected as mandatory information in the application will be processed for the purpose of conducting the Innovator's Pitch 2026, determining the award winners and processing and, if necessary, exercising or defending legal claims on the basis of Art. 6 (1) lit. f) GDPR. Our legitimate interest is to ensure participation and the proper awarding of prizes. The provision of the data marked as mandatory is mandatory for participation in the awarding of prizes. Without providing the data, you will unfortunately not be able to participate in the competition or notification of participation in the live pitches will not be possible.
- The contact data of the participants will be kept for a period of 4 weeks due to legal retention periods and deleted after this period.

# Conditions for Participating in Innovators' Pitch 2026

- As a data subject, you have the right to information about the personal data concerning you (Art. 15 GDPR), to correction of inaccurate data (Art. 16 GDPR) and to deletion, if one of the reasons mentioned in Art. 17 GDPR applies. You also have the right to restriction of processing if one of the conditions listed in Art. 18 DSGVO applies and, in the cases of Art. 20 DSGVO, the right to data portability. You also have the right to object at any time for reasons arising from your particular situation. We will then no longer process your data unless there are demonstrably compelling legitimate grounds for the processing which override your interests, rights and freedoms. In addition, you have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority.
- Responsible for data processing is Bitkom e.V., Albrechtstraße 10, 10117 Berlin, e-mail: [info@bitkom.org](mailto:info@bitkom.org). You can reach our data protection officer at datenschutz nord GmbH, Kurfürstendamm 212, 10719 Berlin, E-Mail: [office@datenschutz-nord.de](mailto:office@datenschutz-nord.de).

# Conditions for Participating in Innovators' Pitch 2026

## Right of use

- Bitkom stores the content provided in the application in machine-readable form. They are used to carry out the competition. Participants agree to their provided content being passed on to the jury. They will only be used to select the finalists and will not be published. The finalists and the winning company grant Bitkom the non-exclusive, irrevocable and royalty-free right, unlimited in time and space, to use the company logo, among other things, on the bitkom.org website and in any connection with the Innovator's Pitch.

# Contact

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