

# Terms and Conditions for the Deeptech Pitch 2026

The original terms and conditions are in German and are available [here](#). This translation is provided for convenience only and without liability. Participation in the Deeptech Pitch as part of AIDAQ 2026 requires acceptance of the terms and conditions. By submitting their application, participants accept the following terms and conditions:

- The organizer of the competition is Bitkom e.V. (hereinafter: “Bitkom”).
- All startup companies that meet the following criteria are eligible to participate (hereinafter: “Participants”):
  - the company was founded no more than five years ago (as of September 14, 2026);
  - 3 to 50 employees subject to social security contributions, and the founder is actively involved in its management;
  - No more than 10 million euros in revenue per fiscal year;
  - The company is not a spin-off;
  - No majority external ownership;
  - The company has its registered office in Germany.

# Terms and Conditions for the Deeptech Pitch 2026

- Participants must designate a person to serve as their contact person. At the time of application, the contact person must be at least 18 years of age and must be the owner of the relevant company or hold a position on the company's executive board.
- Additional requirements for participation in the competition (hereinafter: "Application"):
  - Submission of the fully completed application form
  - Submission of a pitch deck that illustrates your idea and current status (product development, funding, initial partners, etc.), represents your team, and sufficiently describes your solution for the deep tech sector (hereinafter: "submitted content"). The submitted content must not infringe on the rights of third parties or contain any prohibited content.
- Each participant may enter only once.
- Applications will be accepted through July 31, 2026.

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- A jury from Bitkom will select 4 finalists from among the participants' complete applications. The finalists will be notified by email.
- The selected finalists will be invited to participate in a live pitch at AIDAQ on September 23 and present their company.
- The live pitch may only be conducted by the founder of the company. If this is not possible, Bitkom must be informed in advance and must approve the person giving the pitch.
- Based on the respective live pitches, a jury of experts will select the winning company through a vote.
- The finalists and the two winning companies will be publicly announced, in particular on bitkom.org. They agree that their company name, location, website address, summary of their business idea, and company logo may be published. The jury's selection of the winning companies is final.

# Deeptech Pitch 2026 Prizes

The winning company of the Deeptech Pitch will receive

- 1. a free one-year "Get Started" membership in Bitkom**, provided that the winning company meets the requirements for a "Get Started" membership:
  - the company was founded no more than five years ago;
  - 3 to 50 employees subject to social security contributions, and the founder is actively involved in its management;
  - no more than 10 million euros in revenue per fiscal year;
  - the company is not a spin-off;
  - no majority outside ownership;
  - The company has its registered office in Germany.If these conditions are not met, this portion of the prize will be forfeited.
- 2. Bitkom** reserves the right to offer prize money to the winners at a later date. There is no legal entitlement to the awarding of such prizes until they are expressly announced.

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- Participation in the competition is free of charge.
- Employees of the Bitkom Group (Bitkom e.V., Bitkom Servicegesellschaft mbH, and DFA Digital für Alle gGmbH) are excluded from participation.
- Participants who use unauthorized aids or otherwise attempt to gain an advantage through manipulation will be disqualified.
- Bitkom reserves the right to terminate, suspend, interrupt, or modify the competition at any time without prior notice if proper execution cannot be guaranteed for technical, factual, or legal reasons.
- Bitkom is liable regarding the prize only for intent and gross negligence in accordance with § 521 BGB. To the extent that Bitkom's liability is excluded, this also applies 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 vicarious agents.
- A cash payment of the prize's value, transfer of the prize to third parties, or exchange of the prize is not possible.
- Legal recourse is excluded.

# Privacy Notice for Deeptech Pitch 2026

- Participants' personal data will be used solely for the purpose of conducting the competition. The email address is required to notify the finalists and winning companies. This information is collected during registration. Data processing is based on Article 6(1)(f) of the GDPR in the legitimate interest of conducting the competition properly and awarding the prize. Unfortunately, without providing this data, you cannot participate in the competition, nor will it be possible to notify you of your participation in the live pitches.
- Participants' contact information will be retained for a period of 4 weeks in accordance with statutory retention periods and deleted upon expiration of this period.

# Privacy Notice for Deeptech Pitch 2026

- As a data subject, you have the right to access the personal data concerning you (Art. 15 GDPR), to have inaccurate data corrected (Art. 16 GDPR), and to have your data erased if one of the grounds specified in Art. 17 GDPR applies. You also have the right to restrict processing if one of the conditions listed in Art. 18 GDPR applies, and the right to data portability in the cases specified in Art. 20 GDPR.
- You also have the right to object at any time on grounds relating to your particular situation. We will then no longer process your data unless there are demonstrable compelling legitimate grounds for the processing that override your interests, rights, and freedoms. Furthermore, you have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority. The supervisory authority responsible for us is the Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, Alt-Moabit 59-61, 10555 Berlin, email: [mailbox@datenschutz-berlin.de](mailto:mailbox@datenschutz-berlin.de).
- The controller responsible for data processing is Bitkom e.V., Albrechtstraße 10, 10117 Berlin, email: [info@bitkom.org](mailto:info@bitkom.org). You can contact our data protection officer at datenschutz nord GmbH, Kurfürstendamm 212, 10719 Berlin, email: [office@datenschutz-nord.de](mailto:office@datenschutz-nord.de).

# Privacy Notice: Deeptech Pitch 2026

## Copyright

- Bitkom stores the content provided in the application in a machine-readable format. It will be used for the purpose of conducting the competition.
- Participants agree that their application materials may be shared with the jury. They will be used solely for the selection of finalists and will not be published.
- The finalists and the winning company grant Bitkom the right, unlimited in time and scope, non-exclusive, revocable in the future, and free of charge, to use the company logo, among other things, on the website bitkom.org and in any context related to AIDAQ 2026.

# Contact

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