2019 GIST Tech-I Competition Announcement

I. Competition Format

Deadline: 11:59 am US ET on November 23, 2018
Online applications submitted.

→

December 1-7, 2018
Applications screened for eligibility.

→

December 2018
Eligible applications scored by expert panelists.

↓

Semifinalists Announced in the begining of January
Scores used to select up to 100 semifinalists (50% Idea, 50% Startup)

←

Mid-January - Mid-February, 2019
Semifinalists use marketing and networking skills in global public voting round.

←

Finalists Announced Mid-February
Vote totals select 24 finalists (12 Idea, 12 Startup)

↓

Finalists travel all-expenses-paid to Bahrain for two days of in-person training before GEC.

→

Finalists pitch in front of judges and GEC attendees for seed capital prizes.

→

After returning home, all finalists receive three months of online mentorship.

The GIST Tech-I competition field is broken down into two distinct groups, Idea Stage and Startup Stage. Applicants will compete within their stage to secure a spot at GIST Tech-I finals during GEC 2019 in Bahrain. Determine your project's stage of development using these guidelines:

Idea Stage Applicant	vs. Startup Stage Applicant
☑ Has research or a technology with commercialization potential. ☑ Has not started a business yet and is willing to start a business. ☑ Has defined the qualifications of a management team needed to execute the Idea. ☑ Has started to identify advisors. ☑ Has started market research. ☑ Has a plan for developing the science or technology, but does not yet have a working prototype.	☑ Has a company that is less than three years old. ☑ Has some funding already—either through revenue, through external financing (from public or private sources), or a combination of both. ☑ Has a working prototype that is currently in a testing or pilot stage and that can be made available for commercial release soon.

II. Competition Overview

The GIST Technology Idea (Tech-I) Competition is an annual competition for science and technology (S&T) entrepreneurs from 132 emerging economies (See Appendix 1) around the world. The competition is part of the Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) initiative, led by the U.S. Department of State. The GIST Tech-I Competition is implemented by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

To participate in the competition, aspiring science and technology entrepreneurs with either an idea or startup can apply online to by going to GISTNetwork.org during the application period. Once the application deadline has passed, expert panels will review applications and select up to the top 100 applications to be semifinalists. The semifinalists will proceed to the online public voting phase determining the 24 Finalists who will participate in the finals in Bahrain to pitch their idea or startup during the Global Entrepreneurship Congress (GEC) for capital seed and other prizes.

II. Eligibility Requirements for Applicant

Applicants must meet ALL of the following eligibility requirements:

1. The applicant must be 18-40 years old on the application deadline, **November 23, 2018**.
2. The applicant must be a citizen of at least one of the 132 GIST-eligible emerging economies (See Appendix 1).
3. The applicant must not hold dual-citizenship or permanent resident status in a non-GIST economy.
4. The applicant must not submit more than one application per GIST Tech-I competition year.
5. The applicant must not be a previous GIST Tech-I finalist who traveled to and competed in the GIST Tech-I Finals.

In addition to meeting the applicant requirements above, applications must to be for Ideas or Startups that meet ALL of the following requirements:

1. The application must be the original work of the Idea or Startup applicant.
2. The Idea or Startup must be developing an innovative science or technology solution with market potential in a GIST-eligible economy.
3. The Idea or Startup must be for-profit. Applications from non-profit ventures or NGOs are not eligible and will not be reviewed.
4. The Startup must be less than three years old.
5. The Idea or Startup must be, at least in part, based in a GIST-eligible economy.
6. The Idea or Startup must be developing or selling products and services that use its own innovations in science and technology. Applications from organizations that buy and resell technologies will not be reviewed.
7. The Idea or Startup must not submit more than one application per GIST Tech-I competition year.

Do you still have questions about eligibility? Check out our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) or contact Tech-I@GISTNetwork.org.

III. Rules

Before applying, thoroughly review the GIST Tech-I Terms and Conditions in Section IX of this announcement. All applicants will be required to consent to the Terms and Conditions during the online application process. Some, but not all, of the rules are highlighted below for quick reference.

- Application Phase Rules:
  - See Eligibility Requirements section above.
  - Application materials cannot be edited after the application deadline.
  - There is no limit to the number of people on a project team. However, all teams must appoint one person to represent the team throughout the entire competition. This person is required to meet all of the eligibility requirements and is the person under whose name the application should be submitted.
- Review Phase Rules:
  - Decisions made regarding semifinalists, finalists, and prize winners are final and not subject to appeal.
  - Following the announcement of the semifinalists, applicants may contact AAAS to request to see any comments left by the reviewers on their proposal. Any attempt to request information regarding other applicants' reviewers' comments, will result in disqualification.
- Voting Phase Rules:
  - Only the materials submitted before the online application deadline, including the pitch video, will be used.
  - Voting rules and instructions will be communicated before the start of voting.
  - AAAS reserves the right to discount fraudulent votes as determined by fraud prevention analysis. Persistent fraudulent activity will result in the removal of an applicant from the competition.
- Selection of Finalists:
  - A maximum of 24 GIST Tech-I finalists (half Idea and half Startup stage applications) will be selected based on total number of online votes.
  - For proposals of similar merit and voting support, the gender of applicant, region, and subject area will be given consideration, in order to ensure equity and diversity.
- GIST Tech-I Finals:
  - The final pitch presentation at the GIST Tech-I finals will be the sole basis for selection of prize winners at the finals.
  - Pitching rules and judging criteria will be communicated to finalists several weeks before they travel to the finals so that they have adequate time to prepare.
  - If you are working on a team, the representative who submitted your application will be the only person to travel to and pitch your project at the GIST Tech-I finals, should your application advance.

IV. Prizes and Benefits

- All applicants:

    - Opportunity to participate in webinars leading up to the application deadline. Example topics are communicating effectively, networking, and understanding your market.
- Semifinalists:
    - Global exposure. In previous years, semifinalists received upwards of 400,000 votes from all over the world and were featured by numerous local, national, and international media outlets. Several met or were mentioned by their heads of state.
    - Marketing and networking support from the AAAS Team, including the provision of voting graphics, several webinars, and guidance on reaching out to media outlets.
- Finalists:
    - All-expenses-paid trip to Bahrain to pitch the idea or startup and network with entrepreneurs and investors at GEC 2019.
    - Opportunity to attend several pre-GEC training webinars on topics such as pitching to investors, business models, and intellectual topic.
    - Two days of intensive training and mentoring in Bahrain before the start of GEC.
    - Opportunity to win seed capital and other prizes during final pitch contest. Prize amounts will be published closer to GEC.
    - Three months of mentorship.

V. How to Apply and Application Materials

- Prospective applicants will go to GISTNetwork.org to apply.
- The GIST Tech-I Application consists of:
    - A 100-word short summary of your project, to be used on the public voting website, if your project advances to semifinals. The short summary must be in English.
    - Brief eligibility questions.
    - Responses to seven questions that address the Judging Criteria listed in section VII. Each response is limited to 100 to 150-words. All responses must be in English.
    - A 90-second pitch video in English or with English subtitles provided. Formats accepted include.MOV, .MPEG4, .MP4, .AVI, .WMV, .MPEGPS, .FLV, .3GPP, and .WebM. See examples from previous participants on YouTube.
- All application materials must be submitted through the online portal before the deadline: **11:59 am US ET, November 23, 2018**. Application materials can be edited any time before that deadline.

VI. Application Support and Advice

Answers to frequently asked questions, including questions about eligibility, how to create a pitch video, and how to improve an application, are available here.

The AAAS GIST Tech-I Team is also happy to answer questions and provide advice by email at Tech-I@GISTNetwork.org.

VII. Judging Criteria

Each eligible application will be reviewed by a panel of three experts, including regional experts, scientific and technological experts, and innovation and entrepreneurship experts. All panelists sign AAAS Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality agreements prior to viewing applications.

Working anonymously, the expert panelists will score the applications based on the criteria and weighting below. The scores will then be used to select up to 100 GIST Tech-I semi-finalists (50% Idea, 50% Startup) based on merit, with representation from all GIST geographic regions.

	Idea Stage	Startup Stage
	Significance	
	10% To what extent is the problem to be addressed significant? What is the potential impact of the proposed product or service?	**10%** To what extent is the problem to be addressed significant? What is the potential impact of the proposed product or service?
	Scientific and Technical Merit	
Innovation	**20%** To what degree is the proposed product or service novel? To what degree to is the proposed product or service competitive relative to current solutions?	**10%** To what degree is the proposed product or service novel? To what degree to is the proposed product or service competitive relative to current solutions?
Technical Approach	**10%** Does the product or service idea have a strong science and technology basis? Is the planned approach appropriate? Are the applicant's prototype plans, assessment of known risks, and understanding of the S&T work that needs to be done adequate?	**20%** Does the product or service idea have a strong science and technology basis? Is the prototype at an appropriate stage of development? Are there any significant remaining technology risks?
	Commercial Potential and Business Strategy	
Business Strategy	**25%** Does the applicant clearly identify a market niche and potential customers in the GIST country, and why they would want the product/service? Are the plans for using GIST Tech-I prize funds to move from idea to startup in the GIST country appropriate?	**20%** Does the applicant clearly articulate market needs, potential customers, and their needs in the GIST country, and why they would want the product/service? Are the plans for using GIST Tech-I prize funds to grow the startup in the GIST country appropriate?
Team	**15%**	**20%**

	Does the applicant have a clear understanding of the necessary expertise and individual roles to move from idea to startup? Is the described management team and structure appropriate?	Is the team capable of conducting the proposed work? Is the leadership structure and management plan suitable? Are plans for future support/partnerships appropriate and achievable?
	Promotional Video	
Presentation	**20%** Is the video engaging and appropriate for a broad public audience? Does it express a compelling concept? Does the content convey that the product or service has market potential?	**20%** Is the video engaging and appropriate for a broad public audience? Does it express a compelling concept? Does the content convey that the product or service has market potential?

VIII. Background

The Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) Initiative

The Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) initiative, led by the U.S. Department of State, operates at the intersection of science and technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship to empower individual scientists and innovators, to strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems, and build connections to American business. GIST equips young men and women with the skills they need to become successful entrepreneurs and leaders who turn ideas into new ventures that transform their communities. GIST identifies and supports promising young entrepreneurs through competitions, skills development, networking, and interactive mentorship. To find out more about the GIST initiative, please visit www.GISTNetwork.org/about.

The GIST Technology Idea (Tech-I) Competition

The GIST Technology Idea (Tech-I) Competition is an annual competition for science and technology (S&T) entrepreneurs from 132 emerging economies around the world. Up to 24 applicants are selected as finalists who receive an all-expense paid trip to the GIST Tech-I Finals, to showcase their ventures and receive intensive training. GIST Tech-I winners, selected by experts at the finals, win prizes as well as receive one-on-one mentorship and training. The Tech-I Competition is a part of the U.S. Department of State's GIST initiative and is implemented by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

The United States Department of State

The U.S. Department of State uses science to foster a global environment where invention, innovation, and industry thrive. It engages foreign partners on science policy issues that support open, transparent, and meritocratic systems of governance, executes public diplomacy programs that promote the value of science to the general public, and implements capacity building programs that train young men and women to become entrepreneurs. For more information about the U.S. Department of State, please visit www.state.gov.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

AAAS is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the *Science* family of journals, which include journals with the largest paid circulations of peer-reviewed general science journals in the world. Founded in 1848, AAAS has 262 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals. AAAS is a not-for-profit organization that is open to all and fulfills its mission to "advance science, engineering and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people" through initiatives in science policy, international programs, and science education. For more information about AAAS, please visit www.aaas.org.

IX. Terms and Conditions of Application and Participation in GIST Tech-I

1. Liability: AAAS does not endorse any submission or any opinion, recommendation, or advice expressed therein, and expressly disclaims any and all liability in connection with submissions.
2. Intellectual Property Rights: AAAS does not permit infringement of any intellectual property rights and will disqualify any submission if properly notified that a submission's contents infringe on another's rights. In connection with submissions, applicants affirm, represent, and/or warrant that they own or have the necessary licenses, rights, consents, and permissions to use and authorize AAAS to use all patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright, or other proprietary rights in and to any and all submissions to enable inclusion and use of the submissions in the manner contemplated by AAAS and these Terms and Conditions.
3. Agreement of Terms and Conditions: By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to all of the rights, permissions, and terms and conditions as contained in this document.
4. Non-Exclusive Rights to Submitted Material: By entering the GIST Tech-I Competition, applicants agree that AAAS and the U.S. Department of State shall have the nonexclusive right to use all submitted materials for promotional purposes, in perpetuity throughout the world and in any and all media for no payment or other compensation. All submitted materials, including videos, may be used by AAAS and the U.S. Department of State for the purpose of communication, training, outreach, promotional activities, and other purposes. By entering the competition each applicant agrees to grant AAAS and the U.S. Department of State an irrevocable, royalty-free license to use the video entered for publications and promotional activities including, but not limited to, the competition website, GIST initiative associated websites, social media pages, as well as any other promotional activities of both AAAS and the Department of State.
5. Third Party Material: Applicants further agree that they will not submit material that is copyrighted by a third party, protected by trade secret, or otherwise subject to third-party proprietary rights, including privacy and publicity rights, unless the applicant is the owner of such rights or has permission from their rightful owner to submit the material.
6. Rights, Licenses, Consent, and Permission: By entering the competition, applicants warrant and confirm that they grant and have obtained all necessary rights, licenses, consents and permissions from all persons rendering performances in relation to their video(s), including but not limited to consents from all persons whose performances are reproduced in the video(s) or otherwise in order that AAAS and the U.S. Department of State may make the fullest use of the video(s). If any such consents, permissions or any clearances have not been properly and legally

obtained, then the entrant, upon submitting the video(s), agrees to indemnify and keep AAAS and the U.S. Department of State fully indemnified from and against any claim, damage, loss (whether foreseeable or not), liability or cost including reasonable legal fees arising out of any failure to obtain such consents.

7. Legality: By entering the competition, applicants warrant and confirm that the applicant is in compliance with all laws applicable to the application and the work proposed.

8. Offensive, Inappropriate, Derogatory, or Libelous Materials: Regarding the promotional video, any form of violence, profanity, sexually explicit content, libel and/or attacks on individuals or organizations may not be depicted. Videos should not invade privacy, reveal other people's personal information or display predatory behavior. Videos must not contain material that promotes intolerance, harassment, intimidation, racism, hatred or harm against any group, individual or organization or promote discrimination based on race, gender, religion, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or age. AAAS reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify and delete any application it deems to be offensive, inappropriate, derogatory and libelous, or not in keeping with the competition theme or that is otherwise not in compliance with the official GIST Tech-I terms and conditions.

9. Lost or Damaged Materials: AAAS accepts no responsibility for applications lost, delayed, misdirected, damaged or undelivered. Incomplete, non-compliant and/or illegible entries will be disqualified. AAAS shall not be responsible for technical errors in telecommunications networks, Internet access or otherwise, preventing entry to the competition.

10. Publicity: By entering the GIST Tech-I, applicants acknowledge that they may be featured in publicity without further consent. Such publicity may include without limitation the applicant's video, and their name and/or likeness, voice, photographs and/or video footage of the applicant, biographical information provided by the entrants/winners and/or any statement made by them concerning the competition and/or the prizes. Applicants agree that any or all such elements may be used by AAAS and the U.S. Department of State in any and all media in perpetuity throughout the world. Nevertheless, AAAS and the U.S. Department of State shall have no obligation to include an entrant in any publicity whatsoever.

11. Plagiarism: By entering the GIST Tech-I, the applicant certifies that materials submitted in the application are the original work of the applicants (see Appendix 2). All applications advancing to the semi-final stage will be screened electronically to validate that writing is that of the applicant and not taken from other sources. No application containing plagiarized writing will be funded under this competition.

12. Reporting: All applicants who advance to become finalists commit to provide AAAS with reasonable assistance in communicating the outcomes and impacts to the public of their work. Prize recipients commit to providing a report six months following the receipt of their prize money.

13. Export Control: AAAS complies with all U.S. laws and regulations and applicable international law pertaining to export controls and to the participation of foreign nationals or institutions in its activities. It is AAAS's policy not to conduct any transactions with U.S. restricted entities

without appropriate authorization from the U.S. Government, including licenses and other permits and restrictions. AAAS reserves the right to restrict the participation of any individual or institution in its programs.

14. Intellectual Property Rights to Work Produced Under Prizes: AAAS makes no claim to intellectual property rights to any work created under any prize. However, AAAS shall have the right to share information provided by participants regarding outcomes and impacts of Tech-I participation with the U.S. Department of State and to publicize the program through summaries of participants' reports and other means.

15. Dissemination: AAAS reserves the right to publicly disseminate general information about submissions. Such information may include: the number of proposals received; the names of applicants and applicant organizations; the applicant's citizenship; titles of proposed activities; and sector(s) in which the work is proposed. For teams receiving prizes, AAAS reserves the right to publicly disseminate descriptions of proposals funded, as well as reports about progress and outcomes. All finalists will be expected to provide AAAS with reasonable assistance in communicating the outcomes and impacts to the public of their work.

16. Finalists' Travel to GIST Tech-I Finals: For each finalist, GIST Tech-I will cover all costs for one individual (the applicant) to travel to the training and the Global Entrepreneurship Congress (GEC). These costs include: visa fees (if applicable), air travel, ground transportation to and from airports, accommodation at GEC, and meals while in country and during transit to and from GEC. AAAS will not be responsible for expenses other than the ones specified above, unless the extra cost has been pre-approved by AAAS after having received a written request. AAAS will not be responsible for the inability of an applicant to obtain a visa to travel to the GIST Tech-I Finals.

17. Prize Payment: Monetary prizes will be disbursed in a single installment via wire transfer to a bank account held in the applicant's name. All prizes will be granted to the applicant only. All prize recipients will be required to sign the prize acceptance providing bank wire transfer information and reiterating commitment to the "Terms and Conditions of Application and Participation in GIST Tech-I" including intention to use the prize money only for lawful purposes, use it towards the goals and activities proposed in the application submitted to GIST Tech-I, and to provide a report regarding the impact that the GIST Tech-I Competition and prize has had in advancing the prize winner's entrepreneurship goals. Prizes may be subject to taxation in certain situations.

18. Protection of Confidential Information: Demographic information collected from application materials, including gender, citizenship, and residency, will not be shared with the GIST Tech-I reviewers. For semi-finalists and finalists, limited personal information (e.g., name and citizenship), may be made publicly available in promotional materials and specifically as part of the voting process and associated applicant profile. Applicants will be made aware of this prior to information being made publicly available.

    Information collected from voters during the voting phase of the competition, including name and email, will not be stored unless the voter's explicit approval is given for AAAS to contact the

individual with information updates for the GIST Tech-I Competition. No information will be shared with outside third parties.

Applicants are responsible for identifying any business confidential information contained in their application materials. AAAS assumes that no business confidential information will be disclosed by an applicant including the initial application and the pitch presentation. If there is a valid need to provide any business confidential information after selection as a semi-finalist, such information shall be clearly marked so that AAAS can, to the degree reasonably possible, protect it by restricting its exposure to its authorized staff, to its funding and oversight agencies, and to external U.S. and international business reviewers and judges. Any materials containing business confidential materials should be clearly labeled "Business Confidential." Independent U.S. and international business reviewers and judges retained by AAAS, as well as all personnel of AAAS and its partner organizations, are required to adhere to strict standards of confidentiality and conflict of interest in the handling of all business confidential information contained in any materials. Reviewers and judges will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement and conflict of interest prior to receipt of any business confidential materials from an applicant. A copy of the template for this agreement is available on request by corresponding to: Tech-I@GISTNetwork.org.

Applicants may request that particular organizations or individuals, whose access to their proposals would compromise business confidential information, not be selected as reviewers. Such information must be disclosed to AAAS at the initial, Phase 1, application submittal. This can be done by contacting the AAAS GIST Tech-I Team at Tech-I@GISTNetwork.org.

X. Definitive Version of this Announcement

This version of the program announcement shall serve as the definitive version determining the interpretation of any provision contained herein. Should AAAS amend or make corrections or clarifications to this announcement, applicants will be promptly notified.

APPENDIX 1— GIST Tech-I Eligible Emerging Economies

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burma (Myanmar)
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
Colombia
Comoros
Congo, Dem. Rep.
Congo, Rep.
Costa Rica
Cote d'Ivoire
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Fiji
Gabon
Gambia, The
Georgia
Ghana
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Jamaica
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Kosovo
Kuwait
Kyrgyz Republic
Lao PDR
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Macedonia, FYR
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.
Moldova
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Qatar
Romania
Rwanda
Samoa
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Sri Lanka
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
Swaziland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tonga
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Vietnam
Yemen, Rep.
Zambia
Zimbabwe

APPENDIX 2— Standards on Plagiarism

Definition: "Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit." (http://ori.hhs.gov/FR_Doc_05-9643)

Explanation: To give appropriate credit for another person's writing, the writing must be **formatted with quotation marks** to clearly show that it is not yours, and **a citation to the source** must be given. Only giving a citation without marking the other person's writing with quotation marks is not sufficient.

If you are using data or a photograph or graphic created by another person, you must clearly state that fact, usually in the caption of the photograph or graphic.

Examples:

Plagiarism	**Not Plagiarism**
Because an entrepreneur is willing to put his or her career and financial security on the line and take risks in the name of an idea, we need to support each other through success and failure in order to succeed (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entrepreneurship) .	Because an "entrepreneur is willing to put his or her career and financial security on the line and take risks in the name of an idea," we need to support each other through success and failure in order to succeed (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entrepreneurship) .
In this example, it appears that we found some ideas reading Wikipedia and we wrote about those ideas in our own words; however, we actually copied writing from Wikipedia. This would be considered plagiarism as we failed to show clearly that some writing was not ours.	In this example we clearly use quotation marks to show that we took some writing from Wikipedia and used it in our writing. This is not plagiarism.