



Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation 2023

Application guidance notes

Deadline: Tuesday 19 July 2022 12pm (BST)

All questions to be sent to africaprize@raeng.org.uk

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About the Academy

The Royal Academy of Engineering is harnessing the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and an inclusive economy that works for everyone.

In collaboration with our Fellows and partners, we're growing talent and developing skills for the future, driving innovation and building global partnerships, and influencing policy and engaging the public.

Together we're working to tackle the greatest challenges of our age.

This will be achieved through:

Talent and diversity

We'll grow talent by training, supporting, mentoring and funding the most talented and creative [researchers](#), innovators and leaders from across the engineering profession – with an aim to help over 7,500 professionals to enhance their leadership skills.

We'll develop skills for the future by identifying the challenges of an ever-changing world and developing the skills and ideas we need to build a resilient and diverse engineering profession. We've set ourselves a target to work with over 500 engineering businesses and organisations to [champion diversity and inclusion in the workplace](#).

Innovation

We'll drive innovation by investing in some of the UK's most creative and exciting engineering ideas and businesses. In partnership with industry, entrepreneurs and academia, we're on course to support the growth of more than 500 companies through our [Enterprise Hub](#).

We'll [build global partnerships](#) that bring the world's best engineers from industry, entrepreneurship and academia together to address the greatest global challenges of our age. As a leading voice in engineering and technology, we're working to build networks and partnerships in over 40 countries, across six continents.

Policy and engagement

We'll influence policy through the [National Engineering Policy Centre](#) – providing independent and expert guidance to government, drawing on the expertise and creativity of over 450,000 engineers. In our 2020-25 strategy we've committed to working with over 1,000 policymakers in the UK and internationally to improve people's lives.

We'll engage the public by opening their eyes to the wonders of engineering and inspiring young people to become the next generation of engineers. Through campaigns like [This is Engineering](#), we're changing perceptions of the profession and by 2025, we'll have helped a million young people – from every background in the UK – to explore a career in engineering.

Introduction to the Africa Prize

Launched in 2014 by the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation awards crucial commercialisation support to ambitious African innovators developing scalable engineering solutions to local challenges, demonstrating the importance of engineering as an enabler of improved quality of life and economic development. The Prize has a track record of identifying engineering entrepreneurs with significant potential, many of whom have gone on to achieve greater commercial success and social impact.

Each year, up to 16 shortlisted African innovators receive a unique package of support over eight months to help them accelerate their businesses. The benefits of selection include comprehensive and tailored business training, sector specific engineering mentoring, communications support, pitching opportunities and access to the Academy's network of high profile, experienced engineers and business experts in the UK and across Africa.

Tailored training and mentoring culminates in a showcase event where a winner is selected to receive £25,000 along with three runners-up, who are each awarded £10,000.

Since the start of the Africa Prize eight years ago, the Academy has supported 118 businesses from 18 countries through the programme. For information on the Africa Prize alumni, you can read their profiles [here](#), or explore their innovations by country, sector and SDG through our [interactive map](#).

In our eighth year, the Africa Prize is supporting 8 women entrepreneurs and 8 men entrepreneurs from 9 different countries.

This year the Africa Prize is generously funded by [The Shell Centenary Scholarship Fund](#).



Application timeline

1

Application submitted by Tuesday 19 July 2022, 12pm (BST)

2

Checked for eligibility in July 2022

3

Reviewed by technical experts in August and September 2022

4

Shortlist selected by judging panel by October 2022

5

All applicants will be notified of their application outcome by the end of November 2022.

Shortlist timeline

1

Eight-month package of support begins in November 2022

2

Stage two application in April 2023

3

Finalists selected by judging panel in May 2023

4

Winner chosen at final event in June 2023

All shortlisted candidates will provide brief progress reports to the Academy on their business progress six months and 18 months after the final event.

Africa Prize training process

A shortlist of 16 applicants will be selected to receive an eight-month package of mentoring and training. The programme will be structured to give entrepreneurs the skills and knowledge to:

- strengthen and develop their existing business plans
- successfully communicate their innovations through pitching
- forge links with potential partners, investors and customers
- further develop their innovation
- move towards commercialisation or scale up.

The training



The training will take various formats and will require a significant time commitment over the eight months. All reasonable costs are covered to attend and participate in these activities.

The training period will run from late 2022 to mid 2023. This includes:

- remote group and one-on-one training and mentoring, taking place on a regular basis via video conference, telephone calls and webinars
- the potential of a residential training week in Africa and/or the UK*.

Stage two applications



The shortlist will be asked to submit a full business plan and updates on their businesses on our online system, following the first period of training in May 2023. The judging panel will review these and identify four finalists.

The final event



All shortlisted applicants will display their innovations at an exhibition at the final event* in June 2023. The four finalists will pitch in front of an audience and the Africa Prize judges. The prizes will be awarded following an assessment by the judging panel.

- The winner will receive £25,000
- Three runners-up will receive £10,000 each.

*** Due to COVID-19, in-person training weeks and events cannot be guaranteed for the 2022-23 cycle. Please assume that the programme will be online and will require regular internet access. If you have issues accessing the internet, please let us know in your application so we can try to support you.**

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must have developed, or be in the process of developing, a new technological innovation. Applicants should have the ambition to take a leading role in creating a new business to commercialise this innovation.

Innovations must:

- aim to promote the welfare and economic development of a country or countries in sub-Saharan Africa
- be designed to address a development need or specific challenge facing that country.

For the purposes of the programme, the definition of sub-Saharan Africa includes all countries defined by the African Union within Central, East, Southern, and West Africa. These are:

Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central Africa Republic
Chad
Comoros
Republic of the Congo
Democratic Republic
of the Congo
Cote d'Ivoire
Djibouti
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
eSwatini

Ethiopia
Gabon
The Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria

Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Sudan
Tanzania
Togo
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe



Eligibility criteria (continued)

- The application must be written in English.
- The applicant must have a high level of English language proficiency in order to participate fully in the programme as this is conducted entirely in English.
- The lead applicant must be over the age of 18 when applications close on 19 July 2022. There is no upper age limit.
- Previous shortlist members or winners are not eligible to participate in the programme again, nor is anyone who was involved in their team or innovation.
- Applicants can apply as an individual or as part of a team.
- The lead applicant must be a citizen of a country in sub-Saharan Africa. For teams of two or more, the lead applicant (the person participating in training) must be a citizen of a country in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The lead applicant must be ordinarily based in sub-Saharan Africa; if based overseas, this must be temporary for studies or otherwise.
- The innovation must be based in a country in sub-Saharan Africa
- The lead applicant must have an engineering innovation, although they are not required to be an engineering graduate or student to apply.
- The lead applicant must provide a letter of support from a university, research institution, innovation hub or previous incubator programme. This can be as simple as stating that an individual studied at or was involved with that institution. If applicants are not affiliated with any organisation, another document proving the status of their organisation or innovation, such as a document of incorporation or patent certificate, may be used.
- Industrial researchers and establishments are not eligible.
- The innovation can be any new product, technology or service, based on research in engineering defined in its broadest sense to encompass a wide range of fields. This includes but is not limited to: agricultural technology, biotechnology, chemical engineering, civil engineering, computer science, design engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, ICT, materials science, mechanical engineering, and medical engineering. If you are in any doubt that your area of expertise would be considered as engineering, then please contact the Academy to discuss your application.



Eligibility criteria (continued)

- The innovation must be at technology readiness level 3 or above. Evidence of a prototype should be provided in the application. To learn more about technology readiness levels, please see the link below: www.cloudwatchhub.eu/exploitation/brief-refresher-technology-readiness-levels-tr/
- The lead applicant must provide a letter of consent from the originators/collaborators of the IP to this innovation, where relevant.
- The lead applicant must provide a technical diagram and photo that showcases the technical aspects of the innovation as part of their application.
- Applicants should have developed, and be in the early stages of commercialising, an engineering innovation that:
 - will bring social and/or environmental benefits to a country/countries in sub-Saharan Africa
 - has strong potential to be replicated and scaled-up
 - is accompanied by an ambitious but realistic business plan that has strong commercial viability.



Diversity statement

The Royal Academy of Engineering is committed to diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all under-represented groups across engineering.

It is the Academy's policy to ensure that no applicant is disadvantaged or receives less favourable treatment because of:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Gender and sexual orientation







The Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation welcomes applicants from all backgrounds, and particularly encourages women and applicants from countries with less established engineering or entrepreneurial ecosystems to apply.



How to apply

All applications must be submitted via the online grant management system (GMS), available here: <https://grants.raeng.org.uk>. You must register through the system before you can apply. The application form has six sections and will take approximately two hours to complete on GMS. However, please allocate more time to gather the relevant documentation and prepare your answers offline.

After logging into the online grant system, please select [Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation 2022/2023](#). This will take you to the 'Instructions' screen. Here you will see some general instructions on how to use the system as well as the six sections of the application form:

-  Applicant details
-  About you and your team
-  Your innovation
-  Your business plan
-  Supporting information and declaration
-  Marketing

At any stage in the application process, you can save your work and return to it later. The system will automatically save your work when you change pages, but we recommend that you also save your work at regular intervals to avoid loss of data. You can answer the questions in any order so you may skip sections and return to them later if you wish. To submit your application, all sections and all required questions must be completed. **We recommend you compose your answers offline and then copy and paste them into the form.**

Once you have completed all sections of the application a **'Submit Application'** button will become available at the bottom of this summary page.

How to apply (continued)

If you try logging in and the GMS displays the below message, please try clearing your cookies and browsing history, closing the window(s) and opening again in a new window. Alternatively, you can try using a different browser, or opening your application in an incognito window. If you still have issues, please email the [Africa Prize team](#).

Login

You are already logged in.

If you are persistently getting this message when you are trying to navigate to a secured section of the website or the Grant Management System, please try closing all instances of your browser (clearing cookies) and login again.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Logout



Application questions

1. Applicant details

This section asks for your details, such as name, contact details and nationality. Please read the eligibility criteria before.

Please note, the applications must be completed in English. The application deadline is **Tuesday 19 July 2022 at 12pm (BST).**

Question	Information
Lead applicant details*	Please provide your full name and contact details.
Which country is your innovation based in?*	Which country is your innovation based in? Please select from the eligible options. Please note, innovations must be based in a country in sub-Saharan Africa. You can check the eligibility criteria here .
What is your nationality?*	What is your nationality? Please note, individual applicants, or a team's lead applicant, must be citizens of a country within sub-Saharan Africa.
Lead applicant's CV*	Please upload your CV. The format and content of your CV is your choice, but please include education and work history. Please note, the lead applicant should be the member of the team who fills out this application, and who would participate in most of the trainings, if shortlisted for the Prize. CVs should be 2 pages maximum.
Entrepreneur location*	Please indicate where you are currently based. If based outside of Africa, please list: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• what you are doing outside Africa• when you intend to return• demonstrate that a fully competent team can conduct the business in your absence.
Current team details*	Please give details of yourself and any other key team members who are currently working with you on your innovation. If you are applying as an individual, please complete your own details here. There will be a chance to declare any other originators of intellectual property for the innovation you are applying with in section 2: about you and your team. Please ensure that 100% of company equity is accounted for.

Application questions

1. Applicant details (continued)

Question	Information
Personal qualities and experience (200 words max)*	What knowledge, skills and experience do you, and your team, have that will help ensure your business is successful?
Special assistance	If you would require any special assistance during the remote (or residential) training because of a health condition or disability, or because of issues with internet access, please let us know.

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

2. About you and your team

In this section, please provide details on you and your team, and why you should be shortlisted for the Africa Prize.

Question	Information
Ownership*	Please confirm if you are the originator of the idea/innovation or owner of the technology.
Association to the innovation*	Please tell us about your association to the innovation with regards to the originator of the idea/innovation or owner of the technology
Due diligence*	Please provide names and contact details of all originators/collaborators who have been involved in the development of the innovation. Failure to do so could lead to immediate removal from the programme.
Consent letter and declaration*	If you are not the originator of this innovation, please obtain a consent letter from the originators/collaborators of the IP. This needs to confirm that they give consent for you to submit the idea in your application for the Africa Prize. Please review the corresponding declaration.
Current partnerships and supporters (100 words max)*	Please identify any other critical advisers, supporters or partners helping you now, beyond your current team, and what experience they have to carry out these roles.
Future roles and connections (100 words max)*	What additional skills and roles are you looking to include in your team over the next two years? Please explain why. This may include mentors, advisers, board members etc, as well as additional staff roles.
Africa Prize motivation (200 words max)*	Please tell us why you should be shortlisted for the Africa Prize? Please include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how you think you would benefit from being shortlisted for the Africa Prize? - what makes your innovation suitable for being shortlisted for the Africa Prize? - what makes your team a great fit for the Africa Prize? - what specific areas you would like to receive training on?

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

3. Your innovation

In this section, please provide the key details on your innovation and the technology or engineering behind it.

Question	Information
Innovation title*	Please give the name of your innovation or project. This should not be a research title, but the name of the product or service you are developing.
Business name	Please give the name of your business or company, if you have one.
Mission and vision statement (75 words max)*	Please provide a mission and/or vision statement for your innovation.
Innovation summary (150 words max)*	Please give us an overview of the product or service you have developed. What makes it innovative and what is its unique selling point?
Technology and innovation (200 words max)*	Please give a detailed description of the technology and engineering that underpins your innovation and how it works. Please include details on all the bullet points listed.
Technical Upload*	Applicants must submit a technical diagram, document or video to showcase the technical aspects of the innovation.
Photo or Video Upload	Applicants can submit a photo or video to showcase the innovation.

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

3. Your innovation (continued)

In this section, please provide the key details on your innovation and the technology or engineering behind it.

Question	Information																											
<p>TRL*</p>	<p>Please choose the technology readiness level (TRL) that best describes your innovation now.</p> <p>Please see the TRL scale below:</p> <div data-bbox="511 791 1253 1783"><p>MEASURE YOUR TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVELS - TRL How technology ready is your service/product?</p><table border="1"><thead><tr><th>TRL</th><th>Category</th><th>Description</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>0</td><td rowspan="3">IDEA</td><td>IDEA Unproven concept, no testing has been performed</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>BASIC RESEARCH You can now describe the need(s) but have no evidence</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>TECHNOLOGY FORMULATION Concept and application have been formulated</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td rowspan="2">PROTOTYPE</td><td>NEEDS VALIDATION You have an initial 'offering'; stakeholders like your slideware</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>SMALL SCALE PROTOTYPE Built in a laboratory environment ("ugly" prototype)</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td rowspan="2">VALIDATION</td><td>LARGE SCALE PROTOTYPE Tested in intended environment</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>PROTOTYPE SYSTEM Tested in intended environment close to expected performance</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td rowspan="3">PRODUCTION</td><td>DEMONSTRATION SYSTEM Operating in operational environment at pre-commercial scale</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>FIRST OF A KIND COMMERCIAL SYSTEM All technical processes and systems to support commercial activity in ready state</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>FULL COMMERCIAL APPLICATION Technology on 'general availability' for all consumers</td></tr></tbody></table><p>Technology Readiness Levels as adapted by the CloudWATCH2 project</p><p>Find out more about CloudWATCH2 TRL: http://bit.ly/TRL_MRL</p><p>Cloudwatch The Cloud Services for Government, Business & Research</p><p>www.cloudwatchhub.eu CloudWATCH2 has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme DG CONNECT Software & Services, Cloud, Contract No. 644748</p></div>	TRL	Category	Description	0	IDEA	IDEA Unproven concept, no testing has been performed	1	BASIC RESEARCH You can now describe the need(s) but have no evidence	2	TECHNOLOGY FORMULATION Concept and application have been formulated	3	PROTOTYPE	NEEDS VALIDATION You have an initial 'offering'; stakeholders like your slideware	4	SMALL SCALE PROTOTYPE Built in a laboratory environment ("ugly" prototype)	5	VALIDATION	LARGE SCALE PROTOTYPE Tested in intended environment	6	PROTOTYPE SYSTEM Tested in intended environment close to expected performance	7	PRODUCTION	DEMONSTRATION SYSTEM Operating in operational environment at pre-commercial scale	8	FIRST OF A KIND COMMERCIAL SYSTEM All technical processes and systems to support commercial activity in ready state	9	FULL COMMERCIAL APPLICATION Technology on 'general availability' for all consumers
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Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

3. Your innovation (continued)

In this section, please provide the key details on your innovation and the technology or engineering behind it.

Question	Information
Impact in sub-Saharan Africa (200 words max)*	Provide a concise description that tells us: What your innovation is, who wants it and why? The focus should be on the benefits and not the features, the impact and not the technology, the end user and customer (if different from end user), and why it is better than existing or emerging solutions.
Primary technological sector or research area*	Please select the main technological sector or research area that describes your innovation.
Secondary technological sector or research area	If relevant, please select the second key technological sector or research area that describes your innovation.
Primary SDG*	Please select which UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) your innovation is working towards.
Secondary SDG	If applicable, please select another SDG your innovation is working towards.
Website and social media	If you have a website, Facebook page or Twitter account for your innovation or business, please paste the links here. Please only provide links to active, business accounts – do not provide links to personal accounts or inactive pages.

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

4. Your business plan

This section includes a business profile table.

Question	Information
Business stage*	Please select which stage most fits your business/innovation
Employees*	Please tell us how many full-time and paid employees are currently working for your business. If none, please put 0.
Other employees*	Please tell us how many others, including part-time staff, volunteers or consultants, are currently working in your business. If none, please put 0.
Funding*	From the drop-down list, please select where most of the funding comes from for your business. If you select 'Other' you will be given the space to explain.
Investors	Please list the name and type (such as Angel investor etc.) of any current investors.
Capital*	<p>Please tell us the total capital you have raised (in GBP) for your business/innovation from investors until now. If none, please put 0.</p> <p>Please tell us the total capital you have raised (in GBP) for your business/innovation from grants and awards until now. If none, please put 0.</p> <p>Please tell us the total capital you have raised (in GBP) for your business/innovation from any other sources until now. If none, please put 0.</p> <p>Please convert from your local currency into GBP, using: www.xe.com/currencyconverter/</p>
Capital sought*	<p>Please tell us how much you aim to raise for your business/innovation to achieve your goals in the next two years, in GBP.</p> <p>www.xe.com/currencyconverter/</p>

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

4. Your business plan (continued)

This section is a continuation of the business profile table.

Question	Information
Profit margin	If relevant to your stage, please provide your profit margin in GBP. www.xe.com/currencyconverter/
Grants/awards*	Please list any grants, awards, prizes or fellowship schemes that you have attended or won. Please list the year, amount received (if applicable) and the position (for example winner). Please put none if not applicable.
Business valuation	If you have an established business, please give an estimation of the business value before external investment in GBP. If not applicable, please put 0.
Organisation type*	From the drop-down list, please select the type of organisation that best fits your business/innovation.

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

4. Your business plan (continued)

In this section, please provide details on your business, including your business model, business plan, and your customers and market.

Question	Information
Business model overview (200 words max)*	Please give details on your business, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your business model and why you think it will succeed• In GBP, costs associated with your innovation and prices for the customers
Market opportunity, competitors and competitive advantage (200 words max)*	Please describe the market for your innovation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your market size and location• Market competitors and those offering a similar product or service• Your competitive advantages• Your opportunity to scale
Customers (200 words max)*	Please provide details on your customers, and their needs. Please include details on all the bullet points listed.
Business plan and current stage (150 words max)*	Please tell us about the status of your business and your business plan. Please include details on all the bullet points listed. :
Major risks (200 words max)*	Please identify any risks and challenges that you will face as you take your business forward in the next two years. What steps will you take to overcome these? You might want to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal risks – such as resources, staff expertise etc.• External risks – such as regulations, environmental issues, the economic or political situation, COVID-19 etc.
Intellectual property*	From the list, please tick all those that you have been granted or completed for your innovation.
Intellectual property plans	Please provide any further information relating to IP, for example if you have any plans to license your technology.

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

4. Your business plan (continued)

In this section, please provide details on your business, including your business model, business plan and your customers and market.

Question	Information
Business documents	Please upload your pitch deck or other documents related to your business, such as a detailed business plan. Please note this isn't compulsory but will provide useful additional information for the judges.

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

5. Supporting information and declaration

In this section, please provide supporting information and declare that you adhere to the terms and conditions of the Africa Prize.

Question	Information
Support document*	<p>Please upload a letter of support, or supporting document. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• letter of support from a university, research institution or school affiliated with the lead applicant• letter of support from an incubator, accelerator, tech hub or startup competition your business has previously been involved with• document of incorporation for your business• patent certificate for your innovation.• University degree certificate or transcript. <p>If submitting a letter of support, this should not exceed two pages and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• details on the nature of the affiliation between the applicant and the university, research institute, incubator or tech hub;• an explanation of why the applicant is suitable to be shortlisted for the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation;• comment on the involvement, if any, of the university, research institute, incubator or tech hub with the innovation so far• a description of any IPR, its ownership and status. <p>If the university or research institute is not involved or has no affiliation with your innovation this does not make you ineligible. The letter is still requested simply stating in what capacity you are connected, for example if you are a graduate.</p> <p>Please note, a CV is NOT a supporting document.</p>
Applicant declaration*	<p>Please read the declaration carefully, write your name and position, and tick the checkbox to proceed, confirming you agree with the conditions of the Africa Prize.</p>

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

6. Marketing

In this section, please provide information that will help the Africa Prize marketing team with future applications. Please note your answers will not impact your application.

Question	Information
How did you hear about the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation?*	Please select from the drop-down list of options, if not listed please select other. If 'Other', please answer the sub-question by giving details of where you heard about the Prize.
Have you applied to the Africa Prize before?*	Please tell us if you have ever applied to the Africa Prize before Please note, this will not affect your current application.
Have you applied or participated in any other Academy programmes? (50 words max)	This could include for example Leaders in Innovation Fellowships or Africa Innovation Fellowship. Please note tis will not affect your current application.
Sustainable society and inclusive economy	The Academy's overarching goal is to harness the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and inclusive economy that works for everyone. Please indicate if you or your innovation are working towards either of these two pillars: Sustainable Society and Inclusive Economy. This question does not impact your application outcome.

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

FAQs

Q: What kind of innovations does the Africa Prize accept?

Entrepreneurs with an innovation from any engineering discipline that can provide scalable solutions to local challenges, are invited to apply.

Applicants should be in the early stages of commercialising an engineering innovation that:

- is accompanied by an ambitious but realistic business plan that has strong commercial viability
- has strong potential to be replicated and scaled up
- will bring social and/or environmental benefits to a country or countries in sub-Saharan Africa
- is based in, and will benefit, a country in sub-Saharan Africa.

The innovation can be any new product, technology or service, based on research in any field of engineering, including: agricultural technology, biotechnology, chemical engineering, civil engineering, computer science, design engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, materials science, mechanical engineering, and medical engineering. If you have questions about whether your innovation would be considered as engineering, please contact the Africa Prize team to discuss your application at

africaprize@raeng.org.uk

For more information, have a look at the [Africa Prize interactive tool](#) which showcases all current and previous shortlisted innovations.

We do not accept:

- innovations that are still at idea stage
- innovations that are designed for military purposes or purely for economic gain.



FAQs (continued)

Q: What is the review process for Africa Prize applications?

All applications for the Africa Prize are first checked for eligibility by Academy staff. Eligible applications are sent to a pool of technical expert reviewers, who are specialists in the application's field of engineering. Each application is reviewed by two technical specialists. The top applications from the technical review will be sent to the Africa Prize judging panel. The judges choose the shortlist of up to 16 applicants. Sometimes, some candidates may be contacted for further information that is required by the judges before they make their decision. All applicants will be notified of their application outcome by the end of November 2022.

The shortlisting process will consider:

- adherence to all entry and eligibility requirements
- the relevance and viability of the engineering innovation
- the potential social, economic or environmental benefit of the innovation
- the extent to which the innovation can be replicated and scaled-up
- the individual, or teams', entrepreneurial potential

Q: If I am shortlisted, will I need to travel?

The training and mentoring for the Africa Prize shortlist is mostly carried out remotely (online), to allow you to run your business so you do not need to spend a long time away from home.

Usually, the Africa Prize includes up to three weeks of residential in-person training in the UK and different countries in Africa. Because of COVID-19, we can not confirm that the Africa Prize 2023 training and final will be in person, however we intend to achieve this if possible. Please note that if required to travel for a residential training week or event, the Academy will cover the related costs.

Q: Who are the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation judges?

The Africa Prize judges are an international panel with expertise in engineering, entrepreneurship, innovation and investment:

- **Malcolm Brinded CBE FREng (Chair)** – Chair of Engineering UK, Past President of the Energy Institute
- **Dr Ibilola Amao** – Principal Consultant of Lonadek Global Services
- **Dr John Lazar CBE FREng** – Chair of Enza Capital, What3Words and Raspberry Pi Foundation
- **Rebecca Enonchong** – Founder and CEO of AppsTech and I/O Spaces
- **Dr Alessandra Buonfino**, Senior Adviser, Global Innovation Fund; Consultant; International Research Fellow, Saïd Business School, Oxford University

FAQs (continued)

Q: Can applications be submitted in any language?

Applications for the Africa Prize must be submitted in English. Applications submitted in any other language will be considered ineligible and will not be reviewed. Africa Prize training will take place in English, so it is important that shortlisted applicants have a good understanding of English. We do however encourage those with English as a second language to apply.

Q: My internet is sometimes unstable, am I still eligible to apply?

The Africa Prize team will support applicants where possible to ensure unstable internet connection isn't a barrier to the programme. If you think you will have a problem connecting to the online training, please notify us in the question 'Special assistance' in section one of the application form.

Q: I was unsuccessful last year, can I apply again?

We encourage previous applications to submit a new application each year, using previous feedback provided by the technical reviewers and judging panel.

Q: I have previously been on the shortlist, can I apply again?

No. Applicants who have made it to the shortlist in a previous round of the Africa Prize are not eligible to apply again. This is because they have already benefited from training and other opportunities while being part of the shortlist. Co-founder or other team members of the same innovation or business are also ineligible for the Africa Prize.

Q: I have multiple innovations, can I apply more than once?

Applicants are welcome to submit more than one application per round for different innovations.



Terms and conditions

This document sets out the conditions under which the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation is offered. Please ensure that you fully understand the eligibility criteria and have read this document before applying.

General

The Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation is run by the Royal Academy of Engineering. The Academy is a not-for-profit entity and takes no stake in any innovation or business shortlisted for the Prize.

An international judging panel has been convened solely for the purpose of awarding this prize and will make the final decision.

By entering the Prize, applicants will be deemed to have accepted and agreed to be bound by these terms and conditions.

All applications must be submitted in English.

The Prize

The overall winner will receive £25,000 (or local currency equivalent). Runners-up will also receive a cash prize of £10,000 each. This amount will be paid after the final event, which will take place in July 2023.

All applications will be acknowledged on receipt. Responsibility cannot be accepted for applications lost, damaged or delayed.

Any applications that are incomplete, late, do not adhere to the guidelines or contain false information will be rejected.

All applicants will be informed of their application outcome by the end of November 2022.

By applying to be considered for the Prize, applicants warrant that all information submitted is true, current and complete. The judging panel reserves the right to verify the eligibility of all entrants and the veracity of all statements made.



Terms and conditions

Publicity and further activities

Shortlisted applicants as well as finalists will be expected to participate in promotional activities where appropriate.

Unless otherwise specified, the video footage uploaded as part of any shortlisted application may be used as part of ongoing publicity for the Prize.

Liability

Protection of any intellectual property rights in any content submitted is the sole responsibility of the owner of such rights. The Academy recommends that no application is made before the protection of any such rights has been considered. All applications are made at the applicant's own risk and the applicant agrees to release the judging panel, the Academy, its employees and all other connected persons from any liability relating to infringement (whether actual or threatened) of any such rights by a third party anywhere in the world.

The applicant is solely responsible for the content of their application. In submitting an application to be considered for the Prize, applicants agree to fully indemnify the judging panel, the Academy, its employees and all other connected persons in respect of all actions, claims, costs, damages, demands, expenses, fines, liabilities, losses, penalties, sanctions, amounts paid in settlement, out of pocket expenses, interest, penalties, and all legal and other professional costs and expenses that may be incurred by any of them in respect of any claims that the nomination and the content that it contains infringes the proprietary rights of a third party.

Data protection

The Academy will hold all personal data in confidence and will not release it to any third parties without consent, except to those involved in the delivery, audit, review and evaluation of the Prize

