Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation 2021

Application guidance notes

Deadline:
14 September 2020 at 4pm GMT+1 (London)

All questions to be sent to:
Africaprize@raeng.org.uk

Contents

About the Academy

The UK's **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 its Fellows and partners, the Academy is growing talent and developing skills for the future, driving innovation and building global partnerships, and influencing policy and engaging the public. Together they are working to tackle the greatest challenges of our age.

What the Academy does:

TALENT & DIVERSITY

The Academy is growing talent by training, supporting, mentoring and funding the most talented and creative researchers, innovators and leaders from across the engineering profession.

It is developing skills for the future by identifying the challenges of an everchanging world and developing the skills and approaches needed to build a resilient and diverse engineering profession.

INNOVATION

The Academy is driving innovation by investing in some of the country's most creative and exciting engineering ideas and businesses.

It is building global partnerships that bring the world's best engineers from industry, entrepreneurship and academia together to collaborate on creative innovations that address the greatest global challenges of our age.

POLICY & ENGAGEMENT

The Academy is influencing policy through the National Engineering Policy Centre – providing independent expert support to policymakers on issues of importance.

It is engaging the public by opening their eyes to the wonders of engineering and inspiring young people to become the next generation of engineers.

Introduction to the Africa Prize

The Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation, founded by the Royal Academy of Engineering, is Africa's biggest prize dedicated to engineering innovation. It 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 aim of the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation is to **stimulate, celebrate** and **reward** innovation and entrepreneurship in sub-Saharan Africa.

Applications are invited from entrepreneurs and engineers in sub-Saharan Africa who have developed an innovative product or service that can provide scalable solutions to local challenges, with a particular emphasis on sustainable social and economic development. Applicants with engineering-related innovations from all disciplines are invited to enter, whether or not the applicant themselves have an engineering background.
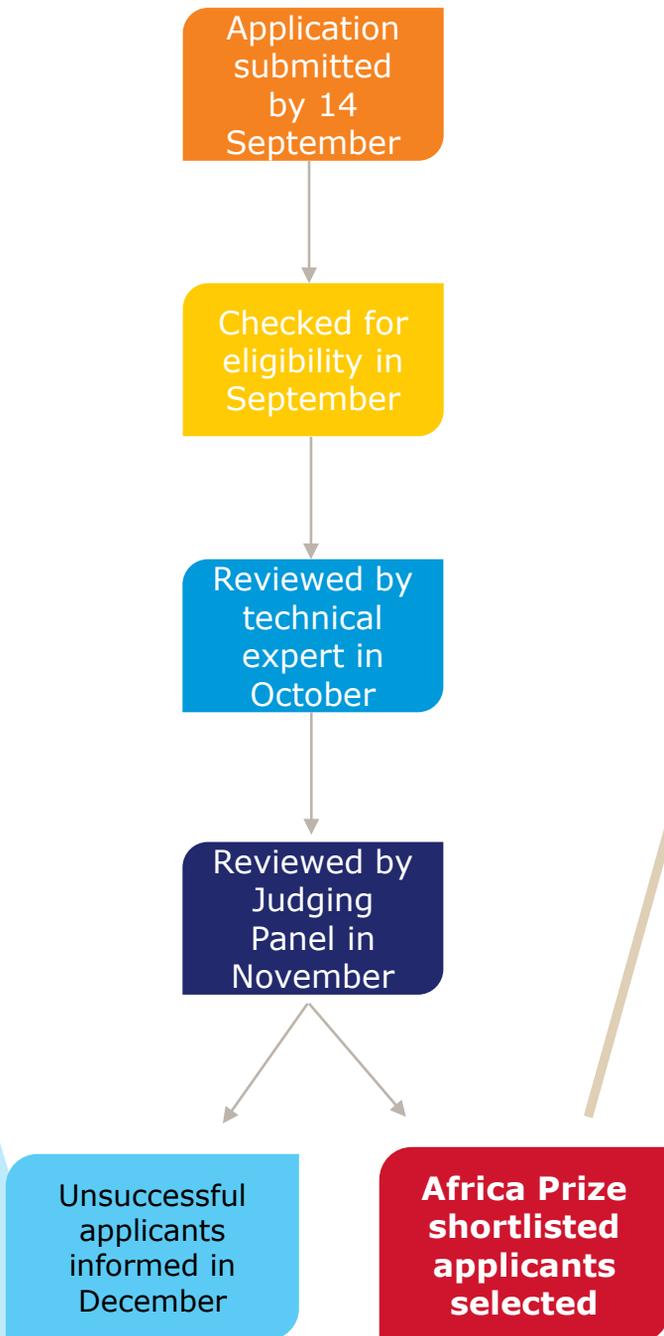
A seven-month period of tailored training and mentoring culminates in a showcase event where a winner is selected to receive GBP 25,000 along with three runners-up, who are each awarded GBP 10,000.
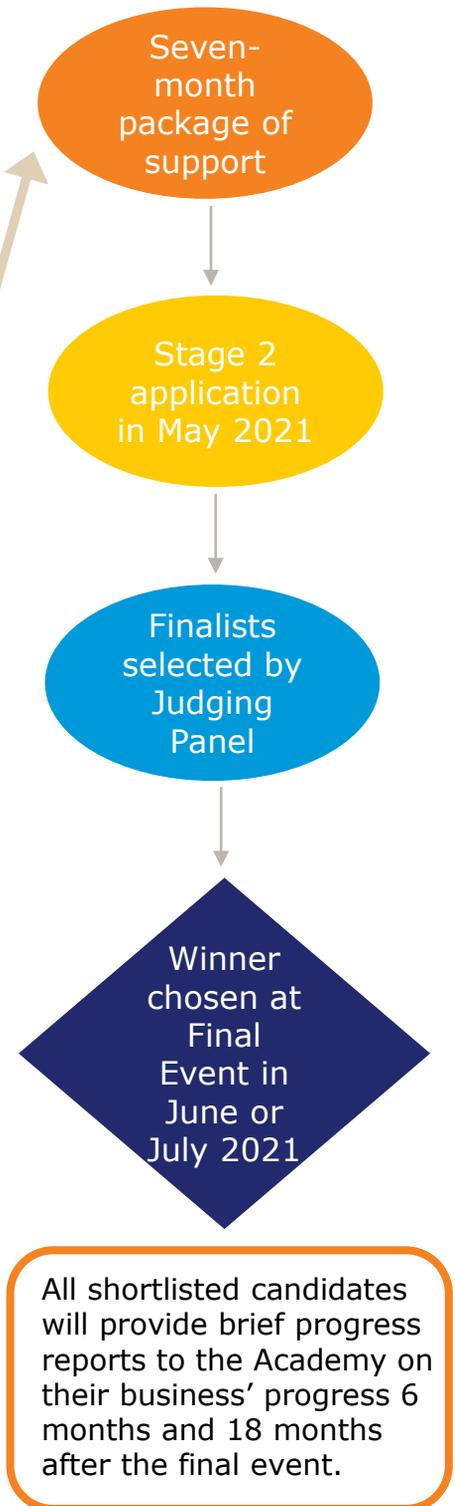

The Africa Prize is generously supported by the Shell Centenary Scholarship Fund and the UK Government's Global Challenges Research Fund.

Application and Award Process

Application Process 2020

Application submitted by 14 September

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Checked for eligibility in September

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Reviewed by technical expert in October

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Reviewed by Judging Panel in November

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Unsuccessful applicants informed in December

Africa Prize shortlisted applicants selected

The Africa Prize programme 2020-21

Seven-month package of support

↓

Stage 2 application in May 2021

↓

Finalists selected by Judging Panel

↓

Winner chosen at Final Event in June or July 2021

All shortlisted candidates will provide brief progress reports to the Academy on their business' progress 6 months and 18 months after the final event.

Africa Prize Training Process

A shortlist of 16 applicants will be selected to receive a seven-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 technology;
• move towards commercialisation or scale up.

The Training

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

The training period will run from late 2020 to mid 2021. 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*

The Finalists

The shortlist will be asked to submit a full business plan and updates on their business from the first period of training, on our online system, in May 2021. 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/July 2021
The four finalists will pitch in front of a live 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 trainings weeks and events are not guaranteed for the 2020-21 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.

The Africa Prize is part funded by the UK Government's Global Challenges Research Fund, and as such all activities must be compliant with Official Development Assistance (ODA) rules. 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 more information on the ODA guidance please visit:
www.oecd.org/dac/stats/What-is-ODA.pdf

List of eligible countries in sub-Saharan Africa:

Angola	Liberia
Benin	Madagascar
Botswana	Malawi
Burkina Faso	Mali
Burundi	Mauritania
Cameroon	Mauritius
Cape Verde	Mozambique
Central African Republic	Namibia
Chad	Niger
Comoros	Nigeria
Republic of the Congo	Rwanda
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sao Tome and Principe
Cote d'Ivoire	Senegal
Djibouti	Seychelles
Equatorial Guinea	Sierra Leone
Eritrea	Somalia
Ethiopia	South Africa
Gabon	South Sudan
The Gambia	Sudan
Ghana	Swaziland
Guinea	Tanzania
Guinea-Bissau	Togo
Kenya	Uganda
Lesotho	Zambia
	Zimbabwe

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be individuals or small teams

- Individual applicants must be citizens of a country in sub-Saharan Africa

- For teams of two or more, the lead applicant must be a citizen of a country in sub-Saharan Africa

- The innovation must be based in a country in sub-Saharan Africa

- Applicants must have an engineering innovation, though are not required to be an engineering graduate or student

- Applicants 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 your organisation or innovation, such as a document of incorporation or patent certificate may be used.

- The lead applicant must be over the age of 18 by 1 September 2020. There is no upper age limit.

- Industrial researchers and establishments are not eligible.

- The applicant's 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 engineering, then please contact the Academy to discuss your 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 which has strong commercial viability.

How to Apply

All applications must be submitted via the online grant system, available here: **https://grants.raeng.org.uk**. You must register though the system before you can apply. The application form has six sections and will take approximately one and a half to two hours to complete.

After logging in to the online grant system please select **Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation 2020/21**. 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:

1 Applicant details

2 Your Innovation

3 Your Business Plan

4 About You

5 Supporting Information and Declaration

6 Marketing

At any stage in the application process you can save your work and return to it later. The system will automatically save 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. In order to submit your application, all sections and all required questions must be completed.

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

If you try logging in and the grant management system 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

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.

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 14 September 2020 at 4pm GMT+1 (London time)

Question	Information
Lead applicant details*	Please provide your full name and contact details.
Which country is your innovation based in?*	Please select from the drop-down list the country within sub-Saharan Africa where your innovation is based. If your country does not appear, please contact the Academy to confirm eligibility.
What is your nationality?*	Please select your nationality from the drop-down list. If you are not a citizen of a country in sub-Saharan Africa, please select 'other'.
Team details*	If you are developing your innovation as part of a team, please give details of yourself and your team members here, including roles in the business/innovation and contact details. (You must complete at least the first row with your own details if you are applying as an individual, and may complete more rows if applying with a team).
Special Assistance	If you would require any special assistance during the remote (or residential) training due to a health condition or disability, or due to 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. 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 provide the title of your innovation or project.
Business name	Please give the name of your business or company, if you have one.
One line pitch (50 words max)*	Please provide a one-line pitch for your business.
Mission and vision statement (75 words max)*	Please provide a mission or vision statement for your innovation.
Innovation summary (150 words max)*	Please give an overview of the product or service you have developed.
Technology and Innovation (200 words max)*	Please give a detailed description of the technology and engineering that underpins your innovation and the level of maturity is has reached. Please include details on all the bullet points listed.
Technical videos, pictures, schematics and diagrams*	Please upload documents to support the description of your technology that lays out your product architecture showing all constituent elements and key interfaces.

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

Application Questions

2. Your Innovation (continued)

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

Question	Information
Technology readiness level*	Please choose from the drop-down list the technology readiness level that best describes your innovation at your current stage. Please see the TRL scale below:

Application Questions

2. 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)*	Please outline the social and/or environmental impact your innovation will have on communities, especially those most disadvantaged. You should include the problem you are tackling and the scale of your impact.
Primary technological sector or research area*	Please select from the drop-down list the main technological sector of research area that describes your innovation.
Secondary technological sector or research area	If applicable, please select a second technological sector of research area that describes your innovation.
Primary Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)*	Please select from the drop-down list the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) your innovation is contributing towards achieving.
Secondary Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	If applicable, please select a second SDG that your innovation is contributing to.
Website and social media	If you have a website, Facebook page or Twitter account for your innovation or business, please provide the link. 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

3. Your Business Plan

This section includes a business profile table.

Question	Information
Business stage*	Please select from the drop-down list which stage best 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 working in your business. If none, please put 0.
Funding*	From the drop-down list, please select where the majority of 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*	Please tell us the total capital your have raised for your business/innovation to date. Please provide this number in GBP, you can convert local currencies to GBP at: www.xe.com/currencyconverter/
Capital sought*	Please tell us how much aim to raise for your business/innovation to achieve your goals in the next two years, in GBP. www.xe.com/currencyconverter/

Application Questions

3. 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 etc.). 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

3. 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 (150 words max)*	Please give details on your business model and why you think it will succeed, the costs associated with your innovation and prices for customers.
Business plan and current stage (150 words max)*	Please provide details on the current status or stage of your business, your business plan, and your vision and strategy in the short and medium term.
Customers (200 words max)*	Please provide details on your customers, including who they are, what is the preferred route to market and any customer research your have conducted.
Market opportunity, competitors and advantage (200 words max)*	Please describe the market size and location for your innovation, competitors, your competitive advantages and your opportunity to scale.
Major risks (200 words max)*	Please identify the major risks and challenges you face over the next years and the steps you will take to overcome these.
Intellectual Property*	From the list, please select all those you have already been granted. You may also provide information on your plans, including applying for a patent or licencing your technology.
Reflections on the potential impact of COVID-19* (200 words max)	Consider how COVID-19 has impacted your innovation/business, and how you expect it to impact your plans over the next year. What steps have you taken, or can you take, to address this? Are you working proactively to move your innovation/business forward where possible, given the circumstances?
Business documents	If relevant, please upload your pitch deck or other documents relating to your business, such as a detailed plan.

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

Application Questions

4. 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
Personal qualities and experience (200 words max)*	What knowledge, skills and experience do you, and your team, have which will help ensure your business is successful?
Current partnerships and supporters (100 words max)*	Please identify any other critical advisors, supports 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.
The Africa Prize shortlist (100 words max)*	Please explain why you should be shortlisted for the Africa Prize.
Benefits of the Africa Prize (200 words max)*	Please explain how you think you would benefit from being shortlisted for the Africa Prize, what specific areas you would like to receive training on, what key attributes you would look for in a mentor and what added value the association with the Academy will bring to your business.
Lead applicant's CV*	Please upload your CV. CVs should be maximum two pages and include the lead applicant's education and work history.

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*	Please upload a supporting document, which may include: • A letter of support from a university, research institution or school affiliated with the lead applicant • a 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 If uploading a letter of support, it should not exceed two pages and include: • 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 a suitable winner of the Africa Prize; • comment on the involvement of the university, research institute, incubator or tech hub with the innovation so far; • a description of any IPR, its ownership and status 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, i.e. a graduate. If none of the above documents are available, we will accept a university degree certificate or transcript.
Applicant declaration*	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.

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

Application Questions

6. Marketing

In this section 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 select 'yes' or 'no' from the drop-down list, this is for information only and will not affect your current application.
Have you applied or participated in any other Academy programmes? (50 words max)	Please list any other Royal Academy of Engineering programmes you have applied to or participated in, or any other previous involvement you have had with the Academy. This is for information only and will not affect your current application.

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 enter.

Applicants should be in the early stages of commercialising an engineering innovation that:
- Is accompanied by an ambitious but realistic business plan which 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
- The innovation must be based in, and 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 engineering, please contact the Africa Prize team to discuss your application.

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 do not meet the UK's ODA guidelines, such as innovations designed for military purposes or purely for economic gain.

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 field of engineering of that application. The top applications from the technical review will be sent to the Africa Prize judging panel. The judges will 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 contacted by December 2020 with the outcome of their application.

The shortlisting process will take into account:
- 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

Any other questions?
Please contact **africaprize@raeng.org.uk**

FAQs

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. Due to COVID-19, the Africa Prize 2021 timelines have shifted and it is possible that the training and events will all be online. 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 judges of the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation?
The Africa Prize judges are an international panel with expertise in engineering, entrepreneurship, innovation and investment:

1. Chair: Malcolm Brinded CBE FREng, President of the Energy Institute and Chair of EngineeringUK
2. Dr Ibilola Amao, Founder and Principal Consultant, Lonadek Consulting
3. Rebecca Enonchong, CEO, AppsTech
4. Marieme Jamme, Founder, SpotOne Global Solutions and iamtheCODE
5. Dr John Lazar CBE FREng, Angel investor and technology start-up mentor

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 strong level of English.

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?
Applications may submit a new application each year. We aim to give feedback to all applicants, whether they are shortlisted or not. We expect returning applicants to take the feedback into consideration when submitting a new application.

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. Please do not submit multiple applications for the same innovation.

Any other questions?
Please contact **africaprize@raeng.org.uk**

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 organised 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 June or July 2021.

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.

Selected applicants will be contacted by email by the end of December 2020.

By applying to be considered for the Prize, applicants warrant that all information submitted is true, current and complete. The Judging Panel reserve 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

Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation 2021

Application guidance notes

Deadline:
14 September 2020 at 4pm GMT+1 (London)

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Global Challenges Research Fund