

(Draft – For Belden Internal + External Student Use)

1. Introduction

Belden Innovate X is a national case competition organised by **Belden** to promote innovation, analytical thinking, and real-world problem-solving among students of technical institutes.

By registering and participating, individuals acknowledge and agree to abide by the rules listed in this document.

2. Eligibility

- Open to currently enrolled students from recognized engineering/technical institutes.
 - Participation is strictly in **teams of 3 members**.
 - All team members must belong to the same institute unless otherwise specified.
 - Each participant may be part of only one team.
 - Belden employees, interns, and apprentices are not eligible to participate.
 - Belden reserves the right to verify eligibility documents.
-

3. Registration

- Teams must register within the deadline communicated by Belden.
 - All information submitted during registration must be accurate.
 - Belden reserves the right to reject incomplete registrations.
 - No registration fee shall be charged
-

4. Competition Structure

Round 1 – Case Submission (Online)

1. A case/problem statement will be released to all registered teams.
2. Teams must:
 - Analyze the problem
 - Submit innovative and technically sound solutions
3. Deliverables must be submitted in the format specified (e.g., PPT/PDF).
4. Late submissions will not be accepted.
5. Evaluation criteria (indicative):
 - Understanding of the challenge
 - Innovation & originality
 - Technical feasibility
 - Business/scaling potential



- Research depth & justification
- Clarity of communication

6. Top teams will be shortlisted for the final round.

Round 2 – On-site Final at Belden Facility (Bengaluru/Pune)

1. Shortlisted finalist teams will be invited to a Belden facility.
 2. Teams will present their refined solution to a jury panel.
 3. Final round activities may include:
 - Presentation + Q&A
 - Team interaction
 - Site tour/networking
 4. Judging criteria (indicative):
 - Technical depth
 - Innovation & viability
 - Cost & resource efficiency
 - Implementation feasibility
 - Quality of presentation
 5. Winners will be announced onsite or subsequently communicated.
-

5. Team Rules

- Any change in team composition after registration is not allowed.
 - A student cannot be part of more than one team.
 - Participants are responsible for arranging necessary resources for preparation unless specified otherwise.
-

6. Deliverable Guidelines

- Format, templates, and submission instructions will be provided.
 - Submissions must follow:
 - File naming conventions
 - Page/slide limits
 - Data/references standards
 - Any form of late submission without written approval will be disqualified.
 - Work must be original and created exclusively for InnovateX.
-

7. Evaluation & Results

- Entries will be evaluated by qualified internal/external experts appointed by Belden.

- Jury decisions at all stages are final and binding.
 - Belden reserves the right to not declare a winner if entries do not meet minimum quality standards.
-

8. Intellectual Property (IP) & Usage Rights

- All submitted solutions, concepts, documents, and presentations become the exclusive property of **Belden**.
 - Participants grant Belden a **perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free, transferable license** to:
 - Use
 - Store
 - Modify
 - Develop
 - Publish
 - Commercialize
 - Implement
 - or share (internally/externally)any submitted ideas/materials without additional approval or compensation.
 - Participants waive any economic, proprietary, or royalty claims on their submissions.
 - Participants must ensure submissions do not infringe third-party rights. They will be responsible for any legal consequences of violation.
-

9. Confidentiality

- Case content and related internal data provided by Belden must be treated as confidential.
 - Participants must not share, publish, or reproduce information in any public domain without written consent.
 - Breach of confidentiality may result in disqualification and legal action.
-

10. Originality & Plagiarism

- Submissions must be original, unpublished work.
 - Plagiarism, fabrication, or use of protected materials without authorization is prohibited.
 - Belden reserves the right to reject or disqualify entries deemed plagiarized.
-

11. Conduct

- Participants must maintain professionalism and respect towards fellow participants, judges, and Belden personnel.

- Harassment, discrimination, abusive language, or misconduct may lead to disqualification.
-

12. Travel & Logistics

- Shortlisted teams traveling for the final may receive logistical support as permitted by Belden; specifics will be communicated later.
 - Participants are responsible for personal safety, luggage, and belongings.
-

13. Prizes & Recognition

- Winning teams will receive prizes/certificates as specified.
 - Prizes are non-transferable and non-exchangeable.
 - Belden may offer internships/mentorship opportunities at its discretion (not guaranteed).
-

14. Publicity & Media

- Belden reserves the right to use participant/team names, photographs, presentations, institute names, and competition recordings for marketing, publicity, or promotional purposes without additional consent/compensation.
 - Participants may be required to participate in promotional interviews/photos.
-

15. Communication

- Official communications will be made to the registered email addresses of team leaders.
 - Participants are responsible for checking communications regularly.
-

16. Modification / Cancellation

- Belden reserves the right to modify the competition structure, rules, timelines, or cancel the event at any stage.
 - Belden assumes no responsibility for costs incurred due to such changes.
-

17. Liability

Belden will not be liable for:

- Travel or personal expenses (unless explicitly covered)
- Injury, loss, or damage suffered during the competition
- Technical errors, server failures, or data loss
- Delays or non-receipt of submissions due to technical issues

Participants assume full responsibility for risks associated with participation.

18. Governing Law

- This competition shall be governed by applicable laws of the jurisdiction where Belden operates.
 - Any disputes arising shall be subject to the courts of that jurisdiction.
-

19. Acceptance of Rules

By submitting registration or participating, participants and teams agree that:

- They have read and understood the rules
- They agree to be bound by all terms and conditions
- Decisions by Belden and judging panels are final

20. Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) Requirement – Finalists

- Finalist teams invited to the Belden facility are **required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)** prior to accessing proprietary or confidential information.
 - The NDA will cover:
 1. Case details, data, and insights shared during the final round
 2. Any facility-related observations
 3. Conversations with employees, mentors, or jury members
 - Finalists must not disclose or reproduce such information in any form (oral, written, digital) without explicit written authorization from Belden.
 - Failure to sign the NDA will result in immediate disqualification from the competition.
 - Breach of the NDA may result in legal action under applicable law.
-

22. Disqualification Guidelines / Triggers

Teams or individuals may be disqualified at any stage for:

- Plagiarism or copyright violation
- Providing false information during registration
- Submitting offensive, defamatory, or illegal content
- Breach of confidentiality or NDA
- Misrepresenting identity or academic status
- Violation of rules, submission requirements, or timelines
- Use of prohibited tools, purchased solutions, or external paid help
- Tampering with evaluation or attempting to influence judges
- Misconduct, harassment, discrimination, or unethical behavior
- Unauthorized communication with Belden officials beyond designated channels

- Belden reserves full rights to disqualify teams without explanation if violations occur.
-

23. Code of Ethics

All participants are expected to uphold the highest standards of ethics, honesty, and professionalism.

Participants shall:

- Ensure originality and integrity in all submissions
- Respect confidentiality and IP
- Maintain respectful communication with peers and organizers
- Avoid harassment, discrimination, intimidation, and hate speech
- Refrain from bribery, coercion, or attempting to influence jury decisions
- Abide by legal and academic standards of conduct

Any form of cheating, falsification, fraud, or unethical conduct will result in disqualification.