

Swift Hackathon 2023: Unleashing innovation for a sustainable future

Briefing pack



June 2023

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Why take part?

The hackathon is a great opportunity for leading industry players from across the globe to showcase their best-in-class innovations.

The winners and runners up will get the unique opportunity to present their solutions to industry leaders at Sibos in September.



The business context

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Unleashing innovation for a sustainable future

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Our mission is to empower the financial community to create a more inclusive digital economy. We believe that when the entire industry works together, positive change can be amplified many times over.

That's why this year's Swift Hackathon is focused on innovating for a sustainable future. We are calling on you to propose solutions that leverage innovative techniques, such as Artificial Intelligence, to help the financial industry raise the bar on achieving its ESG goals.

We'll be bringing together teams from across the globe to collaborate, share knowledge and show off their engineering and innovation skills.

Solving ESG challenges

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ESG considerations increasingly inform the decisions that firms take – both in their everyday operational choices and in long-term strategic planning.

But measuring and reporting ESG performance is extremely tricky:

- The regulatory landscape is evolving, with different jurisdictions introducing their own ESG reporting requirements
- ESG data is disparate and fragmented. Analysis is likely to suffer from poor data availability & storage conditions and irregular reporting frequencies.
- Companies often formulate their own approach to tracking, reporting and measuring ESG

In this fragmented and complex environment, firms want low-effort and accurate solutions to gauge their ESG performance and ensure compliance.



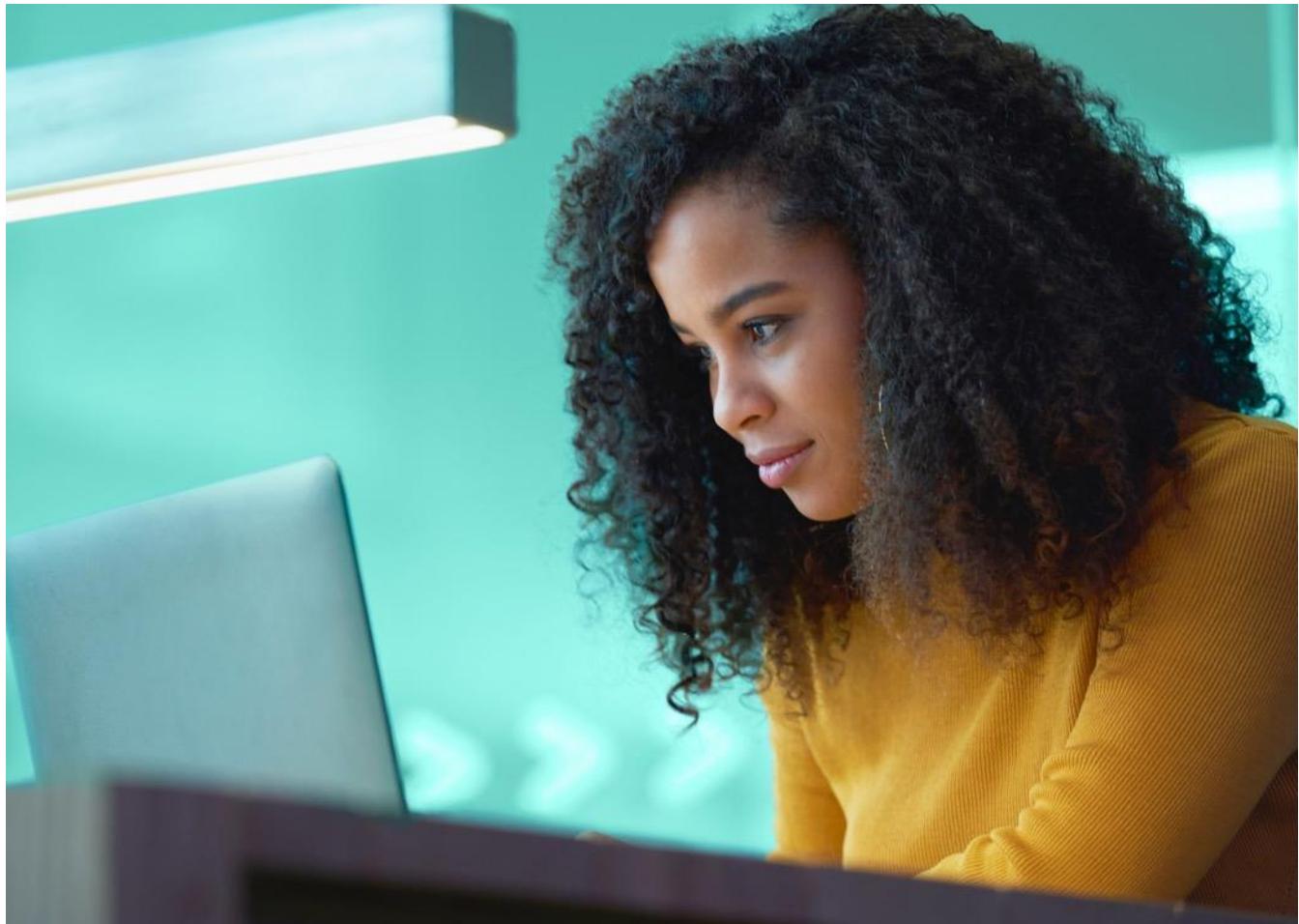
Establishing a trusted mechanism

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Creating a trusted mechanism for data analysis, measurement and reporting is no easy challenge.

- To make informed decisions and accurately meet reporting needs, financial institutions need to have accurate and reliable data
- Whilst numerous rating agencies offer ESG investment reporting services, there is a lack of transparency as to how ratings are formulated
- Institutions want a mechanism that is provided by a trusted source, focused on mechanism of trust and transparency

These principles will help enhance confidence in the data and allow more reliable decision making on ESG



Harnessing responsible innovation

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The responsible use of both data and AI plays a crucial role in enabling successful solutions.

That's why we're asking talented developers, data scientists and ESG experts to create innovative solutions, using data responsibly and effectively.

Solutions should acknowledge many important principles of data use such as accuracy, explainability, fairness, auditability, privacy and security – to build trusted solutions, harnessing the power of responsible innovation.

The hackathon challenges

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Teams will design and develop solutions to the following two challenges

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Challenge 1

Measuring ESG impact

How can we help institutions ease the process of assessing and mitigating a strategic initiative's ESG impact within a business?



Challenge 2

Transforming ESG compliance

How can we help institutions improve the accuracy, efficiency, and transparency of ESG reporting to meet evolving regulatory and compliance requirements?



Challenge 1

Measuring ESG impact

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Challenge description

As organisations increasingly focus on creating a positive impact in the world, there is a need to assess the viability and compliance of their projects in terms of ESG measures.

Responsible innovation is reliant on considerations for sustainability, social welfare and the environment. When committing to a new strategic initiative, it is important to be able to assess the impact and provide recommendations for mitigating actions and ways to reduce the ESG impact of those projects.

For example, in the revolution towards leveraging big data in new ways, there are many unforeseen ESG consequences, such as the need for high compute power.

So in a world where companies are increasingly implementing new initiatives to help meet ESG goals (for example, cycle to work schemes), they need a reliable way to measure impact.

Hackathon solutions can focus on all factors of ESG or specialise on a certain aspect. They should be positioned to measure ESG impact across a range of initiatives.



Challenge 1

Measuring ESG impact

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Challenge objectives

- To propose solutions that use innovative techniques to quantify and predict the ESG impact of projects throughout their lifecycle, considering stages like design, development, deployment, operation, and end-of life
- To show how any impact calculated that has negative impact on ESG could be flagged at each stage of assessment.
- To recommend actions that can be taken to either rectify flagged results or further improve the ESG impact of the project



Challenge 2

Transforming ESG compliance

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Challenge description

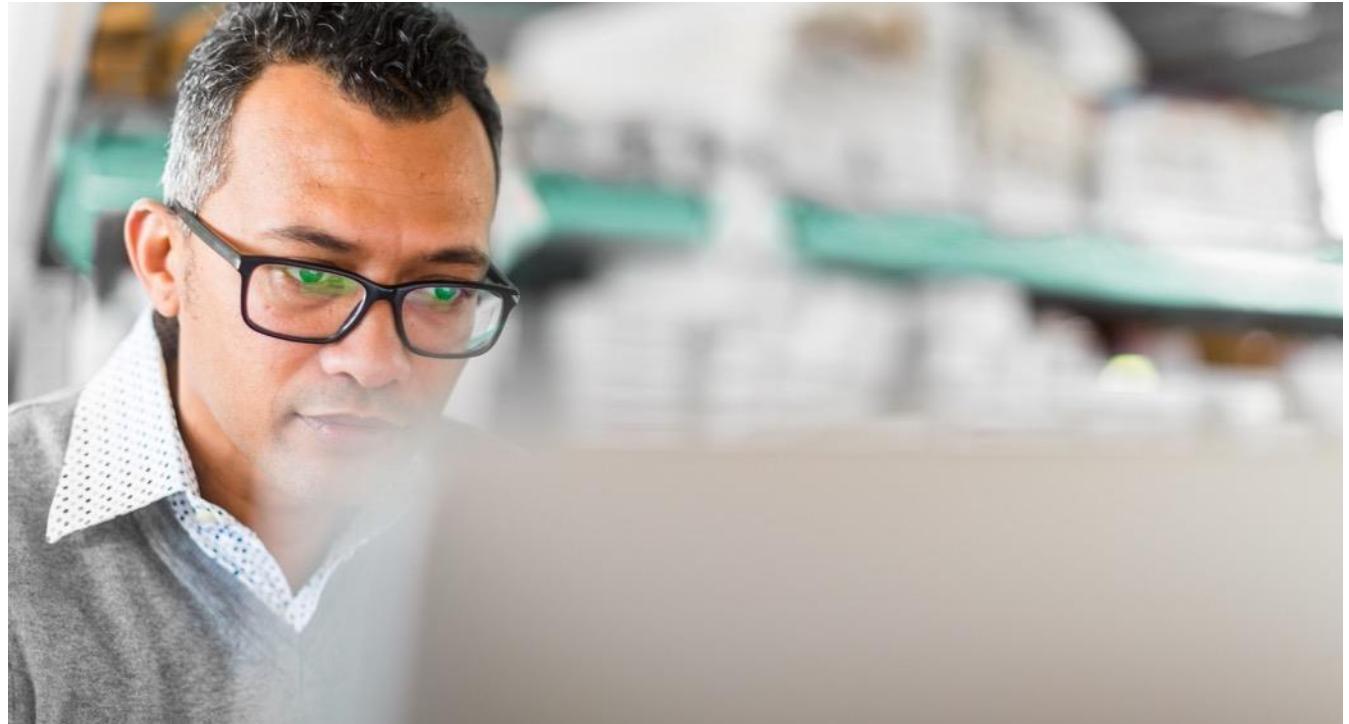
In the realm of sustainable finance, accurate and comprehensive ESG compliance reporting is crucial for financial institutions to assess and communicate their environmental, social, and governance performance.

However, analysing and reporting on data from various sources can be time-consuming and complex.

In this hackathon challenge, participants are tasked with leveraging AI mechanisms to develop a solution that aggregates and analyses data from a range of sources, teams will need to generate a mechanism to feed into changing and complex ESG compliance reporting, with the end goal of increasing accuracy and efficiency of reporting on ESG.

Consideration should be given to how the solution helps identify ESG related fields even when not apparent from non-ESG dataset

Solutions should enable an adaptive mechanism that can support changing reporting needs and variations across regions



Challenge 2

Transforming ESG compliance

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Challenge objectives:

- To develop machine learning algorithms or natural language processing models that can extract relevant ESG-related information from unstructured data sources, such as textual documents or social media feeds
- To design an AI powered solution that can aggregate and integrate data from diverse sources, such as financial statements, company reports, news articles, social media, and sustainability databases, to derive ESG insights that meet specific, but changing reporting needs, such as geographical and industry specific requirements



Key considerations for solutions

Teams should take in account the following:

Data integration & analysis

- How well does the solution produce value for ESG reporting?
- What is the ease with which the solution can be implemented in an existing data environment
- What is the solution's ability to acknowledge and analyse relevant ESG data?

Accuracy

- What is the accuracy of the solution's outputs? How is this measured?
- Will this accuracy improve over time?
- Will results be consistent between environments?
- Are there any factors that could impact the outcome results?

Automation & efficiency

- What level of human interaction/oversight is needed for effective operation?
- What are the efficiencies provided by this solution?

Transparency

- How is the use of data documented?
- How would we audit the outcomes of the process?
- Is the technical process documented?
- What is the scope for manual adjustments in the process?

How the hackathon works

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Registrations

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Please register [here](#) on swift.com

Deadline for registration: 28 July 2023

Each participating organisation will be expected to complete a standard terms and conditions document



The basics

- Each team should consist of a maximum of **10 participants from a single company**
- **Companies can register a team to complete in one or both challenges**, however only one solution per team can be submitted for each challenge
- Participants should look to submit: a **demo of the prototype** (no longer than 5 minutes), alongside a **presentation**, and **any supporting material**
- During the hackathon, **participants will have access to Swift APIs** that can be used to enhance their solutions, such as; Swift GPI, KYC Registry, and SwiftRef
- For both challenges, **participants can access datasets provided by Swift and leverage publicly available data**

The hackathon environment:

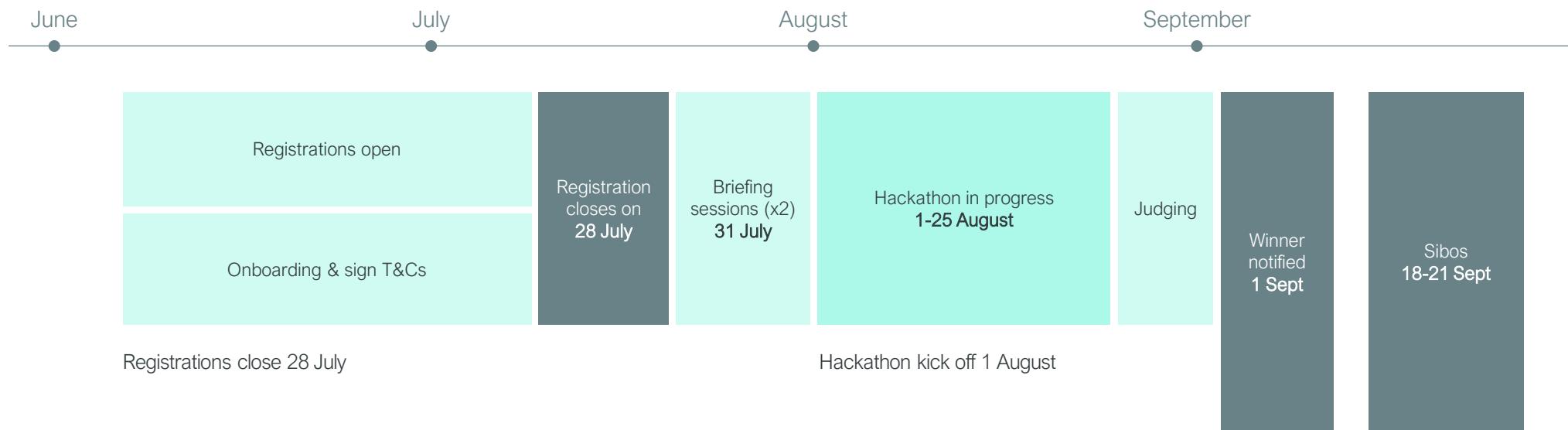
Participants will have access to the Swift Hackathon sandbox environment, which includes:

- Central communication for hackathon including all materials
- Access to datasets and APIs.
- IDE for collaborative development
- Submission portal

Timeline

Activities and key dates

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The **teams will have a 3.5 weeks to create a pitch** and where applicable demo their prototype for the hackathon submission.

Teams are expected to submit their solutions on the 25th August by 23:59 CEST.

There will be two finalist per challenge, one representative from each will have the opportunity to present their solution at Sibos.

Submissions

Teams can submit a single solution for one or both challenges

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Presentation

This should include an overview of the problem statement, approach taken, key features of the prototype, as well as the business case, financial impact and key learnings through the project

Demo

This should showcase the core functionality and features of the solution, demonstrating how it addresses the relevant use case selected – the demo should be no longer than 5 minutes

Supporting material

Participants should include any supporting material that strengthens their submissions. UI design can be included if relevant to the solution created

FAQs

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FAQs (1/2)

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What is the deadline for registrations?

All participants should register their team by 23:59 on 28 July.

Swift will then share further details on the next steps and on-boarding process.

How many people can make up a team?

The maximum number for a team is 10.

Is it time zone specific (if so which one) or global?

It is a global hackathon that will bring together the wider community of major banks and fintech developers.

The event will be remote, with introduction and briefing sessions happening to cover all time zones.

What is date/timeframe for the hackathon development phase?

Teams will have access to the Hackathon sandbox from the 1 to the 25 of August to develop their solutions.

FAQs (2/2)

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Is there a cost associated to participate?

The event does not include any entry costs.

Is there a prize?

The winners and runners-up will have the opportunity to present on their solution on the Innotribe stage at Sibos. In addition, the winners will be invited to the Swift Innovation Lab to hone their final solution and showcase to senior leaders at Sibos.

Hackathon winners and runners up for both challenges will receive complementary passes to Sibos. Each team will have the choice whether to receive 2x1-day passes, or 1x2-day pass.

What does each team need to submit on the 25 August?

Teams will need to submit a pitch deck, a demo of their prototype if applicable and any supporting materials

What tools/data/APIs can I use

Developers will have access to the Hackathon sandbox environment which has ESG datasets and a variety of APIs available.

Teams are also free to use any open source, publicly available tooling/data/APIs to support their value proposition.

Thank you

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