# **Competition Terms and Conditions**

Competition Title: Pathways to Net Zero Reinforcement Learning Challenge ("Competition")

Competition Sponsor: Net Zero Technology Centre Limited ("Competition Sponsor")

Sponsor Address: 20 Queen's Rd, Aberdeen AB15 4ZT, United Kingdom

Competition Website: www.RangL.org

# Prize ("Prize")

Final rankings described under Specific Rules Section 10 (Determining Winners) stated below will be published on the Competition Website.

The top three ranked teams in the closed-loop Competition phase will be invited to present their insights to the Net Zero Technology Centre, which co-invests with industry and works in partnership with the public and private sectors, funding R&D, driving investment, building a clean energy eco-system and influencing policy to accelerate the transition and close the gap on net zero carbon technologies.

# Winner grants licence

The Winner of the Competition is any individual or team that is awarded a Prize ("Winner"). The Winner grants the Competition Sponsor a **non-exclusive licence** to use the winning submission and the source code used to generate the submission ("Submission").

#### One account per participant

You cannot sign up to the Competition Website from multiple accounts and therefore you cannot submit entries from multiple accounts. **No account may be awarded more than one Prize**.

# No private sharing outside teams

Privately sharing code or data outside of teams is not permitted. It is acceptable to share code if made available to all participants via an official Competition Website forum.

#### Team limits

There is no maximum team size.

# Competition Timeline

Entry Deadline: 16 January 2022 (midnight UK)

Final Submission Deadline: 31 January 2022 (midnight UK)

Start Date: 17 January 2022 End Date: 31 January 2022

Announcement of Winners: 1 March 2022

# DATA ACCESS AND USE: COMPETITION USE ONLY

The Competition is open to legal entities and/or residents of the United Kingdom and the rest of the world, except that if you are a resident of any country subject to UK export controls or sanctions, you may not enter the Competition. Other local rules and regulations may apply to you, so please check your local laws to ensure that you are eligible to participate in skills-based competitions. The Sponsor reserves the right to award an alternative Prize where needed to comply with local laws.

# ENTRY IN THIS COMPETITION CONSTITUTES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THESE OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES

The Competition named above is a skills-based competition. You must register via the Competition Website to enter. Your competition Submissions must conform to the requirements stated on the Competition Website. Your Submissions will be scored based on the evaluation criteria described on the Competition Website. Subject to compliance with the Competition Rules, Prizes (if any) will be awarded to participants based on the merits of their reinforcement learning models submitted in accordance with the Competition evaluation criteria.

# SPECIFIC RULES

#### 1. BINDING AGREEMENT

To enter the Competition, you must agree to these Official Competition Rules, which incorporate by reference the provisions and content of the Competition Website and any Specific or other Competition Rules stated here (collectively, the "Rules"). Please read these Rules carefully before entry to ensure you understand and agree to them. You further agree that submitting an entry in the Competition constitutes agreement to these Rules. You may not submit an entry to the Competition and are not eligible to receive a Prize associated with this Competition unless you agree to these Rules. These Rules form a binding legal agreement between you and the Competition Sponsor with respect to the Competition.

# 2. ELIGIBILITY

A. To be eligible to enter the Competition, you must be: (i) a registered account holder on the Competition Website; (ii) the older of 18 years old or the age of majority in your jurisdiction of residence (unless otherwise agreed to by the Competition Sponsor and appropriate parental/guardian consents have been obtained by the Competition Sponsor); (iii) not a resident of any country currently subject to relevant UK financial sanctions; and (iv) not a person or representative of an entity under relevant UK export controls or other trade restrictions.

If you are entering as a representative of a company, educational institution or other legal entity, or on behalf of your employer, these rules are binding on you, individually, and the entity you represent or of which you are an employee. If you are acting within the scope of your employment, as an employee, contractor, or agent of another party, you warrant that such party has full knowledge of your actions and has consented thereto, including your potential receipt of a Prize. You further warrant that your actions, in terms of this Competition, do not violate your employer's or entity's policies and procedures.

The Competition Sponsor reserves the right to verify eligibility and to adjudicate on any dispute at any time. If you provide any false information relating to the Competition concerning your identity, residency, mailing address, telephone number, email address, ownership of right, or information required for entering the Competition, you may be immediately disqualified from the Competition.

**B.** Employees, interns, contractors, officers and directors of Competition Entities may not enter and participate in the Competition. "Competition Entities" means the Competition Sponsor and their respective parent companies, subsidiaries and affiliates as well as any legal entities or persons who are involved either directly or indirectly with the running of the Competition.

#### 3. COMPETITION SPONSOR LICENCE

Under Section 12 (Winners Obligations) stated below, you hereby grant and will grant the Competition Sponsor the following licence(s) with respect to your Submission if you are a Competition Winner:

You hereby grant and will grant to the Competition Sponsor and its designees a worldwide, non-exclusive, sub-licensable, transferable, fully paid-up, royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable right to use, reproduce, distribute, create derivative works of, publicly perform, publicly display, digitally perform, make, have made, sell, offer for sale and import your winning Submission and the source code used to generate the Submission, in any media now known or developed in the future, for any purpose whatsoever, commercial or otherwise, without further approval by or payment to you. To the extent your Submission makes use of generally commercially available software not owned by you that you used to generate your Submission, but that can be procured by the Competition Sponsor without undue expense, you do not grant the licence in the preceding sentence to that software.

### 4. SPONSOR AND HOSTING PLATFORM

The Competition is sponsored by the Competition Sponsor named above. The Competition is hosted on behalf of the Competition Sponsor by The Alan Turing Institute RangL project ("RangL") and is a Competition Entity. Whilst RangL has certain responsibilities with respect to advising the Competition Sponsor about potential Competition winner(s), ultimate responsibility for the awarding of Prizes rests with the Competition Sponsor. RangL will perform certain administrative functions relating to hosting the Competition, and you agree to abide by the

provisions relating to RangL under these Rules. As a Competition Website account holder and user of the RangL competition platform, remember you have accepted and are subject to the RangL Terms of Service in addition to the Rules outlined here.

# 5. COMPETITION PERIOD

The Competition will run from the Start Date and time to the Final Submission Deadline (such duration the "Competition Period"). The Competition Timeline is subject to change, and the Competition Sponsor may introduce additional hurdle deadlines during the Competition Period. Any updated or additional deadlines will be publicized on the Competition Website. It is your responsibility to check the Competition Website regularly to stay informed of any deadline changes. You are responsible for determining the corresponding time zone in your geographical location.

#### 6. COMPETITION ENTRY.

No purchase is necessary to enter or win the Competition. To enter the Competition, you must register on the Competition Website prior to the Entry Deadline, and follow the instructions for developing and entering your Submission through the Competition Website. Your Submissions must be made in the manner and format, and in compliance with all other requirements, stated on the Competition Website. Submissions must be received before any Submission deadlines stated on the Competition Website. Submissions not received by the any of the stated deadlines will not be eligible to receive a Prize.

Submissions are void if they are in whole or part illegible, incomplete, damaged, altered, counterfeit, obtained through fraud, or late. The Competition Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify any entrant who does not follow these Rules, including making a Submission that does not meet the Requirements.

#### 7. INDIVIDUALS AND TEAMS

A. Individual Account. You may make Submissions only under one, unique Competition Website account. You will be disqualified if you make Submissions through more than one Competition Website account, or attempt to falsify an account to act as your proxy. You may submit up to the maximum number of Submissions per day as specified on the Competition Website.

**B. Teams.** Multiple individuals may collaborate as a team (a "Team"); however, you may join or form only one Team.

#### 8. COMPETITION DATA

"Competition Data" means the data or datasets available from the Competition Website for the purpose of use in the Competition, including any prototype or executable code provided on the Competition Website.

- A. Data Access and Use. Competition Use only: You may access and use the Competition Data only for participating in the Competition and on Competition Website forums. The Competition Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify any participant who uses the Competition Data other than as permitted by the Competition Website and these Rules.
- B. Data Security. You agree to use reasonable and suitable measures to prevent persons who have not formally agreed to these Rules from gaining access to the Competition Data. You agree not to transmit, duplicate, publish, redistribute or otherwise provide or make available the Competition Data to any party not participating in the Competition. You agree to notify RangL immediately upon learning of any possible unauthorized transmission of or unauthorized access to the Competition Data and agree to work with RangL to rectify any unauthorized transmission or access.
- C. External Data. You may use data other than the Competition Data ("External Data") to develop and test your Submissions. However, you will ensure the External Data is publicly available and equally accessible to use by all participants of the Competition for purposes of the competition at no cost to the other participants. The ability to use External Data does not limit your other obligations under the Rules, including but not limited to Section 12 (Winners Obligations).

#### 9. SUBMISSION CODE REQUIREMENTS

A. Private Code Sharing. Unless otherwise specifically permitted under the Competition Website or Rules, during the Competition Period, you are not allowed to privately share source or executable code developed in connection with or based upon the Competition Data or other source or executable code relevant to the Competition ("Competition Code"). This prohibition includes sharing Competition Code between separate Teams, unless a Team merger occurs. Any such sharing of Competition Code is a breach of these Competition Rules and may result in disqualification.

- B. Public Code Sharing. You are permitted to publicly share Competition Code, provided that such public sharing does not violate the intellectual property rights of any third party. If you do choose to share Competition Code or other such code, you are required to share it on the Competition Website discussion forums or notebooks associated specifically with the Competition for the benefit of all competitors. By sharing, you are deemed to have licensed the shared code under an appropriate Open Source Initiative-approved licence (see <a href="https://www.opensource.org/licenses">www.opensource.org/licenses</a>) that in no event limits commercial use of such Competition Code or model containing or depending on such Competition Code.
- C. Use of Open Source Code. Unless otherwise stated in the Rules, if open source code is used in the model to generate the Submission, then you must only use open source code licensed under an Open Source Initiative approved licence that in no event limits commercial use of such code or model containing or depending on such code.

#### 10. DETERMINING WINNERS

Each Submission will be scored and ranked using the evaluation criteria stated on the Competition Website. During the Competition Period, the current quantitative ranking only will be visible on the Competition Website's public leaderboard. The potential winner(s) will be determined by a group of suitably qualified people who represent the Competition Sponsor and additional Competition Entities ("Selection Panel") using both the leaderboard ranking visible on the public leaderboard (quantitative criteria) and the qualitative criteria as stated on the Competition Website, all subject to compliance with the Rules.

It is important to note that the public leaderboard by itself will not necessarily determine the Winner(s) of this Competition. Competition entrants should therefore not disclose their standing in the Competition and any assumptions made about winning themselves before being advised officially by the Selection Panel and the Selection Panel's official decisions appearing on the Competition Website.

In the event of a tie, the Submission that was entered first to the Competition will be the winner. In the event a potential winner is disqualified or withdraws themselves for any reason, the panel will choose the next highest placed Submission based on the Competition Website stated evaluation criteria.

#### 11. NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS AND DISQUALIFICATION

The potential winner(s) will be notified by email.

If a potential winner (i) does not respond to the notification attempt within one (1) week from the first notification attempt or (ii) notifies the Selection Panel within one (1) week after the Final Submission Deadline that the potential winner does not want to be nominated as a winner or does not want to receive a Prize, then, in each case (i) and (ii) such potential winner will not receive any Prize, and an alternate potential winner will be selected from among all eligible entries received based on the Competition's evaluation criteria.

The Selection Panel reserves the right to disqualify any participant from the Competition if it reasonably believes that the participant has attempted to undermine the legitimate operation of the Competition by cheating, deception, or other unfair playing practices or abuses, threatens or harasses any other participants, the Competition Sponsor or any other Competition Entity.

A disqualified participant may be removed from the Competition leaderboard, at the Competition Panel's sole discretion. If a Participant is removed from the Competition leaderboard, additional winning features associated with the competition platform, for example points or medals, may also not be awarded.

The final list of Winner(s) will be publicly displayed on the Competition Website, which may or may not match the leaderboard due to the qualitative element of the Competition evaluation criteria. The determination of Winner(s) made by the Selection Panel are final and binding.

#### 12. WINNERS OBLIGATIONS

As a condition to being awarded a Prize, a Prize Winner must fulfill the following obligations:

- (a) deliver to the Selection Panel the final model's software code as used to generate the winning Submission and associated documentation. The delivered software code should follow any stated documentation guidelines on the Competition Website, must be capable of generating the winning Submission, and contain a description of resources required to build and/or run the executable code successfully. To the extent that the final model's software code includes generally commercially available software that is not owned by you, but that can be procured by the Competition Sponsor without undue expense, then instead of delivering the code for that software to the Competition Sponsor, you must identify that software, method for procuring it, and any parameters or other information necessary to replicate the winning Submission;
- (b) grant to the Competition Sponsor the licence to the winning Submission stated in the Competition Specific Rules above, and represent that you have the unrestricted right to grant that licence; and
- (c) sign and return all Prize acceptance documents as may be required by the Competition Sponsor and/or other Legal Entities.

#### 13. PRIZES

Prizes are as described on the Competition Website and are only available for winning during the time period described on the Competition Website. The odds of winning any Prize depends on the number of eligible Submissions received during the Competition Period and the skill of the participants.

All Prizes are subject to the Selection Panel's review and verification of the participant's eligibility and compliance with these Rules, and the compliance of the winning Submissions with the Submission requirements. In the event that the Submission demonstrates non-compliance with these Competition Rules, the Selection Panel may at its discretion take either of the following actions: (i) disqualify the Submission(s); or (ii) require the potential winner to remediate within one (1) week after notice all issues identified in the Submission(s) (including, without limitation, the resolution of licence conflicts, the fulfillment of all obligations required by software licences, and the removal of any software that violates the software restrictions).

A potential Winner may decline to be nominated as a Competition Winner in accordance with Section 11.

Potential Winners must return all required Prize acceptance documents within two (2) weeks following notification of such required documents, or such potential Winner will be deemed to have forfeited the Prize and another potential winner will be selected. Prize(s) will be awarded within approximately thirty (30) days after receipt by the Selection Panel of the required Prize acceptance documents. Transfer or assignment of a Prize is not allowed.

You are not eligible to receive any Prize if you do not meet any of the eligibility requirements stated in the Rules.

If a Team wins a monetary Prize, the Prize money will be allocated in even shares between the eligible Team members, unless the Team unanimously opts for a different Prize split and notifies the Competition Sponsor and RangL before Prizes are issued.

# 14. TAXES

Prize payments (if applicable) to potential winners are subject to the express requirement that they submit all documentation requested by the Competition Sponsor for compliance with applicable local, foreign or other tax reporting and withholding requirements. Prizes will be net of any taxes that the Competition Sponsor is required by law to withhold. If a potential winner fails to provide any required documentation or comply with applicable laws, the Prize may be forfeited and the Selection Panel may select an alternative potential winner.

#### 15. PUBLICITY

You agree that the Competition Sponsor and RangL may use your name and likeness for advertising and promotional purposes without additional compensation, unless prohibited by law.

# 16. PRIVACY

You acknowledge and agree that the Competition Sponsor and RangL may collect, store, share and otherwise use personally identifiable information provided by you during the RangL account registration process and the Competition, including but not limited to, name, mailing address, phone number, and email address ("Personal Information"). RangL acts as an independent controller with regard to its collection, storage, sharing, and other use of this Personal Information, and will use this Personal Information in accordance with its privacy policy, including for administering the Competition. As a Competition Website account holder, you have the right to request access to, review, rectification, portability or deletion of any personal data held by RangL.

As part of this contract between you and the Competition Sponsor, RangL will transfer your Personal Information to the Competition Sponsor, which acts as an independent controller with regard to this Personal Information. As a controller of such Personal Information, the Competition Sponsor agrees to comply with all applicable data protection obligations with regard to your Personal Information. RangL will transfer your Personal Information to the Competition Sponsor in the country specified in the Competition Sponsor Address listed above,

which may be a country outside the country of your residence. Such a country may not have privacy laws and regulations similar to those of the country of your residence.

#### 17. WARRANTY, INDEMNITY AND RELEASE

You warrant that your Submission is your own original work and, as such, you are the sole and exclusive owner and rights holder of the Submission, and you have the right to make the Submission and grant all required licenses. You agree not to make any Submission that infringes any third party proprietary rights, intellectual property rights, industrial property rights, personal or moral rights or any other rights, including without limitation, copyright, trademark, patent, trade secret, privacy, publicity or confidentiality obligations, or defames any person; or otherwise violates any applicable law.

To the maximum extent permitted by law, you indemnify and agree to keep indemnified Competition Entities at all times from and against any liability, claims, demands, losses, damages, costs and expenses resulting from any of your acts, defaults or omissions and/or a breach of any warranty set forth herein. To the maximum extent permitted by law, you agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless Competition Entities from and against any and all claims, actions, suits or proceedings, as well as any and all losses, liabilities, damages, costs and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) arising out of or accruing from: (a) your Submission or other material uploaded or otherwise provided by you that infringes any third party proprietary rights, intellectual property rights, industrial property rights, personal or moral rights or any other rights, including without limitation, copyright, trademark, patent, trade secret, privacy, publicity or confidentiality obligations, or defames any person; (b) any misrepresentation made by you in connection with the Competition; (c) any non-compliance by you with these Rules; (d) claims brought by persons or entities other than the parties to these Rules arising from or related to your involvement with the Competition; and (e) your acceptance, possession, misuse or use of any Prize, or your participation in the Competition and any Competition-related activity.

You hereby release all Competition Entities from any liability associated with: (a) any malfunction or other problem with the Competition Website; (b) any error in the collection, processing, or retention of any Submission; or (c) any typographical or other error in the printing, offering or announcement of any Prize or winners.

#### 18. INTERNET

Competition Entities are not responsible for any malfunction of the Competition Website or any late, lost, damaged, misdirected, incomplete, illegible, undeliverable, or destroyed Submissions or entry materials due to system errors, failed, incomplete or garbled computer or other telecommunication transmission malfunctions, hardware or software failures of any kind, lost or unavailable network connections, typographical or system/human errors and failures, technical malfunction(s) of any telephone network or lines, cable connections, satellite transmissions, servers or providers, or computer equipment, traffic congestion on the Internet or at the

Competition Website, or any combination thereof, which may limit a participant's ability to participate.

# 19. RIGHT TO CANCEL, MODIFY OR DISQUALIFY

If for any reason the Competition is not capable of running as planned, including infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes which corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the Competition, the Competition Sponsor reserves the right to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Competition. The Competition Sponsor further reserves the right to disqualify any participant who tampers with the Submission process or any other part of the Competition or Competition Website. Any attempt by a participant to deliberately damage any website, including the Competition Website, or undermine the legitimate operation of the Competition is a violation of criminal and civil laws. Should such an attempt be made, the Competition Sponsor and RangL each reserves the right to seek damages from any such participant to the fullest extent of the applicable law.

#### 20. NOT AN OFFER OR CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT

Under no circumstances will the entry of a Submission, the awarding of a Prize, or anything in these Rules be construed as an offer or contract of employment with the Competition Sponsor or any of the Competition Entities. You acknowledge that you have submitted your Submission voluntarily and not in confidence or in trust. You acknowledge that no confidential, fiduciary, agency, employment or other similar relationship is created between you and the Competition Sponsor or any of the Competition Entities by your acceptance of these Rules or your entry of your Submission.

# 21. GOVERNING LAW

Unless otherwise provided in the Competition Specific Rules above, all claims arising out of or relating to these Rules will be governed by Scots law. The parties agree to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Scottish courts. If any provision of these Rules is held to be invalid or unenforceable, all remaining provisions of the Rules will remain in full force and effect.