**Idiap Create Challenge**

# IDIAP CREATE CHALLENGE – ICC 2025
# Terms and Conditions

## 1. Objectives

The Idiap Research Institute (www.idiap.ch) organizes and hosts the Idiap Create Challenge (ICC, www.idiap.ch/en/innovation/idiap-create-challenge), with the support of The Ark (www.theark.ch), to foster innovative projects in Artificial Intelligence. The goal of the ICC is to support the creation and development of working prototypes and business ideas, along with a compelling pitch that highlights societal impact and a clear path to market viability. The ICC is an in-person 9-day Hackathon, preceded by an optional online pre-ICC warm-up program featuring courses and resources to help the participants prepare for the ICC.

The ICC aims to foster the development of new ideas and support technology transfer aligned with Idiap's research programs: Human-AI Teaming, Sustainable and Resilient Societies, AI for Life, and AI for Everyone. It further aims to support projects demonstrating market viability with financial and logistical rewards and provide coaching to teams towards the development of their ideas into start-ups. The ICC is free of charge for selected participants.

## 2. Date and Place

The ICC'2025 will take place from August 21th to August 29th 2025 at the Idiap Research Institute (Rue Marconi 19, 1920) in Martigny, Switzerland.

## 3. Application

Applicants will be selected based on the information uploaded via online forms available on the ICC webpage. Only complete applications, which have been submitted successfully via the online form, will be considered. The application is split into two steps:

**Step 1: Registration**
You must first register as a participant. After registering, you'll gain access to further instructions on submitting a project, as well as access to the **ICC LinkedIn group** and a **dedicated social media platform** (link provided upon registration). These platforms will allow registered candidates to connect, share ideas and, if necessary, form or join teams. Participants are expected to join these groups.

**Step 2: Project submission**
The objective of the second step is to submit your team composition and a project proposal. A team should be composed of up to 3 registered participants. Each team is required to submit a **detailed work plan** (max. 4 pages) discussing their project. The work plan should include a clear description of the idea, the challenge, and the proposed approach. The project proposal must also contain a CV of each team member (1-page max. per person). The **template** for project proposal is available here and the link for submission will be provided to the registered candidates.

The data submitted by applicants will be treated confidentially. The organizers reserve the right to verify all information submitted by applicants. Important deadlines, such as for registrations and projects submissions, can be found on the ICC webpage.

### 4. Selection

#### 4.1 Criteria

Applicants must be over 18 at the moment of registration. They should have expertise in one or more of the following areas: Software development and programming, Web design and graphics, Statistics, mathematics, machine learning, and Business strategy, marketing.

Projects will be selected based on their potential to become a prototype during the ICC, its market potential, and on how well they fit into the eligible research and technology areas. The submitted project should not have been done prior to the challenge. Furthermore, projects should develop technology within the field of Artificial Intelligence and be in line with Idiap's research programs.

#### 4.2 Committee

A selection committee of experts in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Business Development will be in charge of the selection process. The selection committee reserves itself the right to select a smaller number of participants and possibly none, if it estimates that the submitted applications do not meet the above mentioned selection criteria. The decisions of the selection committee shall be without appeal and its deliberations are confidential.

### 5. Logistics

The organizers will provide the participants with on-site Wi-Fi Internet access during the ICC. Teams are responsible to bring the necessary equipment for the hackathon. In particular, no computers and no screens will be provided. However, participants might express technical requirements with the project submission. No later requests can be taken into account. The organizers will try to meet timely submitted requests where possible. They will inform the concerned candidates about their decision before the start of the ICC.

### 6. Endowments

At the end of the ICC, the best projects/prototypes/teams will be granted different prizes and support packages.

#### 6.1. Prizes

The winning teams will share a cash prize, with the exact distribution to be decided by the jury during the final selection process. The ICC Jury reserves the right to adjust the number or size of the cash prizes awarded. Additional prizes, including cash and other rewards, may be offered depending on available sponsorships. The details of these prizes will be announced on the ICC webpage as they are confirmed. The prize money will be sent to the bank account(s) specified by the winning team at the end of the ICC.

#### 6.2. Post-ICC : Leap Forward Prize – Local Enhancement and Acceleration Program

Selected teams may be awarded the Leap Forward Prize, a dedicated opportunity designed to support the creation of a startup at IdeArk, next to where the Idiap Research Institute is located.

This prize offers a comprehensive one-year support package provided by The Ark Foundation and Idiap, an initiative launched by the Canton of Valais that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship by organizing and coordinating resources to help companies launch, grow, and scale in the region.

The Leap Forward Prize is granted at the sole discretion of The Ark, in collaboration with Idiap. The Ark reserves the right to adjust or withhold the offer based on the alignment of the proposed project with its strategic goals.

To be eligible, teams must:

- Be willing to establish a company in the Valais region
- Be legally eligible to live and work in Switzerland

The support package includes:

- CHF 10,000 in cash to be used directly for project development
- CHF 20,000 to fund the involvement of Idiap R&D team members for technical development support
- One year of executive and technical coaching focused on team development and growth
- One year of office space and logistical support at IdeArk, The Ark's incubator in partnership with Idiap

The total estimated value of this package is approximately CHF 50,000, though this may vary depending on the specific services provided. Additional terms and conditions apply.

Even if a team is not awarded the Leap Forward Prize, they may still be considered for traditional support to transition into the IdeArk startup ecosystem. The level of support in such cases will be determined based on the team's specific needs and a mutual agreement with The Ark.

### 7. ICC Jury

The ICC jury will be responsible for evaluating the projects to determine the distribution of prizes. The ICC jury will be composed of experts in AI technologies, entrepreneurship, and business. A representative of The Ark will serve as the ICC jury's chairperson. The jury reserves the right to award no endowment if it considers that the work done during the 9 days is deemed insufficient or if the jury discovers that the work was been done prior to the challenge. The decisions of the jury are taken by majority vote. In case of a tie, the chairperson has the final vote. The jury is independent and sovereign. The decisions of the jury shall be without appeal and its deliberations are confidential. However, the results of the vote will be publicly known.

The jury decision will be based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Team – The experience, skills, and synergy within the team.
- Innovation & Technical Quality – The originality of the idea and the quality of the technical approach, including the effective use of AI.
- Market Potential – The opportunity and demand for the solution.
- Value for Society – The potential positive impact on society and contribution to progress.
- Business Viability – The feasibility and sustainability of the business model.
- Pitch & Communication – The clarity, enthusiasm, and persuasiveness of the final presentation.
- Prototype Functionality – The quality and functional state of the developed prototype.

### 8. Opening and Awards Ceremonies

The opening ceremony will take place on **Thursday August 21st 2025** at the Idiap Research Institute, Centre du Parc, Martigny. The ceremony consists in each team briefly presenting what they plan to do during the challenge.

The awards ceremony will take place on **Friday August 29th 2025** at the Idiap Research Institute, Centre du Parc, Martigny.

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The awards ceremony consists in each team presenting their prototype and its market viability, explaining the progress made in the 9 days of the challenge and their future plans. The Jury is present and will designate the winners at the end of the presentations session.

### 9. Communication and Promotion

During the hackathon, the organizers may take pictures and record videos of the team members for promotional purposes. Idiap Research Institute wants to increase the visibility of the Idiap Create Challenge by recording and making available online the presentations given by the participating teams and invited speakers, as well as by publishing pictures and videos of the event on the Idiap Research Institute social media accounts.

By submitting a project proposal, each team member authorises the recording and picture taking of themselves, and the use of the data (audio, video, picture) generated during the challenge. The use of this data will be strictly limited to the communication related to the Idiap Create Challenge. The recorded data may be added to the ICC webpage (https://www.idiap.ch/en/innovation/idiap-create-challenge), and access will be public by default.

Consent can be withdrawn anytime at the following address: data-manager@idiap.ch. At receipt of a consent withdrawal, Idiap Research Institute will promptly modify, correct, or erase and destroy the data under its direct control.

Candidates remain solely responsible for the content of their statements and behaviour. In case of concern about the content of personal inputs, Idiap should be advised immediately, but no later than 7 days after the presentation or meeting concerned.

### 10. Participation Fees, Accommodation, and Meals – Expenses Policy

Participation to the ICC is free of charge for the selected teams. For on-site participants, living expenses for accommodation and meals (excluding drinks) will be reimbursed upon submission of an expenses report, including the original receipts. This only applies to candidates participating in the challenge on-site. Office spaces will be provided during the challenge for on-site participants. Participants are responsible for any additional costs, including submission and travel costs to/from Martigny, as well as any administrative tasks related to their stay in Switzerland (e.g., visa application). No requests for refunds will be accepted.

**Accommodation:** For participants living more than 100 km away from the Idiap Research Institute, we will cover hotel costs up to CHF 130 per night (double room only, including breakfast), meaning CHF 65 per night per person. Refunds for single rooms or superior rates will not be provided. No refund will be given for candidates who do not book a hotel room or similar accommodation.

**Meals:** Most dinners during the challenge will be organized for the participants. However, for three specific dinners (tentative dates: 23.08, 24.08, and 26.08), participants can choose a restaurant of their preference. For these three meals, up to CHF 30 per meal can be reimbursed, provided the meal is taken at a restaurant on these dates. No alcohol will be reimbursed.

**Travel Costs:** Travel expenses related to the program are the responsibility of the participants, including in the case of cancellation of the event.

**Reimbursement Request Deadline:** Participants must submit their completed expenses report (template provided) along with original receipts by the 31st of August 2025. The report can be submitted either in paper form to office 407 at Idiap or as a scanned version by email to icc@idiap.ch.

### 11. Visa

Selected ICC participants requiring a visa to enter Switzerland are solely responsible for obtaining this visa. The organizers of the ICC cannot be held responsible should the visa be refused or not arrive in time and thereby prevent a selected candidate from participating in the ICC. The Idiap Research Institute can issue an invitation letter to support the visa application process.

### 12. Intellectual property

Applicants certify to hold the legitimate intellectual property rights to the projects they submit. They shall be responsible for managing the intellectual property rights with the involved institutions (employer, partner, and so forth). The organizers claim no intellectual property rights to the submitted projects and their responsibility cannot be held thereby.

Idiap employees participating in the ICC remain subject to Idiap staff regulations.

### 13. Responsibility and liability for damage

The organizers shall not be responsible for any personal injury, loss or damage to any of the participants' property. The participants shall be held responsible for any damage or loss occasioned to their personal office space and/or hotel room during the ICC.

### 14. Applicants' commitment

Applicants undertake to guarantee the correctness and veracity of the information they submit. Any inaccuracies or omissions that may lead to an erroneous evaluation will result in the cancellation of the application. Successful candidates commit to have all their team members on-site, working on their project at Centre du Parc, Rue Marconi 19, 1920 Martigny, Switzerland from 21$^{st}$ August to 29$^{th}$ August 2025.

They also commit to participate in the award ceremony (Friday August 29) according to instructions they will be provided with. The unjustified absence of the team members of the awarded projects will result in disqualification. Successful applicants commit to participate in public relations and news events relating to the ICC. The participants authorize the organizers to refer to their names and projects, as well as to use pictures of them taken during the ICC for public relations and communication purposes.

The Jury reserves the right to withdraw any award, should irregularities be proven. The organizers reserve the right to modify, shorten, extend or cancel the ICC if required by circumstances. Responsibility of the organizers cannot be held thereby.

### 15. Other

The organizers of the ICC reserve the right to modify the present terms and conditions up to the project submission deadline (see the ICC webpage for the deadline). If such modifications occur, ICC applicants will be notified accordingly and the updated terms and conditions will be made available on the ICC webpage.

**Martigny, April 2025**