NCC
NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS/ENTRIES FOR
2023 TALENT HUNT RESEARCH THROUGH HACKATHON

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), in giving expression to its Strategic Vision Plan 2023-2025, is encouraging the development of new technologies and indigenous content through cutting-edge research to stimulate sustainable economic growth and development in Nigeria.

Accordingly, the Commission invites Tech Hubs, and Innovation-Driven Enterprises (IDEs) in Nigeria to enroll their start-ups and their solutions in the third edition of the NCC Talent Hunt Research through Hackathon with focus on three (3) thematic areas:

I. Blockchain-enabled Data Protection Solutions for Enhancing Regulatory Compliance.
ii. Assistive Technology Solutions for the Elderly and People with Disabilities.
iii. Technology Solutions for Renewable Energy in Rural Areas.

The NCC Talent Hunt Research Through Hackathon leverages on Emerging Digital Technologies to facilitate the development of home-grown innovative solutions and local content development in the Telecommunications Sector while fostering economic growth and social advancement in Nigeria.

The competition enables the translation of novel ideas into the development of hardware/software solutions that address industry and societal challenges. The best three solutions, one from each of the three areas listed above will receive grants of N10 million each for the development of the solutions.

ELIGIBILITY

The criteria for participation in the competition include the following:
• The Enterprise MUST provide certificate of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).

• The Enterprise must not have previously received support from the Commission.

• The project should have clear relevance to one of the three thematic areas above.

• Provide clear problem statement, proposed solution and roadmap to deployment.

• Proof of concept (which may also include technical feasibility of idea with diagram, algorithm, existing models or case studies, etc.).

• Novelty of solution (including a declarative statement on ownership of intellectual property).

• Solution including prototype development shall be concluded within 6 months of receipt of the Grant (including Statement of Application of Funds/Bill of Engineering Measurement and Evaluation (BEME).

• Detailed Commercialization plan of the prototype.

ENTRY FORMAT

The Entry Submission must be in the following format:
1. Ideation i.e., what is the idea?
2. Minimum Viable Product (MVP) and solution functionality i.e.

How does it work?
3. Current Sweat Equity Investment
4. Product-Market Fit status
5. Verifiable Go-to-Market status
6. Growth Feasibility Assurances
7. Maturity Model and Timeliness
8. Exist Time: Disaster Recovery – where applicable

APPLICATION GUIDELINE

All applications should be ONLINE and must follow the entry format stated above.

There is no financial cost to participating in the competition. Kindly note that full control and ownership of the intellectual property of the developed solutions remain with the Commission.

All entries must be made by a Tech Hub/Innovation-Driven Enterprise that will register and submit on behalf of the entry the following documentations:

A. Evidence of relationship with the Start-up/solution being entered.
B. 4-page Executive summary of the project concept.
C. 3-5 minutes video of the pilot project.
D. Names, age, contact details, passport photos and profile of all team members.
E. Website (if available)/E-mail address
Interested and qualified enterprises should submit the documents above in a zip folder to:
https://ncc.gov.ng/talenthuntresearchhackathon2023

The subject of the mail should read "Submission from <business name>" and the zipped file named after the business. PROCEDURE The Hackathon will open from 1st of September – 22nd September 2023. Other important dates are as follows:

DATE STAGE

1st September – 22nd September 2023 (Applications open online with September 22nd as submission deadline)

25th September – 3rd October 2023 (Online evaluation of applications/entries by Panel of Judges)

4th October 2023 (Submission of Online Evaluation Report to NCC by Pannel of Judges)

5th October 2023 (Preparation and signing of letters of Invitation to the shortlisted start-ups/tech hubs)

6th October 2023 – Dispatching Invitation Letters to the twelve (12) shortlisted start-ups & tech hubs (four per each thematic area) to Abuja for idea pitch deck.

23rd October – (Arrival of invited participants in Abuja.)

24th - 25th October 2023 (Pitch deck and grading of competitors by the Pannel of Judges in Abuja)

26th October 2023 (Award of Grant/Closing ceremony in Abuja)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION/NOTICES

Applying to the Hackathon counts as a public disclosure of your idea and it is your responsibility to protect it adequately before making an application.

Before applying, please ensure you are satisfied with the level of protection for any idea or material included in the application and seek your own legal advice, if necessary. Failure to do so may affect your ability to protect the idea in the future.

The deadline for submission of entries is September 22nd, 2023, and application/entry submitted after that day shall not be considered.
Applicants are not required to provide more details about their ideas than that required in the online application form or as much as they are comfortable disclosing.

However, providing insufficient detail may affect the ability of the judges to undertake a fair assessment of your application. For more information, please email: talenthuntresearchhackathon2023@ncc.gov.ng

An independent Panel of Judges will determine the winner for each thematic area and the judges' decisions are final.

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Signed:
Professor Umar Garba Danbatta
(FNSE, FRAES, FAEng, FNIEEE)
Executive Vice Chairman/CEO
Nigerian Communications Commission