

The eWACEE Start-up Challenge

The eWACEE Start-up Challenge is looking for West African start-ups that successfully combine sustainability, entrepreneurship, and creativity. Start-ups in the field of Clean Energy, Water and The Circular Economy are invited to pitch their innovative business idea for a chance to showcase their solutions to an international audience, win a partnership with top company in clean energy and environment sector, as well as a time slot to pitch their ideas at the eWest African Clean Energy & Environment Exhibition & Conference (eWACEE'20).

The virtual competition consists of three phases, with each phase tailored to increase participation around West Africa. The first phase requires participants to submit a 2-minute video that showcases their innovative business idea. This video should provide insight on the problem being tackled by their start-up, their solution and USP. A panel will shortlist startups based on the predetermined entry requirements. In phase 2, the qualifying participants will be required to provide more details on their innovation stage, team and financial projections. The aim of this stage is to get to know the startup better. In phase 3, the elevator pitch video submitted by the finalist will be hosted on the eWACEE'20 website for 2 weeks and available for the public to vote. The start-ups with the most votes will be selected to participate in an online Dragon's Den session, where the winners will be chosen by a panel of experts, key stakeholders in the energy sector and investors.

Key Areas

The challenge limits the participants to submit their innovative ideas in the following areas:

1. Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency.
2. Innovative Packaging and Circular Economy.
3. Clean Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Eligibility

- You are an innovative entrepreneur with a Start-up located in West Africa.
- You have a product or service that contributes to a more sustainable planet.
- Your solution should be realisable as a usable product or service.
- You MUST make all submission in English
- You can pitch your business plan in English.

How to Participate

Phase 1 – Elevator Pitch

- Submit a 1-page summary and a short video (2-minute max) clearly defining the problem(s), solution and USP to alleviate the challenges identified.

- Call for application is on Monday, 6th July 2020.
- Deadline for submission is on Monday, 24th July 2020 midnight.
- Send your summary via email to innovation@lagos-ahk.de

Submissions will be reviewed by experts and key stakeholders playing active roles in the clean energy and environment sector and 10 qualifying participants will be contacted for the phase 2.

Phase 2 – Interview

- Qualifying participants will receive a notification by Friday, 7th August 2020 with an interview date.
- Participants will be required to do a mini presentation. Deadline for submission is on Tuesday, 11th August 2020.
- Send your presentation via email to innovation@lagos-ahk.de

Phase 3 – Dragon’s Den

- 5 qualifying finalists will receive a notification by Friday, 21st August 2020.
- Participants will join a virtual Dragon’s Den session On Wednesday, 2nd September 2020. 3 winners will be chosen.

About eWACEE'20

The theme for eWACEE'20 is “The Business of Sustainability” and the virtual event would feature decentralized, synchronous and asynchronous events, competitions, virtual exhibitions and discussion forums. These eWACEE'20 events would take place using a combination of custom-built website with plug-ins and links to open-source virtual meeting and conference platforms.

Visit: <https://wacee.net/>