

ESS Innovates: Entrepreneurial Idea Challenge

Overview

ESS Innovates: Entrepreneurial Idea Challenge invites students to share innovative engineering ideas in a max 5 minute video pitch.

Recommended Topic: Sustainable Energy Innovation

How might technology help communities produce and use energy more sustainably? Consider innovations that improve renewable energy, storage, or energy efficiency in homes, cities, or industry.

Participants are encouraged to present ideas they are passionate about that demonstrate creativity, technical thinking, and potential real-world impact.

Selected 3 top entries may be featured on the official ESS platforms.

Eligibility

- The competition is open to current engineering students.
- Participants may submit individually or as a team (maximum of 3 members per team).
- Each participant or team may submit one entry only.

Submission Requirements

- Entries must be submitted as a presentation and/or a video no longer than 5 minutes.
- Videos must clearly present an original engineering idea, concept, or innovation.
- The submission must include:
 - Participant or team names and emails

All submissions must be received by **27th March 2026**.

Results will be released by the **first week of April**.

Submission link: <https://forms.gle/xF8j8MN34oNpV9vx8>

Pitch Content

A rubric is provided for guidance at the end of this document.

Participants are encouraged to address themes such as:

- Materials and design
- Impact on society
- Future potential or scalability
- Sustainability
- AI integration

The idea does not need to be fully developed or built, but the concept should be clearly explained and original.

Prizes

Winners (top 3) will receive a selection of:

- Gift cards
- ESS store merchandise
- An exclusive opportunity to meet with the judges and gain personalized guidance on innovation, pitching, and developing their ideas further.

Intellectual Property

ESS will only share or promote a participant's submission with the participant's explicit permission on ESS or school platforms for competition and promotional purposes. Participants retain full ownership of their ideas and intellectual property.

Conduct & Originality

- All submissions must be original work created by the participant(s).
- Entries containing inappropriate or plagiarized content may be disqualified.
- ESS reserves the right to remove submissions that do not comply with these rules.

Contact: [Shrey Kotak](#) , [Abhijay Bhatnagar](#) , [Samecha Sajjad](#) , [Tooba Mahmood](#)

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Points
Innovation & Originality (25 pts)	Highly creative and original idea that demonstrates strong entrepreneurial thinking and clearly differs from existing solutions.	Idea shows creativity and some originality.	Idea has some innovative aspects but is similar to existing concepts.	Idea lacks originality or is unclear.	/25
Engineering Concept & Technical Thinking (20 pts)	Engineering concept is clearly explained with strong technical reasoning and feasibility.	Engineering idea is understandable with reasonable technical explanation.	Basic engineering concept is present but lacks depth or clarity.	Engineering concept is unclear or poorly explained.	/20
Impact & Relevance (20 pts)	Idea demonstrates strong potential impact on sustainability, communities, or industry and addresses a clear real-world problem.	Impact is meaningful but not fully explained.	Some relevance to real-world issues but impact is limited.	Impact or relevance is unclear.	/20
Scalability & Future Potential (15 pts)	Clear potential for growth, real-world implementation, or broader adoption.	Some potential for future development.	Limited scalability or unclear path for development.	Little or no future potential discussed.	/15
Pitch Quality & Communication (15 pts)	Pitch is clear, engaging, well-structured, and persuasive. Ideas are communicated effectively within the time limit.	Pitch is clear but could be more engaging or structured.	Message is understandable but delivery or structure needs improvement.	Pitch is disorganized, unclear, or difficult to follow.	/15
Use of Supporting Elements (5 pts)	Visuals, examples, or demonstrations significantly enhance understanding of the idea.	Some supporting visuals or examples included.	Minimal supporting elements used.	No supporting visuals or examples.	/5

Additional comments: