Simple questions - I think our knowledge is enough to answer them.

1) May I have a teammate from other countries? (Could a person from another country participate in the Triple Point competition?)

Yes, if you are a Skoltech Student. The main limitation is that "Each team must have at least one currently registered Skoltech student; if you are submitting as an individual, you must be a currently registered Skoltech student."

2) My team has several ideas. Could we apply all of them? Can I participate in two projects of different levels?

Regarding the rules, "Each team may enter one idea." But you can participate in two different projects at two different competitions, e.g., one goes to PITCH and another to ACCELERATE.

3) Could I be a teammate of two and more teams at the same time?

You can not participate as a teammate of two or more teams—the same principle as we have in sport team games.

4) How to understand which program is more suitable for my team? To which program is better to apply? (discussed with MIT)

It depends on the level of the project you have. PITCH is the easiest way to start up your idea. You may have only a description of the problem you attempt to solve, the solution you propose, and the value you aim to deliver. The fundamental goal of the PITCH event is to get feedback on your idea during its very early stage. ACCELERATE is for the more developed projects. Besides the features needed for the PITCH, you need to have a draft of your business model and a prototype to test the idea on the market. LAUNCH is targeted at startups, which are ready to enter the market and launch sales. So, we recommend you reach the first sales and get some traction to compete during this stage better.

Also, according to the MIT$100K experience, LAUNCH is more competitive than the other competitions. Participants, which go through all contests, will have a higher chance of getting to the finals since they will get more feedback and mentorship help. Nevertheless, it is up to you to decide whether to participate in a particular competition or not. But please take into account that we will implement an entry assessment of each applicant and decide if it is suitable for a particular competition or not.

5) Why should I apply exactly to the Triple Point Competition, but not to other ones? (What are the advantages of your program? Why is our competition better than other accelerators/contests?

You can apply to other competitions, not only to Skoltech Triple Point, and we will not limit you here. But Triple Point has some interesting features, which are thought to be beneficial to its participants:

- Our MIT connection. Participants (and potential participants as well) will have an opportunity to attract MIT students to their teams or join MIT teams. At least one joint matchmaking event is expected to happen during the first year of Triple Point. And having an MIT student in a team will allow you to participate in MIT$100K.
- No dilution prizes. We do not take any share or anything else for the prize money. The only limitation is that you probably will need to sign a prize responsibility agreement and report on the expenses, but it will be quite flexible and with a goal to assure us that you will not spend your prize on a new car.
- Free mentorship for participants. During the ACCELERATE competition, the finalists will obtain at least one experienced mentor, who will help advance their business model and increase their chances to win. Also, between the competitions, we are going to have various master classes and other educational events.

- World-leading experts. We are aiming to reach a very high quality of our competition and, thus, are going to attract the world's top experts for mentorship and knowledge sharing.
- Participation is easy. To the best of our knowledge, the applications required for participation are much simpler than for other competitions. Of course, the higher the level of the competition, the more advanced your project should be. But if your project evolves naturally, you should not face any troubles preparing them.
- Ability to network with corporations, entrepreneurs, and VCs. Our jury board will have representatives from all innovation-interested fields, so you may get an attractive proposal even if you do not win.

6) Are there any success stories of the Triple Point competition?

No. The Triple Point is a completely new program and is carried out at Skoltech for the first time. However, there are many success stories for the MIT$100K competition, which can be checked on the wiki page.

7) Who will judge our projects? What is their background (entrepreneurs, scientists, etc.)

(Who are the judges? What if I have a technology/science project?)

The jury board will mainly contain successful entrepreneurs (including Skoltech alumni), venture capitalists, and corporate innovation executives. Triple Point is the entrepreneurial competition, and the key criterion assessed by the jury is applicants' entrepreneurial (not scientific or technological) potential. In case of having a scientific/tech project try to transform it into a startup idea first.

8) What are the evaluation criteria of the projects?

Is there a list of criteria for how the judge makes a decision? (discussed with MIT)

Yes, for each competition, they are different.

PITCH - four parameters will be assessed: clarity of a problem, clarity of a solution and value, pitch quality, potential viability.

Preliminary criteria for other competitions:

ACCELERATE - The applications are assessed according to the presentation quality, the level of business model elaboration and validation, and the commercial potential.
LAUNCH - The applications are assessed according to the presentation quality, the level of business model elaboration, the level of business model validation, the startup traction, and the commercial potential

Please, note that we may correct the assessment criteria with the goal to increase their differentiative power, but the key principle will always stay the same: Triple Point is about entrepreneurship, and the entrepreneurial potential of a startup/idea will be assessed by one or several criteria first.

Criteria may also be adjusted before the related event. We will send an update in this case, so stay tuned to our channels.

9) May I use some animations or some tools in my video pitch? Could we record a mini-movie?

Considering that during the finals, you will have no opportunity to show these animations and videos, slides, animations, and other video tools are prohibited for use in the PITCH applications.

10) Is it compulsory to submit a pre-pitch video?

No, it's not necessary to participate in the feedback sessions, and you can just upload your pitch until the deadline (October 29) in order to participate in the PITCH competition.

11) What are the deadlines of the programs? Are there different times?

Each competition has its schedule and deadlines, the preliminary versions of which are provided on the website. The more accurate schedule will be announced closer to the corresponding event in all Triple Point channels.

12) Do you have a meeting schedule for the startup club?

This question is better to ask Startup Club representatives.

13) Could a team be mentored if they haven't won the pitch/accelerate/launch? (discussed with MIT)

This question is still open for discussion, however, we tend to say yes, a team can be mentored even if it did not participate in previous competitions. Probably, we will provide various levels of mentorship depending on the status of an applicant. Also, you can participate in ACCELERATE (which has a mentorship phase) even if you did not participate in PITCH, but you think that your project is ready for that.

14) Does it matter how much time and resources we spend on the project?

No, it is completely up to you.

15) What should we focus more on in our pitch and presentations, the business models or the scientific part?

Triple Point is the entrepreneurial competition so that the jury will assess your business models and commercial potential and not the scientific part. Of course, the product should be possible to implement with the claimed qualities, but we do not implement the deep scientific analysis.

16) At the final stage, do we need to use the same text which was in the pitch video in our application?

It is up to you to decide on changing the text, and we do not require or forbid it. However, we believe that if your application got to the finals, your text is already good enough.

17) At what stage should we have a final product? Should it be a massive production?

For various competitions, these requirements are different. For the PITCH competition, you do not need to have a final product even. For more information, please, visit our website, the section related to the competitions.

18) If I join the Triple Point team, will I lose the opportunity to apply for the programs? (discussed with MIT)

No, but with some limitations. To avoid any probability of unfair competition, you will not be able to work with applications and judges.