

2026 RunSpace Innovation Challenge

To boost Taiwan's space industry capabilities, the Executive Yuan has launched the "Space Industry Promotion and Talent Development Plan". This initiative, supported by the National Science and Technology Council, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Digital Affairs, and the Ministry of Education, focuses on satellite technology development, industry advancement, and talent cultivation. The aim is to elevate Taiwan's space technology and the whole industry, while promoting growth in the local satellite sector.

In support of this initiative, the Industrial Development Administration, Ministry of Economic Affairs, has organized the RunSpace Innovation Challenge since 2022, now has enter its 5th edition. We aim to provide a platform for interaction between space industry leaders and emerging teams, encouraging the development of innovative ideas, uncovering cross-disciplinary talents and creativity in the space sector.

Eligibility

- The competition is open to all nationalities and ages. Startups, companies, professionals, and students are all welcome to form teams. Each team consist of 2 to 8 members.
- Participants who have registered for the Implementation Category may also participate in the Sponsor Special Topic, or register for the Sponsor Special Topic independently. Submissions are limited to one entry per category.
- Each team may appoint up to two mentors/advisors as needed (optional). Participants are not allowed to serve as mentors/advisors for their own team or for any other team.
- Team members' personal information (including names, affiliated organizations/schools, and identifiable images such as photos and logos) must not be displayed in any form within the competition submission (including team names, work titles, submitted documents, videos, and presentations). Violations will result in disqualification from the competition, **please review all the material thoroughly before submission.**

Themes of Implementation Categories

RunSpace focuses on four key areas: Ground Equipment and Services, Satellite Manufacturing, Satellite Services, and Satellite Launch; the rest are categorized as "Others." Participants are invited to propose relevant service scenarios and innovative solutions in these fields.

Ground Equipment & Services

- Ground Stations: RF equipment, array antennas, power supply equipment, printed circuit boards, related electronic and mechanical components, data modulation and control, and others.
- User Terminals: Very-small-aperture terminals (VSATs), array antennas, data modulation and control, and others.

Satellite Manufacturing

- Antennas and RF/baseband components and chips, software satellites, telemetry payloads, propulsion and others.

Satellite Services

- Satellite Communication Applications and Solutions: Edge computing technology, satellite broadband services, satellite IoT services, satellite voice and narrowband data transmission, and integrated ICT services.
- Satellite Remote Sensing and Image Recognition: Data processing and other services.
- Satellite Network Security and Resilience: Data encryption, quantum communication, and others.

Satellite Launch


- Launch service matchmaking, launch service agency, and launch mission consulting and management, and others.

Others

- AI-powered solutions, space debris removal, space radiation detection, spacecraft inspection technologies, space agriculture, microgravity experiments, and others.

Themes of Sponsor Special Topic (2026 Sponsor — [ispace inc.](https://www.ispace-inc.com))

Proposal-based Only (No Prototyping Required)

1	The Topic	Micromissions for the Moon 
2	Topic Description	<p>This Sponsor Special Topic invites participants to design a “micromission” of 1U to 8U under 5kg that consists of an innovative payload for future lunar missions. The payload can have any of the following objectives, with additional focus on potential collaboration and/or synergies with local government or industry capabilities. The proposed micromission can target a mission onboard ispace’s ULTRA lunar lander for operation on the lunar surface or lunar orbit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scientific payload to study the deep space environment such as radiation environment, thermal ecosystem, and lunar geology. 2. Industrial payload to test high-end technologies such as lunar mining, resource collection, 3D-printing construction, and water electrolysis. 3. Commercial payload to support a broader cislunar ecosystem such as communications support equipment, PNT (positioning, navigation, and timing) sensors, or SSA (space situational awareness) observatories.
3	Reference Material	<Mission Briefing >
4	Other Requirements	Proposal should fit under an 8U cube, weighing under 5kg total

Timeline

*Overseas teams are allowed to participate in training courses and the final judging remotely.

Date (UCT+8)	Event / Milestone
From now	Registration & Document Submission Open
April 20	Contest Briefing Video Available on Website
May 11	Pre-competition Training Sessions (English, Online) ▶ Click here for more info & registration
May 13	Competition Briefing (Mandarin, Online)
June 30, 1:00 PM	Deadline for Registration & Document Submission
Early August	Announcement of Finalists
August 15	Finalist Training Sessions (Mandarin, In-person)
Late August	Finalist Training Sessions (English, Online)
September 11	Final Pitch Deck Submission Deadline
September 19	Finalist Project Review (Demonstration) (English)
Late October	Awards Ceremony & Networking
Oct – Nov	Team Meetups

Judging and Criteria

*The competition is conducted entirely in English.

Stage		Implementation Category	Sponsor Special Topic
Preliminary Review	Review Method	Online Review	Online Review
	Submission Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal is required. • Submit written materials. Prepare a presentation of up to 10 pages describing your project concept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal is required. • Submit written materials. Prepare a presentation of up to 10 pages describing your project concept.
Final Review	Review Method	Presentation and demonstration	Online Review
	Submission Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal report and project demonstration review. • Provide a visual display of the project, for example, the product, the prototype, a 3D model, dashboard, simulation, or other representations. • Provide a 90-second project description video (with English subtitles). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit written materials. Prepare a presentation of up to 15 pages describing your project concept.

Assessment - Implementation Category

Theoretical or Technical Innovation	The completeness of the product or service in terms of its technological innovation and theoretical application.	35%
Business Feasibility Assessment	Financial planning for future commercial operations of the concept or product.	25%
Problem Solving	How the product or service may improve or solve the existing issues in the space industry.	20%
Future Impact	Clearly highlight the impact of space and satellite applications on future industries.	20%

Assessment - Sponsor Special Topic

Theoretical or Technical Innovation	The completeness of the product or service in terms of its technological innovation and theoretical application.	40%
Business Feasibility Assessment	Financial planning for future commercial operations of the concept or product.	20%
Problem Solving	How the product or service may improve or solve the existing issues in the space industry.	20%
Future Impact	Clearly highlight the impact of space and satellite applications on future industries.	20%

Awards

Implementation Category

- 1st Place: NT\$350,000 (≈ US\$10,960)
- 2nd Place: NT\$150,000 (≈ US\$4,690)
- 3rd Place: NT\$100,000 (≈ US\$3,125)
- Finalist Prize (15 Teams): NT\$ 6,000 (≈ US\$ 190)

Each winning team receives: 1 trophy, and 1 winning certificate

Finalist teams receive: 1 shortlist certificate

Sponsor Special Topic

- Cash Prize: 20,000 NTD (distributed via the contest organizers).
- Group Mentorship: ispace will host a single, combined 1-hour online mentorship and Q&A session for all finalist teams. The mentorship will review operational requirements of the winning team's idea.
- Tokyo HQ Visit & Pitch Session: Facility tour of the new ispace Headquarters. This visit will include a brief pitch and knowledge-sharing session with ispace technical leads or representatives (subject to management schedule availability). Additionally, ispace can provide a curated list of recommended Japanese space companies and organizations for the winning team to explore. (*The Tokyo visit will be conducted on a self-funded basis*)

Early Bird Lucky Draw

- Early Bird Lucky Draw: Apple AirPods 4 (1 winner)
- How to Participate: Teams that complete registration and upload their preliminary review documents by June 5 at 23:59 PM (UTC+8) will be eligible for the lucky draw.
- Submission Edits: Teams may continue to modify their preliminary review presentation until June 30 at 13:00 PM. (UTC+8)
- Winner Announcement: The early bird prize winner will be drawn and announced on the competition's official website by August 31. (UTC+8)
- Due to international logistics and regulatory restrictions on electronic products, prize delivery is restricted to Taiwan and its offshore islands (Kinmen, Matsu, Penghu, Green Island, and Orchid Island). International shipping is not available. If a winner's address is outside of Taiwan, they will be deemed to have forfeited their prize, and a new winner will be selected.

Space Program (Training Sessions)

The competition offers a two-stage training program held before the registration deadline and after the finalist announcement. This program is designed to boost your team's expertise and refine your proposal through industry-led training, bridging the gap between innovation and real-world space industry applications. We welcome all teams—whether multi-disciplinary or with a space background—to join us!

Application for Participation Certificate (English electronic version only)

- Application Method: If participants require a participation certificate, the team leader must select the corresponding option in the registration system during the registration period.
- Eligible Applicants: The certificate will be issued based on the team member list submitted by the team leader before the registration deadline. Please ensure that all names are correctly provided, as modifications will not be allowed after submission.
- Certificate Issuance Date: Certificates will be provided after the registration deadline and are expected to be issued by the end of August.
- Important Notes: The participation certificate will be officially stamped and issued by the competition's Executive Organizer, the Institute for Information Industry (III).

Terms & Conditions

The Organizer's Rights and Related Matters (For complete details, please refer to the Document Download Area – Participation Consent Form)

1. If a participating team submits late, loses, incomplete, non-compliant or illegible work, the Organizer and Executive will consider it invalid, and no further notifications will be provided. They will also not assume any responsibility.
2. Once a team has registered, they must complete the competition (including participation in the Preliminary and Final Review). Withdrawal without valid reason is not permitted. If a team needs to withdraw due to special circumstances, the Organizer have the right to cancel or withhold participation certificates, finalist certificates, and any related awards, prizes, or trophies.
3. Unless the participant can prove that they have exercised due diligence, they must properly safeguard any information related to the Organizer, Executive, and competition's cooperating partners that they become aware of or possess as a result of this competition. Without written consent from the Organizer, they may not disclose or deliver any such information to third parties.

4. All nominations and awards will be determined by the judges based on the standard of the entries. If necessary, the number of the awards may be adjusted in case there is no winner, and the judging panel may change the names of the awards. To maintain the fairness of the competition and scoring requirements, the Organizer has the right to request the detailed original design documents from the teams that advance to the finals and the winning teams.
5. The participants agree that the Organizer and Executive may include their personal data and related works entered for the competition in the RunSpace Innovation Challenge talent matching database.
6. The finalists and the awardees must participate in the related events, publicity, and media interviews for up to five years.
7. Upon the announcement of award recipients, the Executive will compile and publish summaries of the winning and finalist entries, along with relevant competition results for public display. Participating teams are required to provide necessary materials within the specified timeframe. If a team fails to submit the required materials on time, the Executive reserves the right to use the materials submitted during the competition period (such as application forms, application documents, presentation files, or videos) to compile and publish related content.
8. During the execution of the competition, online and offline events will be held periodically, including competition briefings, pre-competition training, finalist boot camp training, networking activities, awards ceremonies, and achievement exhibitions. These events will be recorded and photographed, and all images and footage may be used by the Organizer and Executive for future promotional activities, publication on the competition official website, and documentation purposes. Participation in these events constitutes consent to be filmed and for the recorded images and videos to be used accordingly.
9. The participants must guarantee that all the materials and documents submitted are true and do not infringe on the rights of others (including the intellectual property rights). In the case of falsehood or infringement of others' rights, the Organizer has the right to revoke the participant's competition or award eligibility and to reclaim any prize money, trophies, or certificates. The participants agree to bear all the legal liability (such as intellectual property disputes or lawsuits).
10. If a team's entry involves research and developmental resources or intellectual property rights from companies, universities, or faculty, the team must obtain consent from the relevant entities or individuals before registering for the competition. If there are concerns or disputes arising from the entry that prevent the disclosure of the entry's information, the team will be disqualified from being shortlisted or awarded an award, and the next-ranked team will be selected as their replacement.
11. In cases where an entry infringes on others' intellectual property rights or violates other competition rules, the judging committee will arbitrate, and the participants may not contest the arbitration results.
12. The intellectual property rights of the entries will not belong to the Organizer. To promote this event, the participants agree to grant the Organizer a permanent license to reproduce, publish, or present the work in all activities related to the event. The Organizer has the right to compile the entry into any form of an album for non-profit promotional purposes, and the participants commit not to exercise their intellectual property rights against the Organizer.
13. **If the participants wish to apply for a patent for their entry, they should submit their application to the intellectual property application authorities before the competition to avoid losing the novelty because of the public disclosure of their work during the competition. Given the international nature of the competition, relevant intellectual property authorities include, but are not limited to, the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office.** (Teams participating in the Sponsor Special Topic must obtain written consent from the sponsoring company before

- applying for patents, trademarks, or other intellectual property registrations, and shall not take any actions that may restrict the rights of the sponsoring company.)
14. Licensing arrangements for outcomes generated through collaboration with partner companies (such as sponsoring companies) in this competition shall be negotiated between participating teams and partner companies in accordance with applicable laws.
 15. The award-winning teams, including those shortlisted in the Implementation Category, must sign the receipt of the award and provide [a hard copy](#) to the Executive (Address: 10622 19F., No.216, Sec. 2, Dunhua S. Rd., Taipei, Taiwan) **by August 31** to facilitate prize distribution. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the prize money.
 16. Any internal disputes regarding the allocation of prize money among team members must be resolved independently by the team and are not the responsibility of the Organizer and Executive.
 17. Competition prize money will be awarded in New Taiwan Dollars (NTD) to the winners (or their legal guardians) and processed in accordance with the Income Tax Act of the Republic of China (Taiwan). For winners who are domestic residents, income will be reported in accordance with local tax regulations. For winners who are non-residents:
 - If the recipient has resided in Taiwan for a total of 183 days or more within the calendar year, a 10% tax withholding will apply.
 - If the recipient has resided in Taiwan for less than 183 days within the calendar year, a 20% tax withholding will apply.
 18. If the winner is located outside of Taiwan and does not have a New Taiwan Dollar account, the prize will be converted to U.S. Dollars and remitted accordingly. The final amount received will depend on the applicable exchange rate and banking regulations at the time of remittance. Any transaction fees or charges arising from the financial process shall be borne by the winner.
 19. Participation indicates agreeing to abide by these competition rules and acceptance of the Organizer's and judges' final decisions. The Organizer reserves the right to amend these rules.
 20. If a participant violates the rules of the competition or other relevant regulations, the Organizer has the right to cancel the participant's or their team's eligibility to compete or win.
 21. The participants agree to waive any legal claims against the Organizer, Executive, and other competition cooperating parties arising out of the competition.
 22. The Organizer reserves the right to amend these competition rules in relation to any matters not explicitly covered.

Organizer

Industrial Development Administration, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Executive Organizer

Institute for Information Industry