

TUniCorn 2026 Ideas Competition

Information and Conditions of Participation

The Competition

The goal of the competition is to support and promote the development of innovative business ideas. Ideally, these ideas should create added value for society in the region, especially in areas that are not yet established there or introduce something new.

Key Dates at a Glance

January 11, 2026 – Submission deadline for idea sketches

February 19, 2026 – Preparation workshop for the final event

March 5, 2026 – Final event

Competition Procedure

Phase 1 – Creation of the Idea Sketch

The idea sketch serves to present the innovative idea clearly and concisely. A complete business concept or business plan is not required. Participants are expected to follow the provided guideline for creating the idea sketch.

Phase 2 – Submission of Ideas

To participate, the idea sketch must be submitted as a PDF document no later than January 11, 2026, via email to ideenwettbewerb@tu-clausthal.de

Phase 3 – Preselection of Ideas

All submitted ideas will be reviewed and evaluated by the organizers. The organizers reserve the right to make a preselection. Only those sketches that, in the opinion of the organizers, show sufficient potential will be presented to the jury by January 23, 2026. All participants will receive feedback.

The eight highest-rated ideas will be invited to the final event on March 5, 2026, and admitted for presentation.

Phase 4 – Preparation of the Top 8 for the Final Event

The top eight individual participants or teams will be invited to attend a preparation workshop on February 19, 2026, where they will be coached for their presentation at the final event.

This workshop will help refine their ideas and provide general information about the competition, as well as an introduction to creating and presenting a pitch deck.

Additional group or individual pitch training sessions may be arranged upon request.

Phase 5 – Final Event and Award Ceremony

At the TUniCorn 2026 Final Event on March 5, 2026, up to eight selected teams will present their ideas in a four-minute pitch. The decisive factor is the convincing presentation of both the idea and the team.

Based on the ideas and presentations, the jury will determine the final ranking of participants.

Awards

1st Prize: €1,000

2nd Prize: €500

3rd Prize: €250

Further Support and Consultation

Even after the competition, participants benefit from the support services offered by the joint Startup Service of TU Clausthal and WiReGo.

Through intensive consultation, ideas can be further developed into viable business concepts.

The Startup Service provides assistance with questions concerning product and business model development as well as financing.

Conditions of Participation

- Eligible to participate in the “TUniCORN 2026” ideas competition are all students, staff members, and alumni of TU Clausthal as well as — for the first time this year — private individuals from the Goslar district who wish to contribute ideas for new or not yet established topics in the region.
- Participation by companies, corporations, associations, or other institutional organizations is excluded. The competition is explicitly aimed at individuals and private teams. Innovators from companies (intrapreneurs) are welcome, but must participate as private individuals.
- Participation is possible either individually or as a team. Each person or team may submit only one proposal.
- Only idea sketches that are received by January 11, 2026, and that follow the required structure of the Idea Sketch Guideline will be considered. Additional documents cannot be taken into account.
- The submitted idea must not have been awarded in any other competition and must have been developed independently by the participants. Ideally, the idea should create innovative value for the Goslar district, particularly in areas that are new or not yet established there.
- Participants guarantee that their ideas do not infringe upon any third-party rights and indemnify the organizers against all claims arising from any violation of copyrights, industrial property rights, trade secrets, or other rights through the submitted materials.
- The organizers assume no liability for any statements made by jury members or other individuals involved in the competition.
- If no entry of sufficient quality is submitted, the organizers reserve the right not to award a prize. Legal recourse is excluded.

Data Protection Notice

To participate in the competition and process submissions, it is necessary to provide the personal data specified in the Idea Sketch Guideline.

These data will be used exclusively for the purpose of conducting the competition by the joint Startup Service of TU Clausthal and WiReGo, as well as the jury members.

All data will be securely deleted no later than one year after the submission deadline.

The final event is public. Photo and video recordings will be made and used for public relations purposes. Members of pitching teams will be mentioned by name during the event and in subsequent reports.

By submitting an entry, participants consent to the described use and processing of their personal data.

This consent can be revoked at any time by informal notice to the organizers.

Revocation does not affect the legality of processing carried out before the revocation, but it excludes further participation in the competition.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.tu-clausthal.de/datenschutz>

Organizers

Clausthal University of Technology Service Center for Research and Transfer

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38678 Clausthal-Zellerfeld

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Contact

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