# Manchester Prize - Submission Form

This entry form is made available to help you draft your entry. Please note all entries must be submitted using the online form (<https://challenges.submittable.com/submit/>) no later than **12 PM (GMT) on Friday 17th January 2025**.

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## Part A: Eligibility & Entrant Details

We will use this information to determine; your eligibility to apply for the prize, to contact you about your entry, and for wider programme evaluation purposes.

The information you provide in this section **will not be seen or used by** assessors and judges during their review.

Eligibility Information

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| **Our Eligibility Criteria**   * Eligible entrants: Entries must come from organisations legally incorporated in the UK (e.g. private limited companies, non-profits, charities, universities). We will not accept applications from individuals or unincorporated groups. [See here for guidance on how to incorporate](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/incorporation-and-names/incorporation-and-names). *(Incorporation costs around £50 straightforward applications are normally processed within 24 hours, please check the site to confirm your individual needs.)* * Geographical scope: The lead entrant organisation must be based in the United Kingdom and must be able to receive funds into a UK bank account in the name of the lead entrant. Organisations other than the lead entrant organisation may be based outside of the UK. * Consortia entries: Teams may enter as a consortium but must nominate one organisation as the lead entrant to submit the application. The lead entrant organisation representing finalist teams will be the organisation that enters into contracts and receives funding from the Manchester Prize. * Previous Manchester Prize finalists: Finalists from the first Manchester Prize are eligible to participate if submitting a new and original solution, which is distinct from their first Manchester Prize submission. * Employees of Challenge Works and DSIT prohibited: Employees of Challenge Works (Nesta, or any company within the same group) or DSIT, and any immediate family of those employees, and any other individuals working on, or connected to, the prize are not eligible to enter. * Conflicts of interest: Any conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest, as more particularly detailed in the terms and conditions, may result in a participant being disqualified from participation. Conflicts of interest must be declared and mitigation agreed with Challenge Works. If you think this may affect you (or any of your partners, if applicable), please contact the team i[nfo@manchesterprize.org.uk](mailto:info@manchesterprize.org.uk).   **Further to meeting these eligibility criteria, other entrant considerations are as follows:**   * Participants (and their partners, if applicable) will be subject to due diligence checks and must pass due diligence checks in order to qualify. * You must agree to abide by our terms and conditions. * As more particularly detailed in the prize **terms & conditions**: the participant must be fully authorised (whether by ownership or licence)to use and exploit all IP rights necessary for the development and deployment of the solution that the participant is submitting for consideration, including both background and foreground IP, and any IP that is owned or licenced by any of the lead entrant’s consortium members*. \*For example, if you are an academic team entering as a newly incorporated company, you will need to ensure that the university has granted rights to their background IP and the foreground IP to you for submission through the Manchester Prize.* |

1. **Please read our terms and conditions here. By ticking this box, I confirm that I have read the Manchester Prize terms and conditions and privacy policy and agree to these. \***

**2. What entity are you entering the Manchester Prize as? \***

#### Please select one of the options from below \* Please note - Manchester Prize: Clean Energy Systems will only be accepting entries for incorporated organisations, no individuals or unincorporated groups will pass eligibility checks.

* A single organisation
* An organisation leading a consortium

#### If you are unsure, please email us at [info@manchesterprize.org](mailto:info@manchesterprize.org) prior to your submission. Please note that this submission must be completed by the lead entrant organisation.

**3. Where is the organisation leading the entry based? \***

#### The leading organisation must be based in the UK.

* England
* Scotland
* Wales
* Northern Ireland

### **Lead Entrant Details**

#### Please note - Manchester Prize: Clean Energy Systems will only be accepting entries for incorporated organisations, no individuals or unincorporated groups will pass eligibility checks.

**4. Full legal name of lead entrant\***

#### Please note, Manchester Prize: Clean Energy Systems will only be accepting entries from incorporated organisations and consortia led by a lead entrant organisation. Individuals or unincorporated groups will not pass eligibility checks.

**5a. What type of legal entity is the lead entrant organisation? \***

#### Entries can come from companies and other organisations (e.g. non-profits, charities, universities, research and technology organisations).

* A public limited company
* A limited company
* A limited liability partnership
* A community interest company (CIC)
* Not-for-profit
* Charity
* A charity governed by a royal charter (e.g. University organisations, Learned Societies)
* Other (please specify)

**5b. If other, please specify the type of legal entity \***

**6a. Lead entrant company/charity/Royal Charter registration number \***

#### If your organisation does not have a company or charity registration number, please provide relevant registration details for your governance structure along with an explanation.

**6b. Lead entrant date of registration\***

**6c. Is your organisation, and any subsidiary organisations, wholly owned and based in the UK?\***

#### Please note that this will not affect your eligibility.

**6d. Are you appropriately authorised to use and exploit any IP required for the solution in connection with this prize? If you are an organisation leading a consortium, in particular, please consider whether you are appropriately authorised by your partners.\***

* Yes
* No -*please explain (50 words)*

Contact Details

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| Please provide the details of team members who will act as contacts for the Manchester Prize team.  Both the main and alternate contact should be from the lead entrant organisation. We will use the details to reach out to you with any questions or to alert you to your application status. If we are unable to contact you in a reasonable time frame, your entry may be withdrawn from the Manchester Prize. |

**7. What is your address? \***

#### Please provide your registered office address.

**8. Main contact name \***

**9. Main contact job title \***

**10. What is the main contact email address? \***

**11. What is the main contact phone number? \***

**12. Name of an alternative contact \***

**13. Alternative contact's job title \***

**14. Email address of alternative contact \***

**15. Alternative contact phone number \***

Partner Details

#### Please provide details of any partners you are working with on your entry.

**16a. Do you have any partners? \***

* Yes
* No

**16b. Full legal name of partner \***

#### Please ensure you have consent to share this information

**16c. Partner details \***

*For individuals, please provide:*

* *Addresses*
* *Countries of tax residence.*

*For organisations, please provide:*

* *company or charity registration number*
* *registered address*
* *legal entity*
* *country of registration.*

*Please ensure you have consent to share this information.*

**16d. First partner email contact \***

#### Please provide an email address of a contact for this partner. Please ensure you have consent to share this contact information.

**15e. Do you have any additional partners? \*** [Repeats x 4]

* Yes
* No

## Part B: Additional Information

We will use this information to help shape the delivery and future design of the Manchester Prize and to support programme evaluation. This information **will not be assessed** and will be concealed from assessors and judges during their review.

**1. Has the team that is working on the development of your solution been exclusively created to participate in the Manchester Prize? \***

#### This includes individuals that have collaborated to develop a solution for the prize and organisations that have collaborated to enter the prize as a consortium.

* Yes
* No
* I don't know

**2. Approximately how many people currently work in the team developing the solution in your submission? \***

#### Please specify the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) individuals currently working on the solution team.

**3. What region of the UK is your team predominantly based? \***

* East Midlands
* East of England
* London
* North East England
* North West England
* South East England
* South West England
* West Midlands
* Yorkshire and The Humber
* Central Scotland
* Highlands and Islands
* Lothian
* Mid Scotland and Fife
* North East Scotland
* South Scotland
* West Scotland
* Glasgow
* Edinburgh
* North Wales
* Mid Wales
* South West Wales
* South East Wales (excluding Cardiff)
* Cardiff
* Belfast
* North Eastern Northern Ireland
* South Eastern Northern Ireland
* Western Northern Ireland
* Across multiple regions / Other / I'm not sure

**4. Tell us about any EDI issues that arise in the development and deployment of your solution, how do you take these into account with the design, marketing and business planning around your solution?**

**5. Do you have an EDI policy\***

* Yes
* no

**6a. Approximately what percentage of people on your team (creating the specific solution you are entering the prize with) are women?\***

* 0-10%
* 11-25%
* 26-50%
* 51-75%
* 76-90%
* 91-100%

**6b. How would you describe the distribution of women across different seniority levels on your team (solution-specific team)?\***

* Primarily in entry-level roles
* Balanced between entry-level and mid-level roles
* Primarily in mid-level roles
* Balanced between mid-level and senior/leadership roles
* Primarily in senior/leadership roles
* Evenly distributed across all levels

**7a. Approximately how long have you and/or your team been working together on any topic (in months)? \***

*Please select the approximate number of months. If you are unsure, please enter your best guess.*

* 0 months
* 1-6 months
* 7-12 months
* 13-24 months (1-2 years)
* 25-36 months (2-3 years)
* 37-48 months (3-4 years)
* 49-72 months (4-6 years)
* 73-96 months (6-8 years)
* 97-120 months (8-10 years)
* 121+ months (10+ years)

**7b. Approximately how long have you and/or your team been working on the solution in your submission (in months)? \***

#### Please select the approximate number of months. If you are unsure, please enter your best guess.

* 0 months
* 1-6 months
* 7-12 months
* 13-24 months (1-2 years)
* 25-36 months (2-3 years)
* 37-48 months (3-4 years)
* 49-72 months (4-6 years)
* 73-96 months (6-8 years)
* 97-120 months (8-10 years)
* 121+ months (10+ years)

**7c. At the point of submission, approximately how much money has been invested in the development of the solution you are applying to the prize with? \***

£GBP

**8a. Have you or your team previously undertaken work that required expertise in the same area or domain as the Second Manchester Prize e.g. Clean energy systems?\***

#### Yes

#### No (If yes, provide details)

**8b. Please provide a brief explanation of the previous project(s) you worked on that required similar expertise and any solution(s) you developed in relation to it. \*** *[For those that answer yes to 8a.]*

**9a. What types of support do you envisage you would benefit from when developing your solution? \***

#### There is no guarantee that requests can be accommodated.

* Access to datasets
* Networking opportunities for potential investors, problem holders, or others in the field
* Public relations support and promotion of your work
* Business development assistance
* Investment readiness training
* Free cloud compute
* Free compute hardware
* Legal advisory services
* Marketing assistance and strategy support
* Technical validation and certification of your product
* Other

**9ai. If you answered “other”, please specify what kind of support you would like.**

#### Please let us know what kind of support would be most helpful for you to succeed in the aims of the challenge. The more detail you can provide here, the closer we can cater to the successful teams’ needs.This is not a guarantee that requests can be accommodated.

#### Limit: 50 words

**9b. Please specify what amount of complimentary compute would be useful for the scope of the solution you are submitting (within the timeframe of the prize).**

**10a. At the point of submission, has your (lead entrant organisation) registered any intellectual property (IP) relating to your solution?\***

* Yes
* No

**10b. As part of our due diligence process, we verify that finalist teams have established essential policies, obtained necessary insurance, and resolved IP ownership issues before receiving any finalist award. If your team is selected as a finalist, would you benefit from additional business support to ensure these requirements are fully met?\***

* Yes
* No
* I don’t know

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## Part C: Your Entry

We will use this information to assess your entry against the Judging Criteria.

About your entry

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| ***This section is not scored separately***. Its purpose is for teams to provide a summary of their proposed solution, providing context for the rest of the entry. While these answers are not scored against the judging criteria, assessors and judges will use this information as context when scoring the weighted parts of your entry. |

**0.1 Please provide the name of your proposed solution. \***

#### If your solution does not yet have a name, please feel free to give it a temporary one for the purpose of your entry. The answer to this question will be used as the unique identifier for each submission.

**0.2 Explain your solution in one sentence. \***

#### Limit: 150 words

**0.3 Explain your solution in up to 500 words. \***

#### Limit: 500 words

#### Please elaborate on what your solution does, how it addresses the challenge statement, and how you plan to develop it if selected as a finalist for the Manchester Prize. You do not need to include information about your team as we'll ask you about that below.

**0.4 How would you describe the current state of development of your solution? \***

* Basic principles or technology concepts formulated (approximately TRL 1-2)
* System development, proof of concept (approximately TRL 3-4)
* Application development (approximately TRL 5-6)
* Validation (approximately TRL 6-7)
* Deployment (approximately TRL 8-9)

#### TRL (Technology readiness levels) are used to help determine the maturity level of a particular technology. There is no minimum level of development to enter the Prize. The prize will not fund established solutions that are already available in the market but will consider applications of solutions already in the market where this solution is applied to a new use case.

**0.5 What stage of development do you expect your solution to be at by the end of the Manchester Prize? \***

* Basic principles or technology concepts formulated (approximately TRL1-2)
* System development, proof of concept (approximately TRL3-4)
* Application development (approximately TRL5-6)
* Validation (approximately TRL6-7)
* Deployment (approximately TRL8-9)

#### The end of the Manchester Prize is January 2026. Entrants will be expected to have at minimum a working prototype (approximately TRL 6) that can be demonstrated by this point. Finalists who enter to win the grand prize will be asked to quantify and be judged on, the potential impact of their solution in terms of the amount of greenhouse gas emissions saved by 2030, and in the longer term.

2b. Judging Criteria

### ***This section is scored against the Judging Criteria.*** *Judges and assessors will use the information provided to assess your entry.*

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| **Judging criterion 1: Innovation - 20% Weighting**  Teams should demonstrate how their solution is an innovation in artificial intelligence (AI), compared to what is the current state of the art. This may be innovation in the underlying AI, a novel application of an existing AI approach, or both. (Innovation in the business model, marketing, or service design is not taken into account - these feature in other judging criteria.) |

**1.1 Explain how your solution is innovative in its underlying AI and/or in its application of AI. Refer to how it differs from and improves on what is currently available. \***

*Limit: 300 words*

*Your answer should explain how your solution is doing something new. It may take a novel technical approach or solve a problem in the underlying AI; and/or it may be an application of existing AI technologies to solve a problem better than how it is currently being addressed.*

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| **Judging Criterion 2: Impact - 20% Weighting**  Teams should explain how their solution will deliver on at least one of the following:   * accelerate the UK’s transition to clean energy technologies at scale * enable efficient or low-cost operations of clean energy systems * significantly reduce energy demand, or optimise energy usage   Teams should indicate the speed and scale at which they expect this impact to be achieved, expected impacts by 2030, and anticipated longer-term impacts.  Throughout the prize, teams will be asked to quantify this impact in expected greenhouse gas emissions saved. |

**2.1 Which of the three highlighted issues does your solution address, please provide details of how your solution does this. \*** [Multiple Choice]

* accelerate the UK’s transition to clean energy technologies at scale
* enable efficient or low-cost operations of clean energy systems in the
* significantly reduce energy demand, or optimise energy usage

**2.2 Explain how your solution addresses one or more of the issues you selected in 2.1. Why is it better than alternative approaches, and what impact might you hope to achieve in the timelines laid out in the judging criteria above (2030 + longer term) \***

#### Your answer should demonstrate how your solution will have an impact in the UK. Your answer should provide details on how your solution will help address the highlighted issues and why the approach you are taking is a highly effective way of doing so. You may wish to refer to any research you have carried out and compare your approach to any other solutions that you know are currently in development.

#### Limit: 300 words

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| **Judging Criterion 3: Feasibility - 20% Weighting**  The team should show how their scientific and technical approach is appropriate and how the team has the capacity to deliver a working prototype by January 2026. |

### **3.1 Briefly outline the scientific and technical approach you use in your solution. How will you develop this to meet the aims of the challenge by the end of the Manchester Prize? \***

#### Limit: 300 words

#### Your answer should provide the judges with sufficient information to understand how your solution works, what its key components are, and what their stage of technological maturity is.

### **3.2 Outline your core team’s capabilities and your plan to fill any identified gaps. \***

#### Limit: 300 words

#### Your answer should articulate the key roles and capabilities needed to deliver your solution, the composition of your team and their relevant capabilities. You should also identify any gaps and explain how you intend to address them.

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| **Judging Criterion 4: Long-term Viability - 20% Weighting**  Teams should articulate why there is a credible path to adoption (commercial or non-commercial), and what their plan is to pursue it. |

**4.1 Outline what you think the addressable market for your solution is. Who are the customers or users? \***

#### Your answer should explain what you think the market for your solution is (such as who the customers or users are likely to be, and what the scale of this addressable market is), including any evidence you have for this.

#### Limit: 300 words

**4.2 What is your strategy/plan for how you will reach this market? How will you create sustainable adoption of your solution? \***

#### Your answer should briefly explain how you intend to pursue the market opportunity - including your customer acquisition strategy, any key milestones on your pathway, or different options you might follow. You should explain why your business model is appropriate for the market you are seeking.

#### Limit: 400 words

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| **Judging Criterion 5: Safety, ethics and sustainability - 20% Weighting**  The team should show they are taking action to showcase best practice in developing and deploying safe and ethical AI, and how they are assessing and mitigating risks to environmental sustainability posed by their solution. |

**5.1 Outline the key risks you have identified related to the ethical and responsible development and use of your tool (these could be risks relating to transparency, fairness, accountability, privacy or safety, for example) . What is your approach to mitigating these? \***

#### Please set out how your solution showcases best practice in responsible innovation.

#### Limit: 200 words

**5.2 Tell us about the approach you take to minimise the environmental impact of the development and deployment of your solution. What is the interplay between the positive impact of your solution on GHGs versus the negative impact on GHG emissions created to develop and deploy your solution?**\*

#### Limit: 200 words

## Part D: Declaration

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|  | I confirm that I have read the eligibility criteria, that I am eligible for the Prize, and that should I cease to comply with the eligibility criteria, I will immediately inform Challenge Works. |
|  | I confirm that by submitting an entry I commit to maintaining a high standard of data and AI ethics, and agree to undergo an ethics assessment should I be selected as a finalist. |
|  | I confirm that all the information in this entry is correct to the best of my knowledge. |