

DISTEC CHALLENGE - OFFICIAL RULES

IT²EC 2024

The DisTec Challenge hosted in collaboration with the Defence Science Technology Laboratory (Dstl) at IT²EC on the 10th of April 2024 at the ExCel, London, aims to address and innovate in areas requiring cutting-edge solutions. The primary focus is on enhancing training methodologies and incorporating advanced technologies for the future workforce whilst addressing a problem or challenge faced by today's end-users. This provides an opportunity for SMEs to demonstrate innovation and thought leadership. Entrants to the challenge are required to adhere to the Official Rules and the decisions made by the Host and Judges.

COMPETITION TIMELINE

Submissions Open	31 st January 2024
Submissions Close	8 th March 2024
Finalists Selected	22 nd March 2024
DisTec Challenge Live Presentations at IT ² EC and announcement of Winner	10 th April 2024

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

All entrants must be eligible to attend IT²EC in person on the 10th of April 2024. Due to security restrictions to the exhibition, entrants must be 18 years or older and successfully pass security checks during event registration.

Submitted technologies can either be existing products not currently utilised in the Defence market or the UK, or new innovative disruptive technologies addressing the challenge outlined.

HOW TO ENTER

To enter the challenge, Entrants eligible under the Official Rules must submit all required materials to the Submission form available on the IT²EC website by the specified deadline.

The submission form will require:

- Topic Title/ Product Title
- Short abstract of the presented solution (max 1 side A4)
- Entrant details (Full Name, Job Title, Company, and contact details).

To maintain fairness, photographs and videos will be excluded and judging will be conducted anonymously.

JUDGING

FINALIST SELECTION PROCESS

Submissions will be judged by the Future Workforce & Training (FWT) programme team at Dstl. All submissions will be provided to the judging panel anonymously by the Lead Conference producer to prevent bias. After finalists are selected, Dstl will receive the full submission list to expose entrants' ideas.

FINALIST PACKAGE

Each Finalist will receive:

1. Full Speaker registration
 - a. No more than two (2) per Finalist entrant
 - b. Access to the exhibition (IT²EC and collocated UDT) and IT²EC Main Conference including catering, for the three days.
2. Profile in DisTec Challenge literature/Website and DisTec agenda
3. Right to use the official DisTec Challenge banner and finalist logo (provided by DisTec Challenge) in promotional materials.
4. Speaking opportunity at the DisTec theatre. All finalists will present their solution on stage with supporting presentation slides or physical products to demonstrate.

NOTIFICATION

The three finalists will be contacted on March 22nd. If the lead Conference Producer is unable to contact a Finalist within 5 working days of notification, an alternate Finalist will be selected.

EVENT ATTENDANCE – MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

Finalists agree to attend IT²EC, or if unable to attend, provide a proxy attendee with the ability to present the submitted solution on stage.

FINALIST RESPONSIBILITIES

Finalists are responsible for travel and accommodation costs, and any additional equipment required for their presentation.

WINNING

Representatives from Dstl will attend the Finalists' presentations, and deliberate, and then Air Vice-Marshal Gary Waterfall CBE, Senior Defence Advisor will announce the winner on stage. The winner will receive commendation from Dstl and a free stand for next year's show at IT²EC, with the announcement also made on the event's social media and website. The stand will be selected and provided by the IT²EC sales team in the lead-up to the 2025 show.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

PRESS

Media will be present in the theatre, and as standard, we do not operate under the Chatham House Rule.

LEGAL RESTRICTIONS

Speakers should be aware of topics subject to licensing restrictions, especially Category A goods, requiring a valid Standard Individual Trade Control Licence (SITCL) from the Export Control Joint Unit.

For further details please refer to our website.