

DUALTECH CHALLENGE - OFFICIAL RULES

ITEC 2026

The DualTech Challenge hosted in collaboration with the Defence Science Technology Laboratory (Dstl) at ITEC on the 15th of April 2026 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, academia, and research organisations 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	9 th February 2026
Submissions Close	16 th March 2026
Finalists Selected	30 th March 2026
DualTech Challenge Live Presentations at ITEC and announcement of Winner	15 th April 2026

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

All entrants must be eligible to attend ITEC in person on the 15th of April 2026. 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 ITEC website by the specified deadline.

The submission form will require:

- Topic Title/ Product Title
- Short abstract of the presented solution (max 650 words)
- Entrant details (Full Name, Job Title, Company, and contact details).

To maintain fairness, all submissions will be provided to the judging panel anonymously by the ITEC team to prevent bias.

JUDGING

FINALIST SELECTION PROCESS

Submissions will be assessed by Dstl and Front Line Command Stakeholders. Three finalists will be selected by a Dstl-led judging panel to showcase their innovations live on stage at ITEC 2026. The winner will receive a commendation and a complimentary pod at ITEC 2027, offering unparalleled credibility and exposure within the industry.

FINALIST PACKAGE

Each Finalist will receive:

1. Full Speaker registration
 - a. No more than two (2) per Finalist entrant
 - b. Access to the exhibition and ITEC Main Conference including catering, for the three days.
2. Profile in DualTech Challenge literature/Website and DualTech agenda
3. Right to use the official DualTech Challenge banner and finalist logo (provided by DualTech Challenge) in promotional materials.
4. Speaking opportunity at the DualTech 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 30th. 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 ITEC, 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 ITEC Committee Chair, Tim Colebrooke will announce the winner on stage. The winner will receive commendation from Dstl and a free pod at ITEC 2027, with the announcement also made on the event's social media and website. The pod will be selected and provided by the ITEC sales team in the lead-up to the 2027 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.