

# YAS Innovation Competition - Terms, Conditions and Participation Guidelines

Welcome to the **YAS Innovation Competition!**

This contest is run during the days of the Young Algaeneer Symposium (YAS) and designed to foster creativity, entrepreneurship, and scientific innovation among YAS participants. It is the opportunity for you to showcase your novel business or scientific idea in the fields of **microalgae and/or seaweed**.

By registering for the Innovation Competition, you confirm that you have **read and respect the terms and conditions mentioned in this document**.

## Eligibility Criteria

- The majority of the team and the delegate (see below) must be Young Algaeneers. We define a Young Algaeneer as a MSc, PhD student, Postdoc or entrepreneur in the algae sector with up to 5 years of experience in the field.
- Scientific or business ideas must be original and related to the algae sector (microalgae and/or seaweed).
- You can participate in the Innovation Competition and at the same time submit a poster, but you cannot present the same results or projects in both submissions.
- Your application is not eligible if your idea comes from a startup/company with products or services already on the market.
- If you are selected for pitching your idea, at least one member of your team (the delegate) must register and attend YAS 2024.

## Delegates

Each idea-submission must have a person responsible for the whole team, which we call a delegate. This person must attend YAS24 and be a Young Algaeneer.

The delegate is responsible for:

- Communicating with the YAS24 Organization-team and with their own team members.
- Ensures the delivery of content materials for the presenting day (e.g. pitch presentation).
- Receiving team prizes and ensuring a fair distribution among team members.

## Important Dates

- Submission Deadline: 10.04.2024
- Notification of Acceptance: 10.05.2024
- Competition Date: 27.05.2024 to 30.05.2024

## Registration

All registration elements are to be submitted through the official online form - [here](#).

### You should send us:

- Personal and affiliation details of all the participants (mandatory)
- Abstract (**200-300 words**) describing your business or scientific idea (mandatory)
- Team photo and/or logotype (optional)
- Other relevant files, which could be a graphical abstract, prototype pictures, illustrations, videos, business model canvas, as others (optional)

## Abstract Guidelines

Submit a 200-300 word abstract that concisely captures your algae-related idea. Use [our template](#) and focus on its unique aspects and how it pushes boundaries in algae research or business. Describe its scientific robustness or business potential, relevance to the algae sector, practical feasibility, and sustainability aspects. If you have a scientific proposal, consider including references that support the rationale behind your idea.

Please include the name of the team/idea in the abstract. If you don't have a name, come up with one, perhaps using one of these 3 approaches:

- Combine Key Concepts: Blend words that are central to your theme. For example, If you have an idea about utilising microalgae for bioremediation, you might blend words related to "algae," "cleaning," and "environment." A possible name could be "AlgaClean Solutions" or "BioRemAlgae Innovators.
- Use Acronyms: Create an acronym from words that describe your project's main attributes or goals.
- Reflect Your Unique Approach: Choose a name that captures the essence of what makes your project different.

Attention: Abstracts will be made available to all YAS24 participants in the Book of Abstracts.

## Evaluation Criteria

Teams participating in the YAS Innovation Competition will be evaluated by a panel of experts comprising scientists, industry leaders, and entrepreneurs. Each submission will be assessed based on the following criteria:

### **1- Innovation and Originality (30%):**

- Degree of novelty: How the idea/project introduces new concepts or approaches in the field of algae.
- Creative use of technology or methodology.

### **2- Scientific and/or Business Potential (20%):**

- Scientific merit: Robustness and rigour of the scientific approach (for research-based projects).
- Business viability: Market potential, scalability, and economic feasibility (for entrepreneurial ventures).

### **3- Relevance to the Algae sector (15%):**

- Alignment with the field: The significance of the project in advancing knowledge or applications in the algae sector.
- Potential impact on the industry or research community.

### **4- Feasibility and Sustainability (15%):**

- Practicality: Realistic assessment of resources, time, and expertise required for implementation.
- Sustainability: Environmental and economic sustainability of the idea or project.

### **5- Overall Impact (10%):**

- Potential benefits to society, environment, or the economy.
- Contribution to addressing global challenges or advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### **6- Quality of Pitch Presentation (10%):**

- Clarity and effectiveness of the pitch presentation.
- Ability to communicate the idea clearly and engage the audience.

Each criterion will carry a certain percentage of the total score, adding up to 100%. The panel will use a standardised scoring rubric to ensure a fair and comprehensive evaluation of all entries. The combined scores from each criterion will determine the winners of the competition.

The pre-selection of the teams coming to YAS24 will also be assessed using the established evaluation criteria, with the exception of item 6.

## Pitch Presentation Format

- Selected participants will present their business or scientific ideas in a typical pitch format at YAS 2024 in Vannes.
- Presentations can include slides and other visual aids.
- Pitches will have a Q&A session after each presentation.
- More information will be given regarding the duration of pitches and Q&A session

## Awards and Recognition

There will be 3 cash-winning prizes:

- **Best algae-business idea** - 750 €
- **Best algae-scientific idea** - 750 €
- **Best public-voted idea** - one YAS2025 entry

In addition winners will receive:

- Recognition through YAS 2024 communication channels.

All participants will receive:

- A certificate of participation

## Contact Information

- For inquiries: [algaeneers@gmail.com](mailto:algaeneers@gmail.com)
- Symposium website: <https://yas.eaba-association.org/en>

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By participating in this event, you are agreeing to all the terms and conditions presented in this document.

1. Awarded prizes and recognition by this event are non-transferable and non-exchangeable, and no cash alternatives will be provided. We reserve the right to substitute prizes of equal value if circumstances beyond our control require doing so.
2. In the event that the winning team declines a prize or is unable to accept it due to unforeseen circumstances, the prize will be awarded to the team with the next highest score in the competition. This ensures that the prize is

allocated to a deserving team in line with the competition's standards and criteria.

3. While YAS is accountable for delivering the prizes to the winning teams' delegates, it does not bear responsibility for the proper allocation of these prizes within each team.
4. Whatever decision the Young Algaeneers Symposium (YAS) makes regarding any aspect of the competition, it is conclusive and cannot be challenged or appealed. This could refer to decisions about winners, rules, prize distribution, or any other competition-related matters. Hence, YAS's decision on any aspect of this competition is final and binding, and no correspondence will be entered into about it.
5. YAS accepts no liability for any damage, loss or injury suffered by entrants as a result of participating in the competition or being selected for a prize.
6. YAS reserves the right, at any time and without prior notice to cancel the competition or amend these terms and conditions.

By participating in the YAS Innovation Competition, you are acknowledging the following terms about data protection and publicity terms:

1. YAS takes the confidentiality of your ideas seriously. However, it's important to recognize that complete protection of your idea cannot be assured. Hence, we encourage you to carefully consider the details you provide in your submission or in your pitch presentation. This approach helps to balance the opportunity for showcasing your innovation while protecting its core proprietary elements.
2. You agree that any personal or group information that you provide, such as your name, country of origin, project or team affiliation, team name, or the title of your idea may be shared on YAS communication channels.
3. By participating in the YAS Innovation Competition, you consent to the use of your image, voice, and any video or photographic content captured during the event in promotional materials, publications, and on the YAS website and social media channels. This may include, but is not limited to, photographs and videos of your participation, presentations, and any award ceremonies. We assure that your data, including details, images and recordings will be used respectfully and solely for the purposes of promoting YAS and its activities. If you have specific concerns about the use of your image or other personal details, please inform the YAS Organising Team prior to the event.