

AIGS INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2026

OFFICIAL RULES / TERMS & CONDITIONS

Draft for Legal Review

NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. PURCHASE DOES NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED BY LAW.

These Terms and Conditions govern participation in the **AIGS Innovation Challenge 2026** (the “Challenge”), hosted in partnership with **Progress Software Corporation** (“Progress”), **AIGS**, and **AIE – Academic Institute of Excellence** (“AIE”), as applicable.

These Terms and Conditions are intended for legal review and approval before publication.

1. Eligibility

The Challenge is open to eligible individuals who:

- a. are at least eighteen (18) years of age, or the age of legal majority in their jurisdiction of residence, whichever is older;
- b. are legally permitted to participate in the Challenge under applicable laws, regulations, academic policies, employer policies, and contractual obligations;
- c. have access to the Internet during the Challenge period; and
- d. are able to participate in the required online and/or in-person elements of the Challenge.

The Challenge is primarily intended for participants based in South Africa, including eligible students from AIE, but may be open to additional participants at the discretion of the organisers.

Employees, officers, directors, contractors, and agents of Progress, AIGS, AIE, their subsidiaries, affiliates, advertising or promotional agencies, and immediate family

members or household members of such individuals may be ineligible to win prizes, unless otherwise approved in writing by the organisers and permitted by applicable law.

The organisers reserve the right to verify eligibility and to disqualify any participant whose participation would breach these Terms and Conditions, applicable law, institutional policy, employer policy, sanctions requirements, export-control restrictions, or any other legal or regulatory obligation.

2. Challenge Period and Key Dates

The Challenge will take place according to the following schedule:

- **Launch and submission period:** Wednesday, 15 July 2026
- **Judging / adjudication:** Thursday, 16 July 2026
- **Online presentations and prize-giving with AIE:** Friday, 24 July 2026

All submissions must be received by the deadline communicated on the official Challenge landing page, registration page, or participant communications.

The organisers reserve the right to amend the schedule, submission deadline, judging process, presentation format, or prize-giving date where reasonably necessary, provided that any material changes are communicated to participants.

3. Location and Format

The Challenge will include online participation and may include in-person elements hosted at the AIE campus:

AIE – Academic Institute of Excellence

Waterfall Midrand, Johannesburg Campus

Oracle Close

Halfway Gardens

Midrand, 1686

South Africa

Participants are responsible for arranging their own travel, accommodation, insurance, equipment, and any related costs unless expressly stated otherwise in writing by the organisers.

Participation in any in-person component is subject to venue rules, health and safety requirements, security procedures, and any reasonable instructions issued by Progress, AIGS, AIE, or their representatives.

4. How to Enter

To enter the Challenge, participants must:

1. register through the official Challenge registration form or landing page;
2. provide complete and accurate registration information;
3. comply with all Challenge instructions, deadlines, and submission requirements; and
4. submit an eligible project entry through the official submission method communicated by the organisers.

Unless otherwise stated, there is a limit of one (1) entry per participant or team.

If team participation is permitted, each team must identify one team lead who will act as the primary point of contact. Where a team wins a prize, the organisers may award the prize to the designated team lead or distribute it in another manner determined by the organisers and approved by Legal. The team is solely responsible for any internal allocation or sharing of the prize.

By registering for and participating in the Challenge, participants agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions and by the decisions of the organisers and judges, which are final and binding in all matters relating to the Challenge.

5. Challenge Objective

The AIGS Innovation Challenge invites participants to design, build, or present an innovative solution that demonstrates practical use of Progress technology, OpenEdge, AI,

automation, data, application modernisation, or related technologies, as specified in the Challenge brief.

Submissions should aim to solve a credible business, technical, social, operational, or educational challenge and should demonstrate practical value, creativity, and technical feasibility.

The exact Challenge theme, technical requirements, available tools, and judging expectations will be communicated through the official Challenge materials.

6. Entry Requirements and Required Deliverables

Each entry should include the deliverables specified in the official Challenge brief. These may include, but are not limited to:

- a working prototype, proof of concept, demo, or clearly documented concept;
- a short recorded or live demonstration;
- a description of the problem being solved;
- an explanation of the proposed solution;
- technical documentation or architecture overview;
- a business, social, educational, or operational impact statement;
- source code, repository access, screenshots, or supporting materials, where applicable; and
- any additional materials requested by the organisers.

Submissions must be original to the participant or team, or must clearly identify any third-party components, open-source materials, datasets, AI-generated content, APIs, models, frameworks, templates, or pre-existing work used in the submission.

Participants must ensure they have all necessary rights, permissions, licences, and approvals to submit their entry and to allow the organisers to review, judge, display, and promote it in connection with the Challenge.

7. Content and Conduct Restrictions

Entries and participant conduct must not:

- a. violate any applicable law, regulation, institutional policy, employer policy, or third-party right;
- b. contain unlawful, defamatory, obscene, hateful, harassing, discriminatory, threatening, or otherwise inappropriate content;
- c. infringe any intellectual property, privacy, publicity, confidentiality, moral, contractual, or proprietary rights of any third party;
- d. include malware, spyware, ransomware, exploits, credential-harvesting tools, destructive code, or code intended to disrupt, damage, or gain unauthorised access to any system, network, device, or data;
- e. include sensitive personal information, confidential information, trade secrets, or regulated data unless the participant has obtained all required permissions and has implemented appropriate safeguards;
- f. misrepresent authorship, ownership, eligibility, technical capability, performance, or functionality;
- g. use AI-generated content, datasets, or third-party tools in a way that breaches applicable terms, policies, laws, or ethical requirements; or
- h. bring Progress, AIGS, AIE, the judges, sponsors, partners, or other participants into disrepute.

The organisers may disqualify any participant or entry that breaches these requirements or is otherwise deemed unsuitable, unsafe, unlawful, or inconsistent with the spirit of the Challenge.

8. Use of AI, Data, and Third-Party Services

Participants are responsible for ensuring that any AI tools, APIs, models, datasets, third-party platforms, open-source software, or external services used in their entry are used lawfully and in accordance with applicable terms and licences.

Participants must not submit confidential, sensitive, proprietary, or personal information to any AI tool, repository, demo environment, or third-party service unless they have the legal right and appropriate consent or authorisation to do so.

Participants should avoid including real personal information in submissions, demos, training data, retrieval corpora, screenshots, or repositories. Where sample data is required, synthetic or anonymised data should be used wherever possible.

9. Judging Criteria and Winner Selection

Eligible submissions will be reviewed by a panel of judges selected by the organisers.

Submissions may be judged against criteria such as:

- **Innovation and creativity** – originality and quality of the idea;
- **Technical execution** – feasibility, architecture, functionality, and quality of implementation;
- **Use of Progress technology / relevant technology stack** – appropriate and effective use of the required or recommended technologies;
- **AI and automation value** – effective, responsible, and practical use of AI, automation, agents, RAG, data, or related capabilities where applicable;
- **Business, educational, or social impact** – clarity of the problem, relevance of the solution, and potential value;
- **User experience** – usability, clarity, accessibility, and presentation quality;
- **Production readiness** – security, scalability, reliability, maintainability, and operational considerations; and
- **Presentation and demo quality** – ability to communicate the solution clearly and persuasively.

The entry or entries receiving the highest overall scores, as determined by the judges, will be selected as potential winner(s), subject to verification and compliance with these Terms and Conditions.

In the event of a tie, the judges may apply a tie-breaker based on innovation, technical execution, business impact, or another criterion determined by the organisers.

The judges' decisions are final and binding, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding judging outcomes, except as required by applicable law.

10. Prizes

The prize or prizes for the Challenge will be described on the official Challenge landing page, registration page, or participant communications.

Legal to confirm prize details before publication:

- prize type;
- prize value;
- number of prizes;
- whether prizes are awarded to individuals or teams;
- whether cash, vouchers, devices, experiences, certificates, or other recognition will be provided;
- any tax, exchange-control, banking, or payment requirements; and
- whether any additional sponsor terms apply.

No substitution, transfer, or cash alternative is permitted unless expressly approved by the organisers. The organisers reserve the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value if the advertised prize becomes unavailable or impracticable to award.

If a prize is awarded to a team, the organisers may award the prize to the designated team lead, unless otherwise communicated. The team is solely responsible for deciding how the prize is shared among team members.

Prizes are awarded “as is” and without warranties, representations, or guarantees of any kind, except those that cannot be excluded under applicable law.

11. Winner Notification and Verification

Potential winners may be notified during the online presentations, prize-giving session, by email, by phone, or through another contact method provided during registration.

Potential winners may be required to complete and return eligibility confirmations, prize-acceptance documentation, tax or payment documentation, identity verification, publicity releases, or other documents reasonably required by the organisers.

If a potential winner:

- a. cannot be contacted;
- b. fails to respond within the required timeframe;
- c. is found to be ineligible;
- d. fails to provide required documentation;
- e. refuses or is unable to accept the prize; or
- f. breaches these Terms and Conditions,

the organisers may disqualify that participant or team and select an alternate winner.

12. Taxes and Costs

All taxes, duties, levies, charges, banking fees, currency-conversion fees, and any other costs associated with accepting or using a prize are the sole responsibility of the winner, unless otherwise required by law or expressly stated in writing by the organisers.

The organisers may require winners to provide tax, identity, banking, or payment information before a prize is issued.

Participants are responsible for all costs associated with entering and participating in the Challenge, including Internet access, equipment, software, travel, accommodation, meals, insurance, and incidental expenses, unless expressly stated otherwise in writing.

13. Intellectual Property

Participants retain ownership of their pre-existing intellectual property and, subject to any applicable employment, academic, open-source, or third-party obligations, ownership of the intellectual property they create as part of their entry.

By submitting an entry, each participant grants Progress, AIGS, AIE, and their respective affiliates, partners, sponsors, and representatives a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free licence to review, evaluate, test, display, reproduce, publish, communicate, and promote the entry, participant name, team name, project name, screenshots, demo materials, and related submission content for purposes connected with the Challenge, including judging, event communications, internal reporting, marketing, publicity, and post-event promotion.

This licence does not transfer ownership of the participant's entry to the organisers.

Participants are responsible for ensuring their submissions do not disclose confidential information or proprietary materials that they do not have authority to share.

The organisers are not required to treat entries as confidential unless a separate written confidentiality agreement has been signed by an authorised representative of the relevant organiser.

14. Privacy and Personal Information

Personal information submitted in connection with the Challenge will be processed in accordance with applicable privacy laws, including the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 ("POPIA"), where applicable, and the relevant privacy notices of Progress, AIGS, and/or AIE.

Personal information may be collected and processed for purposes including:

- administering the Challenge;
- processing registrations;
- communicating with participants;
- verifying eligibility;
- judging submissions;
- organising presentations and prize-giving;
- awarding prizes;
- complying with legal, tax, audit, security, and regulatory requirements; and
- promoting the Challenge and related activities, where permitted.

Participants may be asked to provide information such as name, email address, phone number, institution, course or organisation, country, project details, submission materials, and prize-payment information where applicable.

Where required by law, participants will be given a separate opportunity to opt in to marketing communications. Consent to marketing communications should not be a condition of entry unless approved by Legal.

Participants may unsubscribe from marketing communications at any time using the unsubscribe mechanism provided in the relevant communication.

15. Publicity

Except where prohibited by law, participation in the Challenge constitutes consent for the organisers to use a participant's name, likeness, image, voice, institution or organisation, team name, project name, statements, photographs, video recordings, screenshots, and submission materials for Challenge-related publicity, marketing, internal communications, social media, websites, presentations, press releases, and other promotional purposes, without further payment or consideration.

Where required by law, the organisers may request a separate publicity release before using a participant's image, voice, or personal information for promotional purposes.

Participants who do not wish to appear in photographs, recordings, or promotional materials should notify the organisers in writing before participating in any recorded or photographed activity.

16. Participant Warranties and Representations

By entering the Challenge, each participant represents and warrants that:

- a. all registration and submission information provided is true, complete, and accurate;
- b. the participant meets the eligibility requirements;
- c. the participant has the right to participate and submit the entry;
- d. the entry is original or properly licensed, credited, and authorised;
- e. the entry does not infringe any intellectual property, privacy, publicity, confidentiality, contractual, moral, or other rights of any third party;
- f. the entry does not contain unlawful, harmful, discriminatory, malicious, or prohibited content;
- g. the participant has complied with all applicable laws, policies, licences, terms of service, and permissions;
- h. the participant has obtained all required permissions for any third-party materials, data, software, tools, or AI-generated content included in the entry; and

i. participation does not breach any obligation owed to an employer, academic institution, sponsor, client, or other third party.

17. General Conditions

The organisers reserve the right to cancel, suspend, extend, terminate, or modify the Challenge if fraud, technical failure, security concerns, unlawful conduct, force majeure, venue issues, insufficient participation, judging concerns, or any other factor impairs the integrity, fairness, safety, or proper operation of the Challenge.

The organisers may disqualify any participant or team who:

- tampers with the entry process;
- submits false or misleading information;
- breaches these Terms and Conditions;
- acts in an unsportsmanlike, disruptive, abusive, discriminatory, or unlawful manner;
- attempts to interfere with judging or the operation of the Challenge;
- compromises the security or integrity of any system, platform, participant, sponsor, or organiser; or
- otherwise acts contrary to the spirit of the Challenge.

The organisers are not responsible for lost, late, incomplete, corrupted, misdirected, inaccessible, or failed registrations or submissions, including those caused by technical errors, Internet issues, platform outages, email filtering, hardware or software failures, or unauthorised human intervention.

If a submission is lost, deleted, corrupted, or inaccessible, the participant's sole remedy is to resubmit the entry before the applicable deadline, where time permits.

18. Limitation of Liability and Release

To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, by participating in the Challenge, participants agree to release and hold harmless Progress, AIGS, AIE, their affiliates, subsidiaries, sponsors, partners, officers, directors, employees, contractors, agents,

representatives, judges, and service providers from and against any claims, losses, damages, liabilities, costs, expenses, injuries, or causes of action arising out of or related to participation in the Challenge, any submission, any prize, any travel, any in-person attendance, or any use or misuse of a prize.

Nothing in these Terms and Conditions excludes or limits liability where such exclusion or limitation is not permitted by applicable law.

Participants are responsible for their own health, safety, belongings, equipment, travel, insurance, and conduct when attending any in-person component of the Challenge.

19. Disputes and Governing Law

Legal to confirm appropriate governing law and dispute-resolution approach.

Subject to applicable law, these Terms and Conditions and any dispute arising out of or in connection with the Challenge shall be governed by the laws of **[South Africa / Commonwealth of Massachusetts / other jurisdiction to be confirmed by Legal]**.

Where permitted by law, participants agree that any disputes, claims, or causes of action arising out of or connected with the Challenge will be resolved individually and not as part of any class, collective, or representative action.

The organisers reserve the right to seek injunctive or equitable relief in any competent court to protect intellectual property, confidential information, security, or the integrity of the Challenge.

20. Compliance with South African Law

The Challenge is intended to comply with applicable South African laws and regulations, including, where applicable, the Consumer Protection Act, 2008, POPIA, and any other relevant laws governing competitions, marketing, consumer protection, privacy, and electronic communications.

Where the Challenge is considered a promotional competition under South African law, the organisers may be required to comply with additional requirements relating to

disclosures, prize administration, record-keeping, winner selection, and participant communications.

Legal should confirm whether the Challenge is classified as a promotional competition, skill-based competition, educational challenge, or another category under South African law, and whether any additional notices, records, filings, or processes are required.

21. Sponsor / Promoter

Sponsor / Promoter details to be confirmed by Legal before publication.

Potential parties may include:

Progress Software Corporation

15 Wayside Road
4th Floor, Suite 400
Burlington, MA 01803
United States

and/or

AIGS

[Legal entity name, address, and contact details to be inserted]

and/or

AIE – Academic Institute of Excellence

Waterfall Midrand, Johannesburg Campus
Oracle Close
Halfway Gardens
Midrand, 1686
South Africa

For questions about the Challenge, participants may contact:

[Insert official contact email]

22. Precedence

These Terms and Conditions constitute the official rules of the Challenge. In the event of any inconsistency between these Terms and Conditions and any advertising, social media post, email, landing page, verbal statement, or other communication, these Terms and Conditions will prevail, unless expressly amended in writing by the organisers.

The organisers may update these Terms and Conditions where reasonably necessary. Any material updates will be communicated through the official Challenge website, landing page, email, or other appropriate channel.