

Terms & Conditions

AI4Blades Challenge 2025

ARTICLE 1 – ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

1.1 WindEurope (hereafter referred to, collectively, as “Organizer”) is organising a challenge called the “AI4Blades Challenge” (hereafter referred to as “Challenge”), from 1 January to 20 June 2025.

ARTICLE 2 – OBJECTIVE OF THE COMPETITION

2.1 The aim of the Competition is to develop, in teams, an innovative solution using datasets provided by the Organiser. Participants are encouraged to explore a wide range of applications using the dataset. Potential tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Training AI models to detect thermal turbulence patterns (TTP) and surface damage on rotor blades.
- Matching visual and thermal images to study the effects of leading-edge erosion and turbulent flow.
- Deducing additional parameters or insights relevant to turbine performance, maintenance, or aerodynamics using AI techniques.

ARTICLE 3 – PARTICIPATION PROCESS

3.1 The Challenge is free of charge to enter and participate in. The Challenge is open to every individual, i) who is of the age required by law in their country of residence to enter this Competition, (ii) who holds a bank account in their country of tax residence, and iii) who has the relevant skills for the Challenge (hereafter referred to as “Participant”). Both teams from the academic world and the industry are welcome, whereby cooperation between the two is particularly desirable and will be given a positive consideration in the evaluation.

3.2 Employees, directors and consultants of WindEurope and/or their affiliates, and members of their families, as well as any third party who has directly or indirectly contributed to the conception, organization or realization of the Competition are ineligible to take part in the Competition.

3.3 The registration for the Challenge is open from 13 January 2025 until 31 March 2025. Unless the Organiser officially extends the registrations deadline, all registration applications received after this closing date will be automatically disqualified.

3.4 Each registration in the Challenge must be made by teams of 2 to 4 participants with one registration per team. A participant can only be part of one team in this Challenge.

3.5 A minimum of 10 teams must be reached for the competition to take place. *The Organizer may lower this requirement at their sole discretion.*

3.6 Registration for the Challenge is not equal to registration to attend the Event at which the finalists will present, i.e. Technology Workshop 2025. Presenting participants from the finalists teams will be offered the option to register with either a complimentary 1-day conference pass, or a discounted 2-day event pass.

Phase 1: Registration process

- Date: 13 January 2025 until 31 March 2025
- Object: Every person wishing to participate can register online on the dedicated website for the Competition accessible at the following address: <https://windeurope.org/tech2025/ai4blades-challenge/>

The following details need to be provided for all participants of each team: last name, first name, job title, organisation email address and their profile for the purpose of the Challenge. This information is required for completion of their application.

By registering a team, each Participant guarantees that the information entered during the application to the Competition is complete and accurate. Any false, incorrect or incomplete information will automatically result in the application being rejected. No changes in Participant numbers or names are allowed pending WindEurope approval

The Organizer reserves the right to (i) require a Participant to provide proof that he/she is eligible to participate in the Competition, and (ii) reject an application at any time if the profile of the Participant does not comply with the Competition standards.

The Organizer accepts no responsibility for any applications or registrations that are lost or delayed in transit, irrespective of cause.

Phase 2: Evaluation and selection of finalists

- Date: From 1 April 2025 until 2 May 2025
- Object: The Jury will review and assess each application. They will decide and select the best three (3) applications which will be the finalists invited to present at the Technology Workshop 2025. All submitted applications will be reviewed and judged by the jury according to the below criteria:
 - Degree of innovation compared to conventional inspection methods and their information content
 - Technical complexity of the question and the answer worked out based on the data set provided
 - Industrial relevance and applicability including potential business cases
 - Quality of the live presentation to the jury and of an elaborate scientific publication

Phase 3: Participant confirmation

- Date: Finalist teams will be selected and contacted by mid-May 2025
- Object: A finalist will only be considered as such upon email confirmation from WindEurope on behalf of the Jury and once individual email confirmation of each team of their acceptance and participation confirmation, and that they acknowledge the Terms and Conditions has been received.

Phase 4: Finalists' presentation, jury's selection and winner announcement

- Date: By 12 June 2025
- Object: Each finalist team needs to share their results to be presented at the event, written in a document to WindEurope (specifications will be provided at a later stage). WindEurope will share these with the jury members a couple of days before the event.

Phase 5: Finalists' presentation, jury's selection and winner announcement

- Date: On 19 June 2025
- Place: Hilton Bosphorus, Istanbul, Turkey

- **Object:** One participant from each finalists' team will present their work during a dedicated session in the programme of the Technology Workshop 2025 on 19 June 2025. The jury's deliberation and announcement of winners and prizes will take place on the same day.

ARTICLE 4 – DETERMINATION OF FINALIST AND WINNING TEAM(S)

4.1 The three finalist teams will be determined by a jury set-up by the Organiser.

4.2 The finalist teams will be selected among the registered teams who actually:

- Satisfy the conditions for participation as set forth in these terms and conditions
- Submitted their application within the set time limit

4.3 The winning team will be selected among the finalist teams who actually:

- Submitted their results/work to the Organiser a week before the event in a written form as set forth in these terms and conditions
- Attended and presented their results/work at the event

Jury decisions are final and cannot be challenged.

ARTICLE 5 – PRIZES AWARDED

5.1 The Challenge is endowed as follows:

- **A prize of €3.000 for the winning team.** The amount will be granted to the team and not per individual participant, and the amount will be divided amongst the participants of the team at their sole discretion.
- **Free conference pass to a future WindEurope event for the runner up teams:** each member of the finalist teams will be offered a conference pass for a future WindEurope event, such as the Annual Events, the Technology Workshops or EoLIS (until December 2026). Excluded from these events are the WindEnergy Hamburg Event, the RE-source events and the Renewable Hydrogen Coalition events.

5.2 The Organizer will make all reasonable efforts to contact each Participant who is a member of a winning team. If any such Participant cannot be contacted or is not available or has not claimed their prize within [45] days of the date of announcement of the Challenge results, the Organizer reserves the right to offer such Participant's share of the relevant prize to the other members of his/her Team. The Organizer accepts no responsibility if a Participant is not able to take up his/her prize.]

ARTICLE 6 – COMPENSATION

6.1 The Participant waives all its claims regarding compensation against the Organizer due to its participation in the Challenge (in particular with regards to cost incurred for participation such as the transport, accommodation, etc.).

ARTICLE 7 – MODIFICATION OF THE COMPETITION

7.1 The Organizer reserves the right to shorten, extend, modify, cancel or terminate the Challenge, or any part of the Challenge as a result of (i) a force majeure event, (ii) in order to reflect any change in applicable laws or regulatory requirements, or (iii) to implement minor technical, practical or scheduling adjustments and improvements, in each case without incurring liability as a result thereof.

7.2 In such case, the Organizer will provide notice thereof to the Participants by any means (including e-mail and/or publication on the Website (by its choice), and, if the need arises, will communicate to the Participants the new rules applicable and/or the new end date of the Challenge, as the case may be. Each Participant may notify by e-mail to the Organizer that s/he refuses the new conditions of the Rules, in which case s/he will be automatically excluded from participating in the Challenge, which s/he expressly accepts. If no refusal is notified by a Participant to the Organizer within 72 hours, the new conditions of the Rules will be deemed accepted by such Participant. Save as amended by the foregoing, these terms and conditions shall continue to apply in relation to the modified Competition.

7.3 In case of a modification to the rules, cancellation, modification and/or interruption of the Competition, a reduction or an extension of its length, the Organizer waives all liability, and Participants will not be entitled to any compensation.

ARTICLE 8 – FRAUD AND BREACH OF COMPETITION RULES

8.1 The Organizer may disqualify Participants or cancel all or part of a Team's participation in the Challenge if it appears that fraud has occurred in any form whatsoever, and/or there is a breach of these terms and conditions, or any other rules notified to Participants in relation to the Challenge. The Organizer reserves, in this case, the right not to award prizes to fraudsters or Participants that are in breach, to disqualify the concerned project and/or to bring actions against the authors of these frauds. The Organizer shall not incur any responsibility towards the Participants because of the committed frauds.

ARTICLE 9 – EXPLOITATION RIGHTS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

9.1 Exploitation rights and the property of prototypes developed during the Competition are reserved to Participants.

9.2 If a Participant wishes to assign their rights, they shall first offer to WindEurope the option to acquire the rights in their prototypes for commercial use. The conditions of this assignment of rights shall be defined by way of a separate agreement between WindEurope and the Participant.

9.3 During the Challenge, the Participants shall only use elements which are clear of any rights. Any third parties' elements included in the prototype, including open-source software, must be clearly identified with their version, the terms of the applicable license and any other details regarding their use. The Participant understands that this information is considered in the assessment for the allocation of a prize.

9.4 The prototypes shall not infringe any intellectual property rights or images rights of WindEurope or other third parties. Each Participant warrants to WindEurope that their creation does not infringe in any way any third-party rights, and that s/he obtained, where necessary, the authorization of any third party. Each Participant undertakes to immediately notify WindEurope in writing giving full particulars in any claim that a prototype actually or potentially infringes a third party's intellectual property rights comes to its attention.

9.5 By joining the Challenge, Participants expressly authorize WindEurope for free and without limitation as to time or otherwise, to publish, communicate, exhibit and disclose orally, graphically or in writing through any media whatsoever, projects and prototypes presented during the Challenge. Each Participant agrees to be mediatized (portfolio, website, etc.) and authorizes WindEurope, for free, to present all the works realized on all the communication media used in support of this Challenge as well as to mention names, first names and images of the Participants.

9.6 The Participant shall not acquire any full or partial right of any kind in the name and trademark “WindEurope”, “Technology Workshop”, “Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (BAM)” nor in any names and/or associated brands in association with or as part of another word or name, or any rights on trademarks, names or logos of WindEurope, Technology Workshop, Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (BAM) or any of their associated or related companies.

ARTICLE 10 – IMAGE RIGHTS

10.1 The Participants may be filmed or photographed during the Challenge if they are part of one of the finalists to present during the Technology Workshop. By joining the Challenge, the Participants explicitly agree to the use and the distribution of their image and recordings by the Organizer, including for promotional materials to be issued after the Challenge by signing these Terms & Conditions. The production and distribution of films and photographs of the Challenge in any form whatsoever will not lead to any compensation for the Participants.

10.2 Participants agree not to bring any claim, suit, demand or proceedings of any kind in respect of defamation or violation of personal or property rights in respect of any such use and/or distribution of photographs or films.

ARTICLE 11 – PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

11.1 Each Participant is hereby notified that certain answers in the registration form are mandatory, and that the lack of answering to such mandatory fields will prevent them from participating.

11.2 The collection and processing of personal data relating to the Participant by the Organizer is primarily intended to ensure that the Challenge will be properly completed and in particular to allow the Organizer to contact the winner and to award them the prizes in an efficient way and, if the cases arises, to publish the list of the winners.

11.3 By entering the Challenge, each Participant agrees that any personal information provided by him/her as part of the registration process and/or otherwise in relation to the Challenge may be held and used only by the Organizer to administer the Challenge.

11.4 Personal data which a Participant submits in relation to the Challenge will be treated in accordance with applicable data protection laws, including the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (hereinafter “GDPR” or any successor regulation relating to Data Protection).

11.5 In accordance with the abovementioned law, each Participant has the right to access, update and/or obtain deletion of their data by requesting directly to WindEurope at the following address: Rue Belliard 40, B-1040 Brussels BELGIUM and / or at privacy@windeurope.org.

11.6 For a full overview of WindEurope's privacy policy please go to <https://windeurope.org/privacy-policy/>.

ARTICLE 12 – LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

12.1 As specifically set out herein and to the maximum extent permitted by law, all conditions, warranties and representations expressed or implied by law are hereby excluded.

12.2 Insofar as is permitted by law, the Organizer, its employees, directors of the Challenge will not in any circumstances be responsible or liable to compensate any Participant or accept any liability for any costs, expenses, losses or damage (of any nature whatsoever), personal injury or death occurring as a result of such Participant participating in the Challenge except where it is caused by the fraud or gross negligence of the Organizer, its directors or employees.

12.3 If any provision of these terms and conditions is held to be illegal, invalid, void or otherwise unenforceable, it shall be severed from the remaining provisions which shall continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 13 – APPLICATION OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

13.1 By submitting an application and/or participating in the Challenge, each Participant accepts full acceptance without reservation of these terms and conditions. Participation in the Challenge is strictly personal, and the Participant cannot be replaced or transfer his/her registration unless prior approval in writing is given by the Organiser.

13.2 Any claim relating to the Challenge will be barred after the period of three (3) months from the deadline for participation stipulated in Article 1.

13.3 Any dispute arising in connection with the Challenge or any matter under these terms and conditions, and which could not be settled amicably, will be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Belgian courts.

13.4 These terms and conditions are governed by Belgian law.