

**The 9th China (Shenzhen) Innovation &
Entrepreneurship International Competition**

Competing Manual



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Introduction

China (Shenzhen) Innovation & Entrepreneurship International Competition (hereinafter referred to as “The Competition”) is hosted by Shenzhen Municipal People’s Government and jointly undertaken by Human Resources and Social Security Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality and people’s governments at various district levels for the convenience of international talents’ innovation exchange. Upholding the concept of “Carrying out International Exchange and Cooperation and Sharing Innovative Development Opportunities”, the Competition aims to integrate innovation and entrepreneurship resources, facilitate the connection of overseas innovation and entrepreneurship projects with China’s high-tech industry resources, expand their access to the Chinese market, and achieve mutual benefits and win-win results. It has been successfully held for eight consecutive sessions.

The Competition is deeply linked with various international innovative talents clusters and overseas division competitions will be respectively held in eleven cities: Boston (U.S.A.), London (U.K.), Munich (Germany), Paris (France), Tokyo (Japan), Toronto (Canada), Sydney (Australia), Barcelona (Spain), Eindhoven (Netherlands), Zurich (Switzerland), and Singapore. The Competition features seven industry tracks: New-Generation Electronic Information, Biological Medicine and Health, Digit and Fashion, High-End Equipment Manufacturing, Green and Low-Carbon, New Materials and Marine Economy. Without limitation of participants’ nationality, the

Competition is open to all overseas innovation and entrepreneurship projects.

Bonus of the Competition totally reaches RMB 8.84 million, which includes the bonus of individual participating team up to RMB 750,000 (excluding venture capital investments). Additionally, winning projects that are qualified for settlement in Shenzhen will be awarded with the maximal business start-up subsidies of RMB 1 million. A venture capital pool of RMB 25 billion has been set up by more than 50 investment institutions, which helps support outstanding projects. Equal opportunities of social investment are going to be distributed via the platform to all participating projects. Furthermore, the Competition will establish a comprehensive, full-process overseas talent recruitment and project landing service system, covering a complete range of supporting services including Project Solicitation, Overseas Mentoring, Offshore Preincubation, Online Matchmaking, Visits to Shenzhen, Local Industry Connection, Expert Mentorship, Venture Capital Liaison, Policy Support, and Industrial Park Docking, providing participants with end-to-end settlement and follow-up service.

Events

Deadline

September 30th, 2025



Overseas Division Competitions

October, 2025

Boston (U.S.A.), London (U.K.), Munich (Germany), Paris (France), Tokyo (Japan), Toronto (Canada), Sydney (Australia), Barcelona (Spain), Eindhoven (Netherlands), Zurich (Switzerland), Singapore



Industrial Finals

Late November to early December, 2025

New-Generation Electronic Information, Biological Medicine and Health, Digit and Fashion, High-End Equipment Manufacturing, Green and Low-Carbon, New Materials, Marine Economy



Finals

Late November to early December, 2025

Note: The specific competition time is subject to the latest notice from the Organizing Committee.

Applications & Requirements

(I) Applications & Requirements

1. Overseas high-level entrepreneurial teams or individuals possessing innovative achievements and entrepreneurial plans;

2. Those who currently residing overseas, intending to innovate and start businesses in Shenzhen or to cooperate with related industries in Shenzhen, and have not registered a business entity in Shenzhen nor serve as its legal representatives or shareholders;

3. The products, technologies, or related patents of the participating projects belong to the participants, with no ownership disputes involving others. Any liability arising from infringement shall be borne by the participants;

4. Participants and projects that have won awards in the first China Shenzhen Overseas Innovation Talent Competition or any previous editions of the China Shenzhen Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition (including both domestic and international events) are not eligible to participate in this competition again.

(II) Industrial Fields

Participating projects should comply with Shenzhen's industrial policies, demonstrate a high level of innovation and strong market competitiveness, possess potential economic and

social benefits, and be capable of generating high-tech achievements in emerging industries. They should also feature core technologies, full intellectual property rights, and represent innovative projects or ideas with high added value.

The Competition features seven main industrial fields: New-Generation Electronic Information, Digit and Fashion, High-End Equipment Manufacturing, Green and Low-Carbon, New Materials, Biological Medicine and Health, Marine Economy.

1. New-Generation Electronic Information: Focusing on networks and communications, semiconductors and integrated circuits, UHD video display, smart terminals, intelligent sensors, optical information transmission, quantum information, cloud services, cybersecurity, etc.

2. Digit and Fashion: Focusing on software and information services, artificial intelligence, digital creativity, modern fashion, digital advertising, streaming video, video games, etc.

3. High-End Equipment Manufacturing: Focusing on high-end equipment and instruments, low-altitude economy and aerospace, robotics, modular construction, future aviation transportation, etc.

4. Green and Low-Carbon: Focusing on new energy, safety, energy conservation and environmental protection, energy storage batteries, intelligent connected vehicles, new energy vehicles, shared autonomous vehicles, etc.

5. New Materials: Focusing on high-performance materials, advanced emerging materials, etc.

6. Biological Medicine and Health: Focusing on biomedicine, high-end medical devices, the great health, synthetic biology, cell and gene technology, brain science and brain-machine interfaces, industrial and consumer biotechnology, etc.

7. Marine Economy: Focusing on marine, deep-sea and deep-earth exploration sectors, etc.

(III) Entry Requirements

1. Participants must carefully read the industry classification instructions when registering, choose the industry that is closest to their competition project to fill in, and cannot change industries after successful registration.

2. Participants should submit complete registration materials and be responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the information filled in. The registered name must match the information on their passport or ID card; Failure to submit or inconsistent submission of information will affect participation and prize collection. During the competition, the project roadshow representative must be one of the team members listed in the registration system and cannot be replaced by anyone else.

3. The information provided by participants must be true and valid. If there are any changes to the relevant information during the competition, participants must promptly submit a

written request for change to the Secretariat of the Organizing Committee. After obtaining the approval of the Secretariat of the Organizing Committee and making corresponding changes, they can use the new participation information in subsequent competitions and apply for relevant preferential policies.

4. The following situations shall be deemed as automatic forfeiture of all rights related to the Competition (including participation eligibility, prizes, honors, and policy support, etc.):

(1) The products, technologies or related patents of the participating projects do not belong to the participants, or there are ownership disputes, or any information provided for the competition is false;

(2) During participation, the project's representative for the roadshow fails to attend the competition as required or fails to prepare relevant materials as required;

(3) The Organizing Committee verifies that the participant does not meet the conditions and requirements.

Procedures

The Competition mainly consists of four stages: Application, Overseas Division Competitions, Industrial Finals and Finals.

(I) Application

1. Application method: Visit the official website of the Competition (www.itcsz.cn) to register and apply.

2. Deadline: September 30th, 2025.

Notes: The deadline and competition time are subject to the announcement via the official website. Participants should submit complete registration materials and be responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the information filled in. The Organizing Committee has the right to cancel the eligibility and all contest-related rights and interests at any stage of the event if the contestant does not meet the entry requirements after examination by the Organizing Committee. The Competition's registration system is the only valid channel for registration; all other registration channels are invalid. Participants should submit complete registration materials, and be responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the information filled in, and the registration name must be consistent with the information on their passport or ID card; non-submission or any inconsistency will affect the participation and prize collection.

(II) Overseas Division Competitions

1. Time: October.

Note: The specific competition time is subject to the latest notice from the Organizing Committee.

2. Divisions: Boston (U.S.A.), London (U.K.), Munich (Germany), Paris (France), Tokyo (Japan), Toronto (Canada), Sydney (Australia), Barcelona (Spain), Eindhoven (Netherlands), Zurich (Switzerland), Singapore.

3. Competition System:

Overseas Division Competitions are divided into 2 rounds.

The first round: The first selection for Overseas Division Competitions. Various Overseas Division Competitions shall organize experts to review projects. By ranking scores of the preliminary competition of participants from high to low, the first three participants of each industrial field will be promoted to finals of Overseas Division Competitions.

The second round: The finals of Overseas Division Competitions. A defense format will be conducted, with each project's evaluation lasting no less than 15 minutes (5 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for Q&A). After the defense scores are given, projects will be ranked from highest to lowest based on their final results, and will be awarded one First Prize, two Second Prizes, and three Third Prizes. Additionally, the top two

projects in each industrial field will be selected based on their industry-specific scores.

4. Competition Mode:

Each Overseas Division Competition is organized by its respective host institution abroad. The preliminary round of the Overseas Division Competitions is conducted through written or online evaluations. The finals of Overseas Division Competitions are held in a defense format, with each project evaluated for no less than 15 minutes (5 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for Q&A). Final scores will be announced on-site immediately after the evaluation.

5. Promotion Rules:

The award-winning participants of each division and the top 2 participants in each industrial field will advance to the Industrial Finals.

(III) Industrial Finals

1. Time: Late November to early December 2025.

Note: The specific competition time is subject to the latest notice from the Organizing Committee.

2. Seven Industrial Fields: New-Generation Electronic Information, Digit and Fashion, High-End Equipment Manufacturing, Green and Low-Carbon, New Materials, Biological Medicine and Health, Marine Economy.

3. Competition Mode:

Each Overseas Division Competition organizes participants for the Industrial Finals. The Industrial Finals are conducted through on-site evaluations in the format of an English presentation followed by a defense, with bilingual Chinese and English subtitles provided in the PPT. Each participant has 15 minutes in total (8 minutes for the presentation and 7 minutes for the Q&A). Final scores will be announced on-site immediately after the evaluation.

4. Promotion Rules:

After the Industrial Finals, one First Prize, two Second Prizes and three Third Prizes will be appraised and awarded according to the participants final scores (from high to low). The first three participants in each Industrial Final will be promoted to Finals.

(IV) Finals

1. Time: Late November to early December.

Note: The specific competition time is subject to the latest notice from the Organizing Committee.

2. Competition Mode:

Various overseas division organizers shall convene Finals' participants to compete in Shenzhen. On-site appraisal will be performed for Finals and appraisal results will be announced on the spot.

Finals consist of live roadshow and defense for judge's questions. Each participant will be given 15 minutes (8 minutes for the presentation and 7 minutes for the Q&A). Final scores will be announced on-site immediately after the evaluation.

3. Awards Setting:

After the Finals, professional judges will appraise and select one First Prize, three Second Prizes and six Third Prizes.

(V) Awards

The Industrial Finals and the Finals will be awarded after each competition.

(VI) Explore in Shenzhen

The organizers will guide the contestants to take visits around Shenzhen to inspect the innovation and entrepreneurship environment of Shenzhen. At the same time, various exchange activities such as policy interpretation meeting, financing matchmaking meeting, promotion meeting and lecture forum will be held, and contestants will be organized to connect with Shenzhen entrepreneurship service institutions, entrepreneurship parks, incubators, investment institutions and outstanding enterprises.

(VII) Materials for Prize-Receiving

1. List of materials:

(1) Award acceptance agreement: Fill in and print according to the template of the Organizing Committee, handwritten signatures by all project members, in original;

(2) Identification materials: A copy or scanned copy of passport or ID card, which must be consistent with the competition registration system;

(3) Bank account information: include bank name (including branch), bank address, account number, Swift code of bank, International Bank Account Number (IBAN), Bank Identification Code (BIC), payee name, payee address.

2. Supplementary instructions:

(1) The Organizing Committee provides a template of the award acceptance agreement. In order to avoid unclear filling, the content of the agreement should be filled out on the computer and then printed and signed.

(2) The Organizing Committee only accepts accounts in RMB and U.S dollars. Do not provide accounts in other currencies. As the exchange rate fluctuates greatly, it is recommended to use RMB accounts.

(3) After the participants provide true and accurate personal identification information, the prize money will be paid to the personal account of one of the participants designated by the participating team in China or overseas, or to the account of the

company registered in Shenzhen, China after September 30th, 2025 with one or more participants as shareholders.

Awards & Supporting Policies

(I) Bonus Setting

Finals			
Prize	Quantity	Bonus	Subsidy Policy for Company Registered in Shenzhen
First Prize	1	RMB 500,000	RMB 1,000,000
Second Prize	3	RMB 250,000	RMB 500,000
Third Prize	6	RMB 150,000	RMB 300,000
Industrial Finals			
Prize		Quantity	Bonus
First Prize		1	RMB 150,000
Second Prize		2	RMB 100,000
Third Prize		3	RMB 50,000
Overseas Division Finals			
Prize		Quantity	Bonus
First Prize		1	RMB 100,000
Second Prize		2	RMB 50,000
Third Prize		3	RMB 30,000

(II) Supporting Policies

In addition to offering prizes, the Competition will establish a matchmaking service platform. This platform will include a directory of service organizations and an expert pool, and will work with partner investment institutions to set up a venture capital fund pool to serve participating projects. It will also provide a series of supporting policies in areas such as entrepreneurial spaces, business services, and talent programs.

If the core members of the promotion projects of overseas branch competitions come to Shenzhen for investigation and exchange at the invitation of the Organizing Committee, the competition will bear the expenses of their coming to Shenzhen. After the project settles in Shenzhen, it can apply for relevant policy grants according to the regulations, and preferential support will be given by government equity compensation grants. Priority can be given to settle in urban incubator parks, incubators, and industrial parks. Eligible projects can enjoy benefits such as rent reductions or subsidies, as well as access to supporting services including entrepreneurship training, management consulting, mentorship, patent application assistance, innovation resource sharing, participation in professional exhibitions, international exchanges, and talent recruitment through the Competition's matchmaking service platform.

No.	Categories	Supporting Policies
1	Landing policy support	If the main core members of the award winner in the final, and the project itself successfully settled in Shenzhen after the competition, those who meet the conditions can apply for the policy of Shenzhen and enjoy the relevant treatment.
2	Entrepreneurship competition funding scheme	The competition will be supported by government funding for entrepreneurship. Winners who meet the application conditions, Shenzhen industrial support policies, and implement project industrialization or establish enterprises in Shenzhen can apply for municipal funding for entrepreneurship.
3	Venture capital fund financing plan	The registered venture capital institutions of the competition will form a venture capital pool of a certain scale to make portfolio investment in the outstanding projects of the competition, and provide professional management, consulting, business planning and other supporting services.
4	Supportive policies for science and technology financing	The government equity investment fund matching competition provides equity investment for qualified winning projects. For the winning projects that meet the application conditions, the industrial support policies of Shenzhen and are implemented in Shenzhen, the priority will be given to the government equity investment according to regulations.
5	Investment and financial services for the competition	The competition provides investment and financial services. A database of investment institutions is established to provide information inquiry, matchmaking meetings, project showcases, closed-door meetings, and other services for participants and enrolled investment institutions. A comprehensive financial service plan is provided to offer high-quality financial services throughout the entire life cycle of the participating projects. Multiple banking institutions are selected to offer various forms

		of financial service programs, such as "investment and financing loans" and "talent loans", enriching the diversified financing options for enterprises.
6	Entrepreneurial space	Talents or teams from award-winning projects in overseas competitions who come to Shenzhen for development can be given priority to settle in urban innovation parks, incubators, and industrial parks. Those who meet the conditions can receive rent reductions, subsidies, and other benefits.
7	Innovation service	Winners who plan to settle in Shenzhen will be provided with supporting services such as start-up trainings, management consultations, mentorship guidance, patent applications, and innovation resources. Chances to professional exhibitions, international communication, and talent recruitments will be provided as well.
8	Other support policies provided by the organizer region	If the project is settled in the administrative region of the organizer directly under the competition, it will enjoy the package of preferential support policies provided by the host region, such as bonus, talent and technology, finance, taxation, site and housing.

Please pay attention to the official website and official WeChat to know more information above. Policies and settlement of this competition are subject to official announcement.

Notes

The entire competition will be photographed and recorded, broadcast on TV, Internet and other related media, and will be broadcast live or recorded on the cooperative investment and financing platform.

The outstanding projects of the competition will be selected and sent to the cooperative investment and financing docking platform for display and accessing, to assist the participants in accessing Shenzhen's high-tech industrial resources and venture capital resources.

The Organizing Committee will organize related training activities for participants who are qualified to the second round. Schedules and venues will be published on the official website. Changes prior to the schedule will be announced in the Notification section of the official web- site.

The Organizing Committee of the China (Shenzhen) Innovation and Entrepreneurship International Competition reserves the copyright and the final interpretation rights of the Competition Manual. The Competition Manual is for reference only. In case of any changes, please refer to the official website of the competition.

Official Website of the Competition:

www.itcsz.cn

Official WeChat of the Competitions Organizing Committee:

Shenzhen Innovation International Competition

itcsz_shenzhen

Official Weibo of the Competitions Organizing Committee:

Shenzhen Innovation International Competition

<http://weibo.com/itcsz>

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