

Bases of the first edition of *actúaloop*, IDEAS COMPETITION FOR INNOVATIVE ON-LINE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING AND RESEARCH SOCIAL NETWORKS

The call *actúaloop* Competition is part of the activities of the company FRONTIERS in collaboration with the Center of Support for Technological Innovation of the Technical University of Madrid and has the following objectives:

1. To discover the best talent within the University focused on developing solutions based on online academic publishing and research networks.
2. To promote new business ideas for services and applications around on-line research networking and publishing amongst graduate students (in master or doctorate programmes) and faculty members (mainly from the UPM but also from other public universities in the region of Madrid where they have agreed on partnering and cost-sharing with UPM).
3. To support some of the most innovative ideas with a specific training process where both technical aspects and business support will be addressed.
4. To reward the most interesting technology-based business ideas capable of converting technology into business models, turning ideas into products to be commercialized and creating sound spin-offs or start-ups.
5. To support the development of realistic business models within a phase in this contest by combining ad hoc training with the use of advanced platforms and early feedback from industry experts and/or potential users.
6. To reward the most mature, high-growth and innovative business models and plans, giving them the maximum visibility in media.
7. To offer the winners the possibility of maturing their technology products, of incubating their start-ups in the CAIT premises (both in the pre-incubator space and in the Frontiers space) for six months, of accelerating technology transfer. If Frontiers and the participants succeed in making a commercial agreement, orientation in creating a company can also be provided.

Based on them the first edition of the competition *actúaloop* ideas competition for innovative on-line academic publishing and research social networks is convened:

BASES

1. Structure

The Competition is divided into phases: **Phase 1.** Selection and Promotion of the best ideas; **Phase 2.** Development of the selected ideas; **Phase 3.** Awards; **Phase 4.** Pre-incubation services for winners.

1. **Phase 1. Selection and Promotion of the best ideas**

In this phase the committee will support and interact with participants, who will present their ideas. At the end of the phase, the Programme will deliver:

- a. 3 awards of 1,000 euros each.
- b. Up to 7 non-cash awards.
- c. Feedback on all the submitted proposals.

The participants submitting the winning business ideas will move into phase 2. The organization reserves the right not to award any prizes if there are no submissions which the organization considers worthy of a prize.

2. **Phase 2. Development of the selected ideas**

In this phase the committee will define some goals to be achieved by the selected teams and will support them with advice.

UPM and Frontiers will organize at least three “check-in” meetings with each participating team in order to evaluate the evolution of the ideas.

3. **Phase 3. Awards**

In this phase the three best projects from phase 2 are selected as finalists. The selection will be made in accordance with the goals set in Phase 2 and the degree of compliance with them

- a. 1st award: 5.000 euros
- b. 2nd award: 3.000 euros
- c. 3rd award: 2.000 euros

From this moment the teams will devote the resources necessary to prepare their participation in a demo session. The organization will provide the reasonable requirements for the demo session without committing significant expenditure to do so; always within the budget established for the competition in this agreement. The teams should use their awards to prepare for this phase.

Where possible and if the dates match, this demo session will be considered for inclusion in the UPM_innovatech International Workshop so that the whole initiative can achieve as much promotion as possible.

4. **Phase 4. Pre-incubation services for winners**

Once the whole process is finished, the organization formed by UPM and Frontiers can provide some incubation services in order to support the technology transfer and/ or the creation of start-ups for the selected projects. Some examples of what may be possible:

- a. Incubation space in the CAIT building for six months
- b. Free access to platforms
- c. Contacts with business angels, venture capitalists, etc. where projects are of sufficient maturity and potential.
- d. Licences for use of technology or know-how owned by UPM (or by other partner universities where applicable)
- e. Job / internship offers (mainly for non-faculty members) in an exciting multinational environment.

Evaluation will be carried out by a jury composed of UPM, Frontiers and jointly-selected external experts.

5. Jury

The jury will be composed of experts and will be selected by the Director of CAIT, or his delegate. Members of the institutions promoting the program may participate as jury.

- The criteria for selection and award of prizes are the most commonly used in this field: business models, product or service innovation, growth potential, competitive advantages, market acceptance, community interest, progress of the project or capabilities of the promoters, as the highlights.
- The jury's decisions are final.
- Prizes may be declared void.

5. Participants

The first edition of the competition is open to “university teams” composed of faculty members and/or graduate students (master or doctoral students) from the Technical University of Madrid. Faculty members and graduate students from other public universities in the region could become eligible in the future once they have signed an agreement with UPM for the participation in this Programme.

Specifically, candidates must comply with the following rules:

1. Participating teams (“participants”) could be composed of faculty members, researchers and/or students.
2. Participants should submit a proposal for a new technology-based innovative idea, following the template included in Annex 1. It should be noted that the form does not require long descriptions but clear indications about the intended goals and benefits for users. The proposal should be presented in English. The ideas submitted must be the original ideas of the participants submitting them.
3. Participants should be ready to interact with CAIT-UPM and Frontiers staff to clarify all aspects of the submitted proposal and to participate, if needed, in specific meetings or interviews organised by the management team of the Programme.

4. If the proposal is pre-selected for phase 2, the participants will be offered training seminars, elevator pitch events, investors' forums or similar events organised by the Joint Programme during phase 2.
5. Participants whose proposals are selected for phase 3 will be offered the chance to participate in the activities of that phase and of being allocated space in the CAIT premises for a maximum of six months.
6. Decisions of the joint committee to be established between UPM and Frontiers on awards in the competition are final and are not subject to appeal or challenge. No correspondence will be entered into concerning decisions.

6. Registration

To participate in the Competition will be required:

- An application for registration, which includes a description of the innovative idea.
- A brief curriculum of the team components and their role in the project.

Everything will be presented with the format provided by the organization of the competition.

The description must contemplate the idea to assess its level of maturity, the aspects related to the product or service, the business opportunity and the competitive advantage of the idea.

Applications are filled online at the address www.upm.es/actualoop.

Applications will be in English.

To qualify for the final prizes of the competition, participants should follow the format and delivery criteria that the organization of the Competition provides.

7. Promotion

Frontiers will ensure that: The number of its employees having access to detailed information about business ideas is kept to a minimum; those employees will not communicate any detailed information to Frontiers about the business idea; those employees will not be involved in the execution of any Frontiers business initiative which competes with the ideas received.

UPM will ensure that: UPM will not share the ideas that participate in this competition except the brief description of the idea which is included in the Inscription Form for promotional purposes.

8. Key dates

Key dates are as follows:

- **Phase 1**
 - Open call/ acceptance of submissions: October 31st to January 7th, 2016
 - Evaluation of ideas: January 8th, 2015 to February 15th, 2016

- **Phase 2:**
 - Mentoring from February 15th, 2016 to April 15th, 2016
 - At least three checking sessions are proposed

- **Phase 3:**
 - Selection of awards and preparation of the demo sessions
 - Date for demo sessions to be confirmed

- **Phase 4:**
 - Pre-Incubation phase (CAIT building)

Dates awards and development of the initiative will be communicated to participants and / or exposed on the website www.upm.es/actualoop. The dates may change and the organization will inform about it.

9. Acceptance of bases

All teams enrolled in the Program accept the participation conditions

10. Financing

Competition *actualoop*, will be financed under the agreement signed between the Technical University of Madrid and the company FRONTIERS.

11. Resolution.

Decisions corresponding to the granting of awards will be made by the Director of the CAIT, or the person delegated.

Such resolutions shall be available to interested parties at the web address www.upm.es/actualoop

Madrid, October 2015

ANnEX

TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGES I actualoop

This first edition (2015) of the Joint Programme will focus on business ideas around the following main technical areas:

1. Applications which utilize the loop.frontiersin.org API together with APIs from other entities such as Publishers, Libraries, universities or research networks to create new user experiences.
2. Mobile device support for accessing publishing platforms and research networks.
3. Tools for open access publishing based on web and mobile platforms.

Frontiers is also interested in the following secondary topics:

1. Exploitation of big data applications for on-line academic publishing and article analytics.
2. Generation of multi-lingual support for publishing, reviewing, commenting and retrieval of scientific documents in different languages.
3. Access to multimedia content for on-line replication of experiments.

The relevance of proposals to the above list is a pre-condition for consideration for the competition.