Arizona Innovation Challenge

**Instructions**

* Due by **Sunday, August 27, 2021 at 5:00 pm Arizona Time (AZ).**
* Entries that do not comply with these instructions will not be accepted. Please read carefully!
* The information that you provide on this application must be information that is defined as non-sensitive by your business.
* Complete this entire entry form using a **10-point font size**. Do not change this document’s margins or alter its format.
* **Your completed document must be no more than three (3) total pages:** This Company Profile page is the first page. *These instructions (which you are currently reading) should remain intact with the fields below filled out accordingly*. Only the final two pages of your submitted application will have your responses to Parts 1 through 6.
* Parts 1 - 6 below must be contained on a **maximum of two pages**. You may change the relative sizes of the boxes’ lengths, but you must write your responses within the provided template.
* The black, bullet-point text (bolded or not) in each of the boxes for parts 1 through 6 are clarifying questions and content suggestions. We understand that you may not have answers to all the questions, but more complete applications tend to get better evaluations. You may delete this black text or keep bolded subheaders in parts 1 through 6 as you fill in the application.
* Save this file as a PDF (an option in Microsoft Word’s save-as window). Title your file **“*companyname*\_AIC\_Fall\_21.pdf.”**

**To submit:** Beginning Monday, July 26, 2021, visit ***www.AZCommerce.com/programs/arizona-innovation-challenge***, click the “Apply” heading on the left side of the screen. Then, on the Apply page, navigate to the Application Download & Submission tab and follow the embedded link to the Arizona Innovation Challenge cohort. From there, you will create an account on the ACA Innovation Network and fill out your company profile information, upload your documents, and complete the submission process. Allocate at least 30 minutes to complete the submission process.

* Submissions outside of above guidelines will not be accepted.

**Company Profile**

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Basic Information** | | | | Company Name |  | | | Contact Name |  | | | Company Website | |  | | URL of 5-minute video submission (optional) | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Sector** (mark only one) | | |  | Advanced Materials | |  | Advanced Manufacturing | |  | Aerospace / Defense | |  | Bio & Life Sciences | |  | Cleantech / Renewable Energy | |  | IT - Hardware | |  | IT - Software |   Type an “x” in the left column of the above table that most closely matches your industry sector. |

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| **Funding History** | | **Funding Needs** | |
| Founders (include hard cash investments only) | $ xxx,xxx | What dollar amount of outside equity do you anticipate needing in the next 18 months? | $ xxx,xxx |
| Friends and Family | $ xxx,xxx |
| Grant funding | $ xxx,xxx | Current funding request from the Arizona Innovation Challenge (up to $150,000) | $ xxx,xxx |
| Professional investor equity | $ xxx,xxx |
| Bank or professional investor debt | $ xxx,xxx |  |  |
| Total cash funding to date | $ xxx,xxx |

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| **Other profile questions** | |
| Affiliated university, accelerator and/or incubator, if any: |  |
| Legal form of company? (e.g. C-corp., S-corp., LLC, Partnership) |  |
| Intellectual property protection, if any |  |

**Part 1: “Elevator” Introduction**

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| * In a few sentences, state your business’ elevator pitch. An elevator pitch should address the key elements investors look for: product category (i.e., software, device, service offering), target market (i.e., unemotional and qualified - “huge market” is not as good as “$300 million US market.”), pain point, competitors/alternatives, and competitive advantage. * The most effective introductions immediately convey a clear sense of purpose and value while exciting potential investors and grant funders about the opportunity. |

**Part 2: Market and Industry Analysis**

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| * **Market sizing analysis**. How have you sized your market? How credible is your knowledge? This is aimed at your analysis quality, not the relative size of the market. (Attribute sources, if applicable.) * **Market size**. How large is your addressable market? How attractive is this market's size for an investor? (Attribute sources, if applicable.) * **Market growth**. How attractive is this market's growth to an investor? What is its potential for growth? (Attribute sources, if applicable.) * **Incumbents' power**. How attractive is this market in terms of existing competitors', suppliers' and customers' power? If it is difficult for newcomers to commercialize in your market, what is your plan to succeed? |

**Part 3: Go-to-Market Plan**

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| * **Customer engagement**. Who are (will be) your customers? Prove they are buying (or will buy) your product solution from you. Prove you have meaningful relationships with early-adopters who either are doing business with you or will be doing business with you soon. Prove you can close deals. * **Describe how you win customers**. Describe your current and future customer acquisition strategy (if different). * **Describe marketing tactics** you will use to let the market know you have a potential solution to their problem. * **Partnership / channel**. Prove you understand with whom you must partner and in what order. Prove that you can consummate these partnerships. If you do not need any partners or a sales channel, please say so. * **Market segmentation**. Use an identified pain-point to segment your market. Prove you understand which part of the market you are targeting. What sets this segment apart from the others? (Attribute sources, if applicable.) |

**Part 4: Technical Product Description and Plan**

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| * **Describe your product.** Crisply describe your product or service, being sure to focus on features that create a competitive advantage and address the pain point of your customer and entice them to start and continue using your product. * **Competition, substitutions & differentiation**. How are you better/different than your competitors? Prove customers will choose you given limited resources and lots of other choices for spending their money. How will you displace any incumbents/competitors? * **Technology validation**. Prove that your technology works well. How have you validated your progress? * **Product development risk**. Where are you in your product development cycle? How have you validated your progress? What remaining development risks exist? * **Intellectual property**. Describe your company’s current intellectual property status and plans for the future. (Issued patents? Licensing agreements? Pending patent applications? Trade secrets?) * **Non-IP barriers to entry**. Argue you will overcome the non-IP barriers to you in your market. Argue you will build barriers against others who will seek to imitate your successes. For example, what you have done to make it difficult for others to challenge you like manufacturing arrangements, distribution contracts, partnerships, etc.? |

**Part 5: Economics**

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| * **Describe your business model**, focusing on how you make money for your company and investors. * **Pricing**. What is your company’s pricing model? Do you understand your competitors' pricing? Discuss your pricing assumptions and expectations relative to competitor’s pricing or the cost of alternative solutions. Prove your resulting gross margins will support your business. * **Downstream value**. Analyze end-users' ROI in terms of time, cost and/or quality. Provide evidence that downstream partners make attractive margins. * **Scalability**. Describe how your business scales. How will your business make more money by improving your cost structure over time? What milestones will signal that your business is ready to grow in headcount, new markets, revenue, and/or partnership opportunities? Argue your business gets more attractive as it grows. What's required to reach economies of scale (and, if appropriate, economies of scope)? * **Funding strategy**. How will you fund your growth? Convince investors (1) that you know what type of financing is appropriate for you, and (2) that you will make money for your investors. * **Company economics**. Be sure to complete and upload [the Financials template Excel file.](http://www.azcommerce.com/programs/arizona-innovation-challenge/apply/application-download-submission/) Your projections should support the text you write in this business model section. |

**Part 6: Risk vs. Talent Narrative**

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| * **Team membership**. Briefly list and describe your key team members. Provide enough backstory to set the stage for how each person will contribute to the success of the company’s development. * **Describe any holes in your leadership team** or key positions. How do you plan to address these needs in the near term? * **Advisors**. Briefly list and describe your key advisors and their contributions to date. * **Past Execution**. What risks has your team mitigated so far (business or technical)? Prove your team has executed well as a group. What milestones have you accomplished as a group in your current company? * **Future Risk narrative**. What are the next major risk-reduction milestones? Outline the big challenges you face and briefly state what you are doing to address them.   **Parts 1 through 6 must completely fit ONLY on the 2 PAGES!**  **The Company Profile page (the first page above) does not count as one of the pages.**  **We suggest you verify your final PDF file for length and formatting before submission upload!**  **( Remove these notes for submission )** |