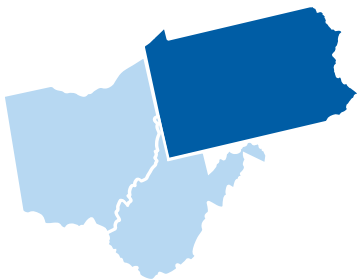




# INNOVATION CHALLENGE



**The Keystone Space Innovation Challenge**, a new program developed by the Keystone Space Collaborative in collaboration with Innovation Works and key industry partners, and funded by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, is set to launch its pilot program in Pennsylvania.

## Participants can submit business plans for two distinct categories:

- 1 COMMERCIAL SPACE TECHNOLOGY CONCEPTS:**  
This category encompasses visionary ideas related to commercial space technology, spanning various domains.
- 2 IN-SPACE R&D COMMERCIAL CONCEPTS:**  
This category encompasses groundbreaking in-space research and development concepts. This category is not confined to space-specific fields; it includes work pertaining to fields not directly related to space such as life sciences, material and physical sciences, advanced manufacturing, and agriculture. These ventures should hinge on utilizing the unique environment of space (especially microgravity) for R&D demonstration, commercialization, and application.

## The process:

- Submit business plan by January 17, 2025.**
- Finalists will be invited to submit a pitch deck to present at a **Pitch Day Competition**.
- Six winners will be announced.** The top two will each secure a **\$50,000** award. Four other standout concepts will be granted **\$25,000** awards.

**Monetary rewards will be contingent on the recipients committing to establish and operate their businesses within Pennsylvania.**

All winners will also be granted an annual membership to the Keystone Space Collaborative, facilitating ongoing collaboration and engagement within the space innovation ecosystem.

Visit [KeystoneSpace.org/Innovation-Challenge](https://KeystoneSpace.org/Innovation-Challenge) for more information.

# FAQs

## Why should I apply?

Applying offers the chance to secure funding for business growth, gain industry exposure, and connect with key stakeholders. You'll benefit from expert business coaching and have access to investors and startups, opening doors to collaboration and funding opportunities.

## Who can participate in the Challenge?

The Challenge is open to Pennsylvania-based companies, student groups, and independent teams interested in building a business in Pennsylvania. Participants must be U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents aged 18 or older.

## What are the eligibility requirements for the Challenge?

- Registered Businesses: Must be formally registered within Pennsylvania.
- Student Groups\*: At least one member must be enrolled in a higher-education institution in Pennsylvania.
- Unaffiliated Teams\*: At least one member must be a full-time resident of Pennsylvania.

Team Members must be U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents and at least 18 years old. Participants must ensure compliance with employer policies and any third-party agreements. Applicants and their immediate family members must not be affiliated with Keystone Space, Innovation Works, or any of their affiliates. Applicants must not have received \$50,000 or more in funding from previous Challenge cycles.

\* Student Groups and Unaffiliated Teams are required to form a Pennsylvania-based business if awarded.

## How can I ensure my concept aligns with the Innovation Challenge scope?

Participants can collaborate with expert coaches to refine their concepts and ensure they align with the Innovation Challenge scope. Information about the coaches and their office hours can be found on the Keystone Space website.

## How do I apply?

To apply, visit the Keystone Space website to download the business plan template. After completing the template, submit your application through the site by the submission deadline. If you're selected as a finalist, you'll need to submit and present a Pitch Deck to a panel of expert judges.

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Though the Keystone Space Innovation Challenge can only support Pennsylvania participants in this initial pilot year, it plans to expand its impact to include Ohio and West Virginia (in addition to Pennsylvania) in the future, pending multi-state funding.

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