

**The 10th China (Shenzhen) Innovation &  
Entrepreneurship International Competition  
Competing Manual**



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# Introduction

The 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 Government of various districts as an international platform for innovation and entrepreneurship exchange for global talent. 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 nine consecutive sessions.

The Competition is deeply linked with various international innovative talents clusters and Overseas Division Competition will be respectively held in twelve cities: Boston (U.S.A.), London (U.K.), Freiburg (Germany), Paris (France), Toronto (Canada), Sydney (Australia), Stockholm (Sweden), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Zurich (Switzerland), Barcelona (Spain), Seoul (South Korea), and Singapore. An APEC Invitational Competition is newly added for APEC economies (excluding those with established divisions). The Competition features seven industry tracks: New-Generation Electronic Information, Digital and Fashion, High-End Equipment Manufacturing, Green and Low-Carbon, New Materials, Biological Medicine and Health, Marine

Economy. It is open to all overseas innovation and entrepreneurship projects, with no nationality restrictions for participants.

The Competition offers a total bonus of RMB 9.42 million, with individual winners eligible for up to RMB 750,000 (excluding venture investment funds). Projects landing in Shenzhen and meeting eligibility may be awarded the maximal business start-up subsidies of RMB 1 million. Over 50 venture capital institutions participate, combining to form a RMB 5 billion investment fund to make portfolio investment in outstanding competition projects. Additionally, all participants may access investment opportunities from social capital through the Competition's investment matchmaking platform.

The Competition provides a full-process, comprehensive overseas talent recruitment and project landing service system, covering a complete range of supporting services including project solicitation, overseas mentoring, offshore pre-incubation, online matching, Shenzhen visits, local industry connection, expert mentorship, venture capital Liaison, policy support, and industrial park matchmaking, ensuring full tracking and support for participants.

# Competition Schedule

## **Registration Deadline:**

August 31, 2026



## **Overseas Division & APEC Invitational Competitions**

Late September 2026

Boston (U.S.A.), London (U.K.), Freiburg (Germany), Paris (France),  
Toronto (Canada), Sydney (Australia), Stockholm (Sweden),  
Amsterdam (Netherlands), Zurich (Switzerland), Barcelona (Spain),  
Seoul (South Korea), Singapore, APEC Invitational



## **Industry Finals**

Late November 2026

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



## **Grand Final**

Early December 2026

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

# Applications and Requirements

## (I) Applications and Requirements

1. Overseas high-level entrepreneurial teams or individuals with innovative achievements and a business plan.

2. Participants must not have registered a commercial entity in Shenzhen, nor serve as its legal representative or shareholder, and plan to establish a company in Shenzhen or connect with Shenzhen-related industries after the competition.

3. The products, technologies, or related patents of the participating project must belong to the participant and be free of ownership disputes. Participants are responsible for any liability arising from infringement.

4. Participants or projects that have won awards in the first Shenzhen International Talent Competition or previous editions of the China (Shenzhen) Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition (including domestic and international editions) cannot participate in this edition again.

5. For teams including Chinese personnel with overseas study experience, at least one team member must meet one of the following criteria:

(1) Hold a doctoral degree (domestic or abroad) and satisfy one of the following:

- Engaged in natural sciences or engineering, and after the PhD, worked in renowned overseas universities, research institutes, or enterprise R&D departments;

- Held senior positions in internationally recognized

companies, or academic positions equivalent to associate professor or above in foreign universities or research institutions.

(2) Hold a master's or higher degree obtained abroad, with overseas entrepreneurial experience or senior positions in internationally recognized companies, and satisfy one of the following:

- Possess internationally leading technological achievements or fill domestic gaps, with high product potential;
- Have independently developed innovative products with venture capital investment.

(3) Hold a bachelor's or higher degree (domestic or abroad) and have worked for several years in overseas companies, having held senior technical positions at internationally recognized enterprises.

## **(II) Industry 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 high-tech outcomes suitable for emerging industries. Projects should have core technologies, full intellectual property rights, and high added value.

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

### **1. New Generation Electronic Information**

Focus on Networking & Communications, Semiconductors

& Integrated Circuits, Ultra-High-Definition Video Display, Intelligent Terminals, Smart Sensors, Optical Information Transmission, Quantum Information, Cloud Services, and Cybersecurity.

## 2. Digital & Fashion

Focus on Software & Information Services, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Creativity, Modern Fashion, Digital Advertising, Streaming Video, and Video Games.

## 3. High-End Equipment Manufacturing

Focus on High-End Equipment & Instrumentation, Low-Altitude Economy & Aerospace, Robotics, Modular Construction, and Future Aviation Transportation.

## 4. Green & Low-Carbon

Focus on New Energy, Safety & Energy Conservation, Environmental Protection, Energy Storage Batteries, Intelligent & Connected Vehicles, New Energy Vehicles, and Shared Autonomous Vehicles.

## 5. New Materials

Focus on High-Performance Materials and New Frontier Materials.

## 6. Biological Medicine & Health

Focus on Biomedicine, High-End Medical Devices, Comprehensive Health, Synthetic Biology, Cell & Gene Technologies, Neuroscience & Brain-Computer Engineering, and Industrial & Consumer Biotechnology.

## 7. Marine Economy

Focus on Marine Exploration, Deep-Earth and Deep-Sea Exploration.

### **(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 requirement.

# Procedures

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

## **(I) Application**

Application method: Visit the official website of the Competition ([www.itcsz.cn](http://www.itcsz.cn)) to register and apply.

Registration deadline: August 31, 2026.

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 & APEC Invitational Competition**

1. Time: Late September 2026.

Note: The specific competition time is subject to the latest

notice from the Organizing Committee.

2. Location: Boston (U.S.A.), London (U.K.), Freiburg (Germany), Paris (France), Toronto (Canada), Sydney (Australia), Stockholm (Sweden), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Zurich (Switzerland), Barcelona (Spain), Seoul (South Korea), Singapore, and APEC Economies (online participation).

3. Competition System:

Overseas Division Competitions are divided into 2 rounds: the preliminary round and the final round.

(1) The first round: Various Overseas Division Competitions shall organize experts to review projects. Based on the contestants' preliminary scores, ranked in descending order, the top three contestants from each industry advance to the Overseas Division Finals.

(2) The second round: An English defense format (with bilingual Chinese and English subtitles provided in the PPT) will be conducted, with each project's evaluation lasting no less than 15 minutes (8 minutes for the presentation and 7 minutes for the Q&A). After the defense scores are given, projects will be ranked by final scores and 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 review. The Overseas Division Finals are held in a defense

format, with each project evaluated for no less than 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.

#### 5. Promotion Rules:

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

### **(III) Industry Finals**

#### 1. Time: Late November 2026.

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

2. Seven Industrial Fields: New-Generation Electronic Information, Digital 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 Industry Finals. The Industry Finals are conducted through on-site evaluations, consisting of two parts: a live presentation and a Q&A session with the judges. 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 Industry 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 Prize and

Second Prize winners in each industry will advance to the Grand Final. The scores will be announced on-site upon completion of the evaluation.

#### **(IV) Grand Final**

1. Time: Early December 2026.

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

2. Competition Mode:

Finalists from each Overseas Division Competition will be organized to participate in the Grand Final in Shenzhen. The Grand Final consists of live roadshow and defense with each project evaluated for no less than 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 Grand Final, professional judges will appraise and select one First Prize, three Second Prizes and six Third Prizes.

#### **(V) Explore in Shenzhen**

Some contestants will have the opportunity to visit Shenzhen for investigation and exchange, including site visits to inspect Shenzhen's innovation and entrepreneurship environment. At the same time, various exchange activities such as policy interpretation meeting, financing matching 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.

## **(VI) Materials for prize-receiving**

### 1. List of materials:

(1) Award Confirmation Letter: 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 confirmation letter. 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. Please do not provide accounts in other currencies. As the exchange rate fluctuates greatly, it is recommended to use RMB accounts.

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

# Awards and Supporting Policies

## (I) Bonus Setting

<b>Grand Final</b>			
Prize	Quantity	Bonus	Subsidy Policy for Companies Registered in Shenzhen (if eligible)
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
<b>Industry Finals</b>			
Prize	Quantity	Bonus	
First Prize	1	RMB 150,000	
Second Prize	2	RMB 100,000	
Third Prize	3	RMB 50,000	
<b>Overseas Division Finals &amp; APEC Invitational Competition</b>			
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, which includes 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 Division Finals 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 may be provided through government equity investment programs. 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	Core members of Grand Final winning projects that are successfully implemented in Shenzhen after the Competition may apply for relevant Shenzhen policies and enjoy corresponding benefits in accordance with applicable regulations.

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	Government equity investment funds are connected with the Competition to provide equity investment for eligible award-winning projects. For award-winning projects that meet the application conditions, Shenzhen industrial support policies and are implemented in Shenzhen, the priority will be given to the government equity investment in accordance with regulations.
5	Investment and Financial Services	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, with multiple banking institutions offering 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 Division 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	Talents or teams from award-winning projects in Overseas Division Competitions 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, opportunities to participate in professional exhibitions, international exchanges, and talent recruitment will also be provided.
8	Other Support Policies Provided by the Organizer District	Projects settled in the relevant host districts will enjoy a package of preferential support policies provided by the district, including bonuses, talent support, technology support, financial support, tax support, venue support, and housing support.

Note: Please pay attention to the official website to know more information above. The competition's support policies and implementation methods are subject to official announcements.

## 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 competition organizing committee will hold relevant training activities for the advanced participants. Please pay attention to the official website of the competition for specific times and locations. Any adjustments to the competition schedule will be announced on the official website.

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](http://www.itcsz.cn)

**Secretariat of the Organizing Committee:**

E-mail: [itcsz-service@qlmtalent.com](mailto:itcsz-service@qlmtalent.com)

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