

TOP 10 STARTUP PITCH 2026 by Maritime World

Official Rules & Terms

1. Organiser

The Top 10 Startup Pitch 2026 ("Competition") is organised by Maritime World ("Organiser") as part of the International Maritime Conference & Expo – Malta Show 2026.

Participation in the Competition constitutes full acceptance of these Official Rules & Terms.

2. Eligibility

Applications are open to:

- Startups
- Scaleups
- Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)
- Technology Companies
- Maritime Innovation Projects
- Energy, Sustainability and Blue Economy Ventures

Applicants may be based in any country.

Applicants must be legally authorised to represent the company or project being submitted.

The Organiser reserves the right to request proof of company registration, ownership or authorisation at any stage.

3. Application Process

Applications must be submitted through the official application channels designated by Maritime World.

Applications must be complete, accurate and submitted before the published deadline.

The Organiser reserves the right to reject incomplete, inaccurate or late submissions without further review.

Submission of an application does not guarantee selection as a finalist.

4. Selection of Finalists

Applications will be reviewed by Maritime World and/or an appointed selection committee.

Finalists will be selected based on factors including, but not limited to:

- Innovation
- Industry relevance
- Market potential
- Feasibility
- Business impact
- Presentation readiness

The Organiser reserves sole discretion in selecting finalists.

All selection decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

5. Intellectual Property

Applicants retain full ownership of their intellectual property, technologies, products, trademarks and business concepts.

Participation in the Competition does not transfer any intellectual property rights to Maritime World.

Applicants acknowledge that pitch sessions are public presentations attended by delegates, sponsors, investors, media representatives and other third parties.

The Organiser cannot guarantee confidentiality of information voluntarily disclosed during presentations.

Applicants are solely responsible for determining what information they choose to present publicly.

6. Applicant Representations

By submitting an application, the applicant confirms that:

- all information provided is accurate and truthful;
- they have the legal right to submit the application;

- submitted materials do not infringe any intellectual property rights, trademarks, copyrights, patents or other rights of third parties;
- participation in the Competition does not violate any contractual or legal obligations.

Applicants shall indemnify and hold harmless Maritime World against any claims arising from submitted content or presentations.

7. Use of Submitted Materials

Applicants grant Maritime World a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free licence to use submitted materials, company names, logos, photographs, videos, presentations and promotional content for purposes related to:

- Competition administration;
- event promotion;
- media coverage;
- marketing communications;
- website publications;
- social media promotion;
- future promotion of Maritime World events.

Ownership of submitted materials remains with the applicant.

8. Pitch Event

Selected finalists may be required to present live during Maritime World Malta Show 2026.

Presentation formats, schedules, stage arrangements and timing may be modified by the Organiser where necessary.

The Organiser reserves the right to remove a participant from the Competition if they fail to comply with event requirements or conduct standards.

9. Judging

Finalists may be evaluated by a panel of judges appointed by Maritime World.

Evaluation criteria may include:

- Innovation
- Market Potential
- Industry Impact

- Feasibility
- Presentation Quality
- Commercial Viability

The Organiser reserves the right to amend judging criteria where reasonably necessary.

Judges' decisions and Competition results shall be final and binding.

No correspondence or appeals regarding judging outcomes will be entered into.

10. Awards and Prizes

Any prizes, awards, benefits, sponsorship credits, accommodation, event passes or promotional opportunities offered as part of the Competition are subject to availability and may be modified by the Organiser where reasonably necessary.

Prizes:

- are non-transferable;
- may not be exchanged for cash;
- may not be resold without written approval.

The Organiser reserves the right to substitute prizes with alternatives of equal or greater value if circumstances require.

11. No Investment or Commercial Guarantee

Participation in the Competition does not guarantee:

- investment;
- funding;
- partnerships;
- pilot projects;
- commercial agreements;
- media coverage;
- business opportunities.

Any relationships or agreements arising from participation are solely between the relevant parties.

Maritime World accepts no responsibility for the outcome of such discussions or arrangements.

12. Conduct

Participants must conduct themselves professionally throughout the Competition and during Maritime World events.

The Organiser reserves the right to disqualify any participant who:

- provides false information;
- engages in misconduct;
- behaves in a manner damaging to the reputation of Maritime World;
- breaches these Rules & Terms.

Disqualification may occur at any stage of the Competition.

13. Limitation of Liability

To the fullest extent permitted by law, Maritime World shall not be liable for:

- technical failures;
- application errors;
- lost submissions;
- event postponements;
- travel disruptions;
- accommodation issues;
- commercial losses;
- indirect or consequential damages arising from participation.

Participation in the Competition is undertaken entirely at the participant's own risk.

14. Event Changes and Cancellation

The Organiser reserves the right to modify, postpone, suspend or cancel any aspect of the Competition, including timelines, judging procedures, event schedules, prizes or pitch formats, where reasonably necessary.

No liability shall arise from such changes.

15. Governing Law

These Official Rules & Terms shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of Malta.

Any dispute arising from participation in the Competition shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Malta.

16. Acceptance

By submitting an application, the applicant confirms that they have read, understood and agreed to these Official Rules & Terms.