



## Unusual Solutions Competition – Frequently Asked Questions

[www.unusualsolutions.org](http://www.unusualsolutions.org)

### About

<p><b>What is the Unusual Solutions competition?</b></p>	<p>It is a global competition inviting bright and creative individuals and teams from all over the planet and especially innovators from Latin America, Africa, Asia and Oceania to submit solutions on how to best tackle 3 challenges: Drone &amp; Data AI, Last Data Mile and Drone &amp; Data Ethics.</p>
<p><b>What do you mean by local experts?</b></p>	<p>Your proposed solutions must directly respond to the specific needs of the Global South. This means understanding these needs first-hand by being immersed in them on a daily basis. It means taking into account that connectivity is not a given, that local culture and traditions play an important role and that data literacy comes at many levels. We believe that the most fitting ideas come from where the solutions are most needed. And that local knowledge is the crucial part of making solutions sustainable.</p> <p>In short: this means that you and your idea can come from anywhere on this planet, as long as it is embedded with deep local understanding of where the solution is needed and applied.</p>
<p><b>Who can participate in the Unusual Solutions competition?</b></p>	<p>The Competition is open to organisations (not-for-profit / for profit / academic and research organisations) and individuals globally. If you are an individual, you will need a company as a fiscal sponsor to move on to the next phase of the competition should your idea be chosen to enter the finalist round.</p> <p>Having a fiscal sponsor means being associated with a registered business entity in your country so that we can distribute the cash prizes as per legal requirements. Do not let this prevent you from applying and submitting your idea! Should it be selected we can provide you with guidance to go through the process.</p>
<p><b>What themes does the competition address?</b></p>	<p>The competition addresses the 3 following “challenges” (themes). three themes are as follows:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can drone data and AI tools become more relevant to solving local social challenges?</li> <li>• How to turn drone data into action by bringing back drone data and insights to beneficiaries?</li> <li>• How can drones and the data collected using drones be used ethically to solve local problems?</li> </ul> <p>You will find more info on our <a href="#">website</a> and will get a detailed application package when you sign up!</p>
<b>What are the steps of the competition?</b>	<p>After reading the information on the <a href="#">competition website</a>, please sign-up to get our info pack! You can then submit your ideation application which will be reviewed by a jury.</p> <p>Three challenge winners per theme (9 winners in total) will then develop their idea during the competition phase before presenting their solution at a final pitch in February 2020.</p>
<b>Who is sponsoring this competition?</b>	<p>The competition is sponsored by the Omidyar Network, a philanthropic investment firm supporting innovative organizations to catalyse economic and social change.</p> <p>The competition is managed by WeRobotics, a nonprofit organisation investing in local experts applying robotics solutions and accelerating social good impact.</p>

## The Application

<b>Who “owns” the idea?</b>	At all moments, you keep full ownership of your idea. The jury members who will read your application will all sign an NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) to keep your idea confidential.
<b>How can I apply?</b>	Complete the very short <a href="#">sign up form</a> on our website. Our friendly team will then send you an application package with the ideation template and relevant application links.
<b>Can I save a draft and edit my application later?</b>	Once you sign up you will get our application template so you will be able to work on the application offline in a word document. Once you are ready and have saved your word document into a



	PDF file, you can submit your application through a specific link you will receive as part of the application package.
<b>In what language can I apply?</b>	We only accept applications in English as an international jury will be evaluating applications. But don't worry, we will focus on the idea you put forward, not the grammar! To this end, if you would like to draft your application in your own language, then please use <a href="#">DeepL</a> to automatically translate your text into English. You can then submit the English translation for consideration.
<b>Can I apply for more than one theme?</b>	Yes, as long as each application meets the criteria of the challenge topic. You will have to start a new application per theme.
<b>Can I review my application after I submit it?</b>	Contact our team if you need any of your details changed. However, you will not be able to change your ideation PDF after you have submitted it.
<b>Do I need a specific legal status to apply?</b>	The competition is open to professionals, students, scholars, non-for-profits or for-profit companies and any innovators globally! If you are an individual, you will need a company as a fiscal sponsor to move on to the next phase of the competition should your idea be chosen to enter the finalist round.
<b>Can I apply in partnership with any other individual or organization?</b>	Absolutely, it's always great to team up! However note that the application will be considered as a "single entity" so you may want to establish a separate agreement with your competition partners.
<b>Can I apply in partnership with experts from other countries?</b>	Yes. Note that the application will be considered as a "single entity" and therefore we strongly recommend that you develop your own agreement with your team partners. In terms of the geographic location, we are weighing how much the applicant is implicated in the local problem. So if someone from a Global North country is working closely with partners in the Global South or is working on site, this will be fully taken into account.
<b>When is the final deadline for submission?</b>	Ideations can be submitted until September 8, 2019. We recommend that you submit your application as soon as possible and not wait until the last moment as we might want to



	reach out to you to address any questions we might have before September 8, 2019.
<b>What if I want to cancel my participation?</b>	That is fine, just contact our friendly team and we will delete your personal and application details.
<b>When will I know if my application is successful?</b>	We will contact you personally to share the outcome of your application once the juries have evaluated all applications for the theme selected. Expect to hear from us towards early September.
<b>Do I need a drone or other equipment to participate?</b>	No, you just need a bright idea! Drone or equipment is not required. Should your submission make it through the competition phase you will have the opportunity to acquire necessary equipment thanks to the competition prize grant.

## The Ideation

<b>Can I develop an idea for a given theme outside of your description examples</b>	Absolutely - and it is strongly encouraged! The examples we provide in the theme descriptions are just that: examples. We encourage you to put forward a different problem statement than in the examples given along with your solution - as long as it fits the challenge description.
<b>Can I submit if my idea/solution is already being implemented?</b>	No if your idea is already a fully working solution, workflow, service or product. Yes if your idea is a prototype or in a pilot stage and you want to use this competition to drive it forward. In case of doubt, contact us by Email at <a href="mailto:unusalsolutions@werobotics.org">unusalsolutions@werobotics.org</a>
<b>Will my idea remain confidential?</b>	Yes, your idea will be treated as confidential information at all times. The jury members who will read your application will all sign an NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) to keep your idea confidential. Should your idea make it to the next round (Finals), we will contact you and ask you to draft a short description of your idea for open communication purposes.



<p><b>What other guidelines should I take into consideration?</b></p>	<p>Your solution should take into account the principles outlined in our Code of Conduct for Social Good. You can find it on the <a href="#">Community page</a> of WeRobotics website.</p>
<p><b>If my idea is selected as a finalist idea for the “Competition” phase, what can I use the budget for?</b></p>	<p>The use of the USD 15,000 for the competition phase is restricted towards using it to turn the idea into a concept or prototype, and within this frame, can be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Human Resources (time)</li> <li>● Equipment directly related to the idea and needed to turn the idea into a concept or prototype</li> <li>● Travel (please note that travel to the Final Pitch event will be provided for 1 team member in addition to the USD 15,000)</li> </ul>

## The Competition

<p><b>When will I know if my idea is chosen for the finals</b></p>	<p>Finalists will be announced by the end of September 2019. You will receive an Email from us by the end of September in any case, either to say “Congratulations, you made it to the next round” or “Wow, great idea, keep it in mind for next competitions as unfortunately you did not make it to the next round.</p>
<p><b>Where and when will the final pitch take place?</b></p>	<p>We are planning to host the final pitch in February 2020. The location will be announced in October 2019 (it won’t be in the USA or Europe). The exact date in February 2020 will be confirmed in September when we announce the 9 finalists. All 9 ideation winners will be invited to attend the pitch event and their travel costs will be covered to make it there (and back home naturally).</p>
<p><b>If selected, how can I further develop my idea into a concept?</b></p>	<p>We will guide you through the process when the time is ripe (as of October).</p>