

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix- Travail- Patrie

MINISTRE DES POSTES ET
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace- Work- Fatherland

MINISTRY OF POSTS AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC**

FIFTH EDITION OF ICT INNOVATION WEEK

**Theme: “ *Protecting Cyberspace from the Misuse of Artificial
Intelligence and Promoting Digital Patriotism*”.**

RULES OF THE NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT

Yaoundé, 22 June to 31 July 2026



PREAMBLE

These rules define the conditions for participation in the “**NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT**”, organised by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications as part of the fifth edition of ICT Innovation Week.

By registering for the competition, each participant accepts all of the rules, the ethics rules applicable on the internet, and the laws and regulations applicable to competitions in the Republic of Cameroon.

ARTICLE 1 – THE ORGANISER

To encourage entrepreneurship and innovation in the digital economy, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications has launched the “**NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT**”.

ARTICLE 2 .- PURPOSE

- (1) The purpose of the **NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT** is to detect, identify, evaluate, award and support the best digital innovation projects in Cameroon each year.
- (2) The **NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT** is open to all project holders who meet the eligibility criteria set out in these Rules.
- (3) Access to the **NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT** is free of charge.
- (4) Projects must be innovative with high potential, whether in terms of products, services, processes or organisation.
- (5) The project may involve:
 - either the creation of a new entity (an ex nihilo project);
 - Or the development of new activities carried out by existing structures.

ARTICLE 3 – DEFINITIONS

START-UP: A young, innovative company looking to raise significant funds to launch or boost its activity.

PRODUCT INNOVATION: The development and/or marketing of a new product (good or service), or an existing product incorporating something new.

PROCESS INNOVATION: the implementation of a new or substantially improved method of production or distribution involving significant technical, hardware or software changes. This excludes minor changes or improvements; increases in production or service capacity obtained by adding manufacturing or logistical systems very similar to those already in use; the cessation of a process; the simple replacement or extension of equipment; changes resulting solely from variations in factor prices; customised production; adaptation to local markets; seasonal, regular and other cyclical changes; and trade in new or substantially improved products.

ORGANISATIONAL INNOVATION: the implementation of a new organisational method in business practices, workplace organisation or external relations, excluding changes based on organisational methods already in use, changes in management strategy, mergers and acquisitions, cessation of use of a process, simple replacement or extension of equipment, changes resulting solely from variations in factor prices, customised production, adaptation to local markets, regular or seasonal modifications, and other cyclical changes, as well as trade in new or substantially improved products.

BOOTCAMP: A space in which pre-selected candidates prepare.

PITCH: This is the stage of the competition during which each finalist candidate presents and defends their project, product or service in front of a Grand Jury.

ARTICLE 4 - VENUE AND SCHEDULE

(1) The *NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT* will take place in Yaoundé from **22 June to 31 July 2026 inclusive**, in accordance with the following schedule:

No.	ACTION	DATE
-----	--------	------

1	Launch of the competition at a press conference hosted by the Minister for Posts and Telecommunications	22 June 2026
2	Online registration via the platform www.ictinnovationweek.cm	22 June – 22 July 2026 at 3.30 p.m
3	Sessions of the Internal Committee responsible for shortlisting projects	2 July – 23 July 2026
4	Publishing of the list of pre-selected projects	24 July 2026 at 12 noon
5	Arrival and installation of participants in Yaounde	25 - 26 July 2026
6	Launch of the ICT Innovation Week	27 July 2026
7	Bootcamp: digital sprint experience –	27 - 29 July 2026
8	Start-up Day - Exhibition - Masterclass - Sharing of experiences	29 July 2026
9	Final pitch	30 July 2026
10	Official awards ceremony for the winners (face-to-face and via videoconference).	31 July 2026

(2) However, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications reserves the right to extend, shorten, modify or cancel the organisation of the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT without prior notice or liability. It will inform the public accordingly. Candidates shall refrain from making any claim or request for compensation in relation to this matter.

ARTICLE 5 - ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The *NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT* is evaluated using three types of criteria: personal eligibility criteria, project pre-selection criteria , and evaluation criteria for the Grand Jury (final pitch).

(1) Personal eligibility criteria:

The cumulative conditions for eligibility for the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT are as follows:

- Be of Cameroonian nationality;
- Have an innovative ICT project;

- Reside in Cameroon.
- Complete the registration form and attach your complete file (project document) to your application, including:
 - **a presentation of the start-up and the project;**
 - **the problem to be solved or the market opportunity that motivated the idea;**
 - **the innovative factor;**
 - **the project summary;**
 - **the target or beneficiaries;**
 - **how your project will generate income;**
 - **the working team (profile of members).**

(2) Project pre-selection criteria:

Applications from candidates who meet the eligibility criteria set out in paragraph 1 of this article will be pre-selected on the basis of the following criteria:

No.	CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	SCALE
1	Relevance of the project	Does the project address a clearly identified, genuine need? Is the problem it addresses of significance to the people, businesses or public authorities of Cameroon?	20 points
2	Innovative Nature of the Solution	Does the proposed solution constitute a significant innovation relative to existing alternatives? Does it offer a novel approach, a substantial improvement, or a technological breakthrough?	15 points
3	Technical feasibility	Is the project technically feasible? Are the proposed technologies either mastered or readily accessible? Is the project's level of maturity (prototype, MVP, functional product) consistent with the stated objectives?	15 points
4	Socio-Economic Impact	Is the project likely to generate measurable positive effects on society or the economy? Does it contribute to job creation, digital inclusion, improved services, or enhanced productivity?	15 points
5	Business Model and Sustainability	Does the project possess a credible business model capable of ensuring its financial viability in the medium and long term? Are the revenue streams and development prospects clearly identified?	10 points
6	Use of AI in the Proposed Solution	Is artificial intelligence integrated in a relevant and justified manner? Does its use provide tangible added value in terms of automation, analysis, prediction, personalisation, or decision support?	10 points
7	Contribution to Digital Patriotism and Cybersecurity	Does the project contribute to promoting the responsible and ethical use of digital technology in Cameroon? Does it advance data protection, the security of information systems, and the fight against cybercrime, disinformation, or harmful online content?	15 points

Proposed ICT projects should integrate or take advantage of artificial intelligence to address the specific needs of the Cameroonian society in key areas such as:

- **Health;**
- **Education;**
- **Agriculture;**
- **Fintech;**
- **Cybersecurity;**
- **Governance and public services;**
- **Environment and sustainable development;**
- **Combating disinformation and promoting digital patriotism;**
- **Others.**

The best projects will be selected in two stages.

- The first stage is a pre-selection based on a document describing the project, which is submitted on the website during registration.
- Then, a hearing before the Grand Jury.

(3) Assessment criteria for the final pitch before the Grand Jury

The Grand Jury will assess the following elements:

- the updated project document;
- the project marketing video;
- the business model;
- the go-to-market strategy;
- the candidate's oral pitch, accompanied by a digital presentation (pitch talk and pitch deck);
- the demonstration of the product, prototype or application.

the evaluation criteria for this final phase are as follows:

No.	CRITERIA		SCORING
1	Quality of the pitch and command of the project	Clarity of the presentation, ability to explain the problem, the solution, the market and the strategy, and to answer the Jury's questions with precision and conviction.	/10
2	Innovative nature and differentiation	Level of technological or user innovation, originality of the solution, competitive	/20

		advantage and added value compared to existing solutions.	
3	Demonstration of the product or prototype	Level of product maturity, quality of the demonstration, available features, user experience and technical credibility of the solution.	/20
4	Socio-economic impact and value for Cameroon	Contribution to economic development, digital inclusion, employment, the modernisation of services or the resolution of a problem of national interest.	/20
5	Economic viability and business model	Coherence of the business model, revenue-generating potential, growth strategy and prospects for long-term sustainability.	/10
6	Scalability and deployment strategy	Growth potential, scope for deployment at national, regional or international level, and the realism of the implementation timetable.	/10
7	Contribution to digital sovereignty, AI and cybersecurity	Appropriate use of AI, data protection, cybersecurity, local hosting, reduction of technological dependence and contribution to digital trust.	/10
	TOTAL		100

ARTICLE 6.- CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION

- (1) Registration for the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT is exclusively online, via a form to be completed on the event's website www.ictinnovationweek.cm.
- (2) A start-up may not submit more than one project.
- (3) A natural person may not present more than one project.
- (4) A natural person may not represent more than one start-up.
- (5) To guarantee complete transparency, shortlisted candidates will be contacted by the organiser of the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT. The list of shortlisted candidates will also be published on the website www.ictinnovationweek.cm.
- (6) Travel and accommodation expenses for candidates shortlisted for the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT will be paid by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.
- (7) For start-ups consisting of multiple members, the Ministry will only pay for the start-up's representative.

- (8) Registration and participation in all stages of the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT is free of charge. The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications cannot therefore be held responsible for any scams that may occur.
- (9) Transfer of image rights: registration for the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT implies transfer of image rights to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and the body responsible for the operational implementation of the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT. This allows for the reproduction and use of data and images relating to candidates and representatives in any public promotional activity relating to the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT, without remuneration.

ARTICLE 7.- EXCLUSIONS

- (1) The following are not eligible to take part in the competition:
- Staff from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications;
 - Members of the jury;
 - Companies other than START-UPS;
 - Startups with an established reputation whose products and/or services are already on the market.
- (2) Any erroneous, incomplete or fraudulent declaration by a participant will result in their participation being cancelled.

ARTICLE 8 - COMPOSITION OF THE JURY

- (1) The **Competition Jury** comprises a **Pre-selection Committee** and a **Grand Jury**.
- (2) The **Pre-selection committee** is responsible for selecting the projects that will compete in the final pitch before the grand jury, in accordance with the eligibility criteria described in Article 5.2. Its composition is established by a memorandum from the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications.
- (3) The Grand Jury is responsible for evaluating the candidates shortlisted during the final pitch and for announcing the Competition results.
- (4) The Grand Jury is representative of the public and private sectors of the digital economy.
- (5) The Grand Jury makes unanimous decisions.
- (6) The jury reserves the right to reject any incomplete application or any application that does not meet the criteria of the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST

ICT PROJECT for any reason whatsoever. It is not obliged to give reasons for its decisions.

ARTICLE 9. - PROJECT SUBMISSION

- (1) Those wishing to participate in the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT as project holders must register on the ICT Innovation Week website www.ictinnovationweek.cm. They must provide their personal details (surname, first name, address, email address and telephone number), submit the project document in PDF format, and confirm their acceptance of the full rules by ticking the appropriate box.
- (2) No other means of participation will be accepted. Only participants who have completed all these steps will have their entry to the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT deemed valid.
- (3) The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications cannot be held responsible for any technical problems that prevent the submission of projects. Proof of distribution is not proof of dispatch. If an applicant has not received a confirmation email, their application has not been registered.
- (4) The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications cannot be held responsible for any costs incurred in promoting the project when the applicant enters the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT.
- (5) The Ministry cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracy in the published information.
- (6) No file will be returned to the candidate.

ARTICLE 10 – RUNNING OF THE COMPETITION

The competition will take place in three stages:

(1) Registration phase

- Any participant who meets the conditions listed in Article 5 above is eligible.
- Registration for the *NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT* is open from 22 June to 22 July 2026 at 3.30 pm;
- To take part in the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT, candidates with business projects must register using a form available on the website www.ictinnovationweek.cm.

- Candidates must fill in the form with their usual information. They must also complete all the mandatory fields and attach their project document in PDF format.
- Interested parties can obtain information on the competition by reading the rules on the dedicated website www.ictinnovationweek.cm.
- Registration is free.

(2) The pre-selection phase

- This will take place during the period described in Article 4 above.
- Following registration and the submission of applications online, the jury will examine the submitted projects and rank them in order of merit in accordance with the criteria defined in Article 5.2.
- **The holders of the fifteen (15) best pre-selected projects** will be invited to Yaounde for the final phase of the competition.
- Over the course of three (03) days, the shortlisted projects will benefit from coaching sessions, experience sharing, and specialised training.
- If a candidate is unavailable or unable to be represented for any reason, the jury reserves the right to propose and appoint the next-ranked candidate on the jury list.

(3) The Pitch

At the end of this second stage, the Grand Jury members will meet for the final pitch.

- The fifteen (15) shortlisted candidates will be invited to give an oral presentation (pitch) and a practical demonstration of their projects. The terms and conditions of this evaluation will be specified during the BOOTCAMP.
- The Grand Jury members will evaluate each candidate based on the criteria set out in Article 5, Paragraph 3, and proceed to the final ranking.

ARTICLE 11.- PRIZES AND AWARDS

- (1) The NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT includes two types of separable prizes: the Special Prize of the President of the Republic and Specific Category Prizes.
- (2) The Special Prize of the President of the Republic is awarded to the best project in the competition, while the category prizes are awarded to the other winners.
- (3) The Prizes and awards will be presented by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications at the awards ceremony on **31 July 2026**.

(4) The results will be published online, particularly on the event website www.ictinnovationweek.cm and by any other means deemed appropriate by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

ARTICLE 12 - OBLIGATIONS OF CANDIDATES

- (1) The candidates are bound to adhere to this regulation and namely to the prohibition to provide a false identity or use the identity of a third party.
- (2) Each candidate is committed, in addition to the rules of this regulation,
 - Not to reproduce and/or use the trademark, corporate name, logo or any distinctive sign of a third party;
 - Not to carry out a project contrary to the interest of the Organising companies.
 - Not to slander, impair or infringe the rights of third parties;
 - Not to be already associated with anyone or any company in more than one project at the same time.
- (3) The connection of any legal body on the Site dedicated for this competition, as well as its on-line registration, will be done under its full responsibility.

ARTICLE 13 – RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ORGANISER

- (1) The participation of candidates involves the knowledge and acceptance of characteristics as well as limitations of Internet, especially with regard to information transfer, interruption hazards, and more generally, risks related to any connection and transmission on Internet and namely hacking and scamming, etc.
- (2) It is worth noting that the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications will not be responsible for any direct or indirect damages resulting from an interruption, an Internet malfunction of any nature and for any reason whatsoever, or more still any direct or indirect damage that may result from any manner whatsoever to a connection to the event's website.
- (3) It is the duty of any participant to take all appropriate measures to protect its own data and/or software stored on its computer equipment against any infringement to third parties.
- (4) By participating in the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT, the candidates recognise that the ideas and concepts do not benefit from any special protection and therefore their broadcasting within the framework of this competition could give room to use by any person having knowledge of the content.

Consequently, they cannot claim any rights or compensation from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

ARTICLE 14 : COMMITMENTS OF THE CANDIDATE

Any participant in the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT pledges to:

- Accept without reservation this Regulation;
- Ensure the sincerity and authenticity of information provided. Avoid any inaccuracy or omission likely to result to misjudgment that will void the application of the candidate;
- Participate in the Prizes and Awards ceremony if he/she is short-listed;
- In the case of proven irregularity, the Jury reserves the possibility to withdraw the awarded prize;
- Renounce the right to any appeal concerning the organisation conditions of the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT, its results and the jury's decisions.
- Accept the prize in any form awarded;
- Expressly authorise the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications to use and broadcast its images and the characteristic features of his project activity;
- Renounce only for the purpose of this NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT to claim any right on his image, by accepting beforehand the broadcasting of photographs that could be taken during the prize award ceremony;
- By presenting the project on the website, the project holder confirms he has received the consent of all concerned persons so that the images and details of the company or the association be published by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. Any file that is not complete or not legible and based on false indications will be considered as void.

ARTICLE 15.- INTELLECTUAL PROPRIETY - RIGHT TO IMAGE – DATA PROTECTION

- (1) By participating in this competition, candidates certify on their honour that they are the rightful owner of the projects.
- (2) The candidates are conscious that their image could be subject for a media communication within the context of the Competition. In this respect, they transfer

by their participation in the NATIONAL COMPETITION OF THE BEST ICT PROJECT and that of their partners, the right to use their image (names, photos, video, projects, applications etc) without expecting any remuneration in return, without any compensation for damages, no right or advantage of any nature other than the Prizes and Awards provided.

- (3) This right of use authorised by the candidate spans throughout the period of the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT until the award of prizes and stretches over two (02) years after the handing over of Prizes and Awards.
- (4) However, candidates have the right to access, modify, rectify, delete data relating to them. To exercise this right, they will have to address a mail to the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications.
- (5) The right to reproduce, represent, adapt and translated on a written, photographic, sound and audiovisual report on the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT, as well as their material support (originals, tests, audiotapes, typons, masters,...) made and paid by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications are the final and exclusive propriety of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.
- (6) The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and Partners in the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT are legally liable for the protection of ideas, patents, files, models and trademark invented by the candidate.

ARTICLE 16.- AMENDMENTS

- (1) The Minister of Posts and Telecommunications reserves the right to report, amend, cancel or renew the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT, should circumstances so require. Any changes will be announced in the media.
- (2) The Minister of Posts and Telecommunications reserves the right to cancel all or part of the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT, if it appears that frauds of any kind has been perpetrated. In this case, the Ministry will inform the public by any means.

ARTICLE 17.- DISCLOSURE OF THE REGULATION

- (1) This regulation is freely available on the website www.ictinnovationweek.cm.

ARTICLE 18.- DISPUTES

- (1) Any complaint or claim relating to the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT must be done in writing and sent to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.
- (2) The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and any other interested person will use any amicable means and leverage to settle such dispute with a fortnight after its referral. In the absence of any agreement, the dispute will be submitted to the competent courts in the Republic of Cameroon, except contrary to Public order.
- (3) No complaint will be accepted one month after the end of the NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT.

Yaoundé, 22 June 2026.

**THE MINISTER OF POSTS
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**