HACK2BRIDGE
Electronics
Austria

Participants handbook

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1.   ABOUT Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA

Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA is an entrepreneurship and ideation competition open to SMEs, startups, students, and interdisciplinary teams who are eager to pitch and prototype innovative solutions addressing real-world challenges in Europe's Electronics and Microelectronics ecosystems.

The hackathon provides a unique platform for networking, collaboration, and hands-on innovation, aiming to accelerate the digital and sustainable transformation of the electronics industry. By fostering synergies between SMEs, startups, technical experts, and creative thinkers, the competition drives the development of new products, services, and business models—while expanding market opportunities and building bridges across industrial value chains.

Participants will:

- Solve challenges sourced from leading industry partners in areas such as supply chain resilience, circular economy, digital transformation, and cybersecurity.

- Work alongside experienced mentors and industry experts.

- Pitch their solutions to a jury of international stakeholders, with the chance to showcase their ideas at EBSCON 2025—one of Europe's flagship microelectronics events.

By joining **Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA**, you'll not only expand your network and skills, but also contribute to the future of resilient and human-centric European industry.

JOIN HERE

1.1   Themes and Challenges

Europe's electronics and microelectronics sectors are currently facing a wide range of pressing challenges—such as supply chain disruptions, the urgent need for sustainable solutions, skills gaps, and accelerating digital transformation. SMEs and startups often lack the resources or technical capacity to fully leverage emerging technologies or invest in advanced R&D, which can limit their growth and ability to compete internationally. Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA is designed to foster alliances between traditional SMEs and tech-savvy companies, encouraging new cross-sector collaborations and innovative approaches.

The hackathon will promote synergies across the electronics value chain, empowering participants to design novel solutions, create new business models, and help shape the future of a resilient and human-centric European industry.

Potential themes for the Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA hackathon may include:

- Supply Chain Resilience and Sourcing of Raw Materials

- Sustainability and Circular Economy in Electronics

- Digital Transformation and Automation of Production Processes

- Cybersecurity and Protection of Digital Production Systems

- Talent Shortages and Digital Skills Development

At this stage, the final list of challenges is still in development. We are currently seeking industry partners who will provide real-world challenges for participants to address during the hackathon. The exact topics and problem statements will be announced before the event.

By joining Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA, you will have the opportunity to work on relevant, high-impact industry challenges, develop practical solutions, and showcase your ideas to key stakeholders in the European electronics sector.

The exact challenges will be announced during the competition!

1.2　Date, location, and timeline

The **Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA** will take place on **October 6–7, 2025** at the Unicorn Startup & Innovation Hub in Graz, Austria. The grand finale Pitch Showcase will be held on **October 8, 2025** during EBSCON 2025 at Messe Graz.

Venue addresses:

- **Hackathon:**
  Unicorn Startup & Innovation Hub
  Schubertstraße 6a, 8010 Graz, Austria

- **Pitch Showcase:**
  Messe Graz (EBSCON 2025)
  Messeplatz 1, 8010 Graz, Austria

Getting to the venue:

- **Public Transport:** Graz is well connected by trams and buses. The Unicorn Startup & Innovation Hub can be reached via tram lines 1 and 7 (stop: Maiffredygasse), which are a short walk from the venue. The main train station (Graz Hauptbahnhof) is about 15 minutes away by public transport.

- **From Graz Airport:** Take the S5 train to Graz Hauptbahnhof, then continue by tram.

- **By Taxi or Ride-Sharing:** Taxis and ride-sharing options are available throughout Graz.

Hybrid/Online participation:

Parts of the event will also be accessible online for registered participants who cannot join on site.

Need assistance?

If you have trouble finding the venue or need further instructions, please contact the organizing team at **timon.theurl@silicon-alps.at**.

Timeline:

- **October 6, 2025:** Hackathon Kick-off at Unicorn Startup & Innovation Hub

- **October 6–7, 2025:** Teamwork, Mentoring, and Challenge Hacking

- **October 7, 2025:** Jury Evaluation & Announcement of Finalists

- **October 8, 2025:** Pitch Showcase at EBSCON 2025, Messe Graz

A detailed agenda and schedule will be provided to all registered participants prior to the event.

1.3 WHO CAN JOIN?

Hack2BRIDGE in electronics is open to **SMEs, start-ups**, newly established or under-formation companies, as well as **teams of researchers, students, public and/or private sector professionals** looking to develop innovative solutions. Participants must be **over 17 years old**.

Hack2BRIDGE in electronics welcomes **teams of any size**. Team members may participate virtually as long as the majority of the team attends the competition in person.

1.4 Why get involved?

Participants will have access to the following opportunities:

- **Networking** – Connect with passionate professionals, industry experts, and potential collaborators from diverse fields.

- **Professional growth** – Enhance your skills, refine your expertise, and learn from experiences mentors in a dynamic, collaborative environment.

- **Visibility and recognition** – Showcase your innovative solutions to gain visibility, recognition, and potential collaboration opportunities with participating organizations.

- **Interdisciplinary skills** – Work with experts from various disciplines, integrating ideas to develop more comprehensive and innovate solutions.

- **Mentoring** – Participate in workshops and receive one-on-one guidance from industry experts throughout the competition.

2.   PREPARATION

To make the most of your Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA experience, please follow these steps:

- **Build a strong and diverse team:**
  Form your team with a mix of technical, business, and creative skills. Interdisciplinary teams are highly encouraged.

- **Register online:**
  Complete your registration via the official link:
  https://bridgesmes.eu/hack2bridge/austria

- **Indicate your topic interests:**
  Once the final challenges are announced, let us know your preferred themes or challenge areas as early as possible.

- **Review the evaluation criteria:**
  Familiarize yourself with the judging criteria and competition rules, which will be published prior to the event.

- **Stay updated:**
  Follow Silicon Alps Cluster, Unicorn Graz, BRIDGESMEs, and EBSCON on social media for the latest updates.

- **Prepare your essentials:**
  Bring your laptop, chargers, power strips/adapters, and anything else you may need for a productive hackathon experience.

- **Dress comfortably:**
  The event is intensive and lasts several hours each day—comfortable clothing is recommended.

2.1   Useful Information for Contestants

- Form multidisciplinary teams including members from different disciplines.
- Leave your imagination and creativity free. Think out of the box, brainstorm, select the main features of your idea and implement it.
- Share tasks between team members and vote for quick decision making.
- Put out timetables and organise your work.
- Ask the experts. There will be specialised Mentors who will provide you guidance. Take advantage of them!
- Have fun! Hack2BRIDGE is an opportunity to meet new people, learn new things and live a special experience

2.2   What the organiser will provide

- Coffee, refreshments, food, snacks.
- Stream, fast internet access.
- Tips and support from experienced mentors, industry leaders.
- Stationery for notes.
- Equipment for your presentations.

3.   STAKEHOLDERS

Several key groups of domain and business experts will contribute to the success of Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA:

Scientific & Industry Committee
This committee is responsible for shaping the scientific and business content of the competition challenges. Committee members curate relevant educational resources, develop detailed challenge descriptions, and organize thematic speeches and workshops to support participants in building innovative and technically robust solutions.

Keynote Speakers
High-profile figures from government, academia, and leading industry organizations will deliver keynote speeches to officially open the event and inspire participants.

Mentors
Experienced mentors from industry and academia will be available throughout the hackathon, guiding participants, sharing their expertise, and offering hands-on support. The full list of mentors will be announced shortly before the event.

4.   THE COMPETITION WEEKEND

4.1   Registration for the Competition

To take part in the competition, you must be register at the corresponding link.

Whether you are signing up as a startup, SME, or a team, please ensure that all team members are registered.

Online registration is open until September 26th.

In case of an application deadline extension, participants will be notified via official communication channels and the website.

4.2   The agenda

Below you can find the agenda. Any changes will be announced well ahead of time before and during the event, so that you can distribute your available time accordingly.

Day 1 Monday 6 October 2025	
10:00 – 11:00	Teams' arrival and registration
Opening-Launch session	
Salutation of organisers and inspiration speeches	
11:00 – 11:15	Welcome by organisers
11:15 – 12:00	Key stakeholder remarks
Welcome to the Hack2BRIDGE world	
12:00 – 12:30	Hack2BRIDGE Challenges Unveiling!

12:30 – 13:00	Workshop
13:00 – 14:00	Networking lunch
Start of Hacking	
14:00 – 18:00	Hacking / Mentors available for consultations and guidance
Closure of the day	

Day 2 Tuesday 7 October 2025	
09:00 – 09:30	Teams' arrival
Hacking time	
09:30 – 14:00	Finalising projects / Mentors available for consultations and guidance Workshop (TBC)
14:00	**Submission deadline**
14:00 – 15:00	Group photo & Light lunch
End of hacking	
Pitching session	
15:00 – 17:00	Pitching
Awards Ceremony & Networking	
17:00 – 18:00	Jury deliberation
18:00 – 19:00	Announcement of winners and Awards ceremony, Farewell networking
Closure of the day	

4.3   Submission

All teams must submit a presentation (PowerPoint or PDF) before the deadline. A template will be provided with further details on the content that should be included in the presentation. A demonstration or technical implementation related to the final presentation is optional.

The presentation should include the following.

- The **Introduction**: Provide a summary of your presentation. Open with a simple statement such as, "This is our team, and this is what we do."

- The **Problem**: Describe the issue you aim to solve or the opportunity you seek to capitalize on. Avoid presenting a solution in search of a problem.

- The **Solution**: Explain how your approach addresses the problem and the value it creates. A detailed technical explanation is unnecessary. Provide just the gist of how you fix the problem (but do make sure that your idea is feasible).

- The **Market**: Identify your target customers or consumers. Quantify the market size, ideally in monetary terms (e.g., How large is the market?).

- The **Business/Pricing model**: Explain how your business generates revenue. Clarify who pays you, the distribution channels you will use, your gross margins, and other key financial considerations.
- The **Competition**: Are there alternatives? Are there direct or indirect competitors? Briefly categorise them.
- The **Unique Selling Point(s)**: Highlight what sets you apart from the competition. What makes your solution unique and compelling?
- The **Team**: Introduce your team members, their skills, and their roles. Explain why your team is well-suited to solving the problem.
- The **Timeplan**: Outline the next steps for implementing your idea. Identify key milestones and expected progress.
- The **Financials**: Present the expected costs, required funding, and projected revenues. Provide estimations to illustrate the financial feasibility of your idea.

Beyond the presentation submission, the teams will have to pitch their idea and present it within a specific time-limit in front of a jury. Upon each presentation, participants will be accepting questions from the jury members.

During the presentation, you should assume that you are "selling" your idea to potential investors! **Focus on capturing their attention and provide the required information that can help them evaluate the business potential of your idea**. Present both the technical and the business aspects of your idea.

4.4 Evaluation Process and Final Presentation

The competition process will be completed with presentations of the participants to the Jury. Regarding the presentation, the participating teams should know the following:

- The duration of the presentation will be strictly regulated (limit to be announced during the competition).
- The presentation should be complete (addressing all evaluation criteria).
- Presentations can be supported by real prototypes, slides and/or any other audiovisual media, if available.
- Teams should keep in mind that they are targeting a potential client/investor and want to persuade them to invest in their idea.

The **judging criteria** are:

- **Relevance**: Relevance to the competition themes and challenges. This is an on/off criterion.
1. **Market validation**: Has the customer been identified with a specific problem to be solved? Is there a sufficient market for the business?
2. **Value creation**: Does the proposed solution solve the identified problem? Does it have a Unique Selling Point?
3. **Technical Innovation**: Is the idea innovative? Does it provide a competitive advantage?

4. **Business case attractivity**: Is the business model sound? Can the idea attract interest from potential investors? Does the idea have the potential to secure funding from other sources (beyond investors), such as grants?

5. **Quality of the team**: Quality of the team, including technical expertise, business expertise, understanding of the thematic area, commitment to the project and ability to pitch it.

5. EVENT LOGISTICS

Participation in the competition is **free of charge**.

Full meals will be provided for the duration of the competition (6th and 7th of October).

The participants shall bring their own devices (chargers, power strip, etc.) with Wi-Fi capability. The organisers will provide the credentials for free internet resources for the duration of the event.

The premises will be open to participants throughout the duration of the event. The participants shall accept the terms and conditions of use of the facilities. Finally, they shall follow the instructions of the staff.

6. COMMUNICATION - INFORMATION

If you encounter any issues while applying for the competition or need further information regarding any aspect of it, please do not hesitate to contact us! The main point of contact between the competitors and the organising committee is Timon Theurl:

- E: timon.theurl@silicon-alps.at | M: +43 664 22 13 577

7. PRIZES

All participants will benefit from:

• Exclusive networking opportunities with industry leaders, innovators, and investors

• Development of interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial skills

• Visibility and business recognition within the European electronics and innovation ecosystem

• Participation certificates for all registered team members

Prizes for the winning teams:

- **Cash prizes**

- **Special prize:**

  The winning team will also be awarded **temporary office space at the Unicorn Startup & Innovation Hub in Graz**—an outstanding opportunity to further develop your project and connect with the local startup community.

Additional benefits, such as access to further mentoring or follow-up programs, may be announced closer to the event.

8. RULES

Here you will find an overview of the most important competition rules that all participants must follow on the pain of exclusion from the competition.

- All participants must be registered on the Competition [platform](#).
- All participants must fulfil the requirements as described in Section 2.
- All teams must submit a complete Pitch as defined in "Project Submission" before the submission deadline.
- All teams must propose one or more representatives who will present the Pitch during the dedicated Pitch Session.

9. CODE OF CONDUCT

- Activities promoting or related to alcohol, tobacco, religion, politics, intolerance, violence, firearms, pornography, obscenity, gambling, or illegal drugs are explicitly excluded from the competition.

- We provide a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of race, creed, colour, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, physical appearance, body size, disability, or marital status. We do not tolerate harassment on our platforms in any form.

- Sexual language and imagery are not appropriate on our platforms.

- Any person violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the competition at the discretion of the organiser.

10. IPR, OWNERSHIP OF RESULTS & CONFIDENTIALITY

The ownership of any intellectual property developed by participants during and within the scope of the competition will remain with the individual participants.

The Organisers will not assume ownership of the intellectual property. The Organisers may use non-confidential textual and audio-visual descriptions of the intellectual property that are provided by participants in the context of the competition, for promotional purposes.

The Organisers confirm not to disclose any confidential information acquired through the organisation of the Competition to any third party. The Organisers furthermore ensure that all experts and mentors involved in the Competition commit to a non-disclosure agreement.

11.   DATA PROTECTION

The Organisers shall handle and protect all personal data in accordance with the privacy policy that is to be defined by the principal and in accordance with the applicable privacy laws and regulations, in particular Regulation (EC) 45/2001 and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation).

12.   USER SATISFACTION

Participants agree to complete a short user satisfaction questionnaire after the Competition.

13.   AWARD DECISION

The award decisions shall not be subject to legal challenge. The decisions rendered by the expert appointed by the Organiser shall be final and binding for all Participants. Participants shall have no right to justification of such decisions.

14.   DATA PROTECTION

The Organiser will handle and protect personal data of all Participants in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and relevant data protection laws of the European Union. All personal data of Participants will be processed exclusively within a Member State of the European Union or a Contracting State of the Agreement on the European Economic Area. Any transfer of personal data to third countries is excluded.

By participating in Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA, each Participant agrees that their contact details may be shared with the European Commission (EC) and the BRIDGESMEs project coordinator for the purpose of informing them about matters related to Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA or other relevant project activities, as deemed appropriate by the coordinator or the EC.

Furthermore, by participating in Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA, all Participants acknowledge and agree that the Organiser and the EC may use their names, country of origin, comments, likeness, photos, and videos (including photos/videos taken during Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA), as well as non-confidential descriptions of their projects developed during the hackathon, for publicity or advertising purposes relating to Hack2BRIDGE AUSTRIA in any medium now known or hereafter developed (including the Internet and other interactive networks),

worldwide and at any time, without further compensation or right of review. Participants agree to waive any rights with respect to such use.

The obligations relating to personal data protection will remain in effect indefinitely, or for as long as required by applicable law.