



INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Caribbean Youth ICT Showcase

Let the Creativity shine!

www.canto.org

APPLICATIONS CLOSE:

JUNE 9TH, 2025

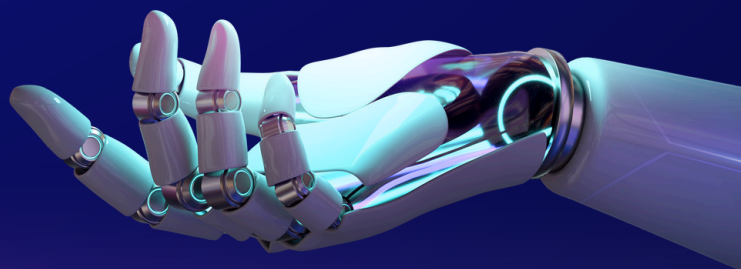


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The Challenge

CANTO's Technology Trends Committee spearheads this Innovation Challenge, aimed at igniting transformative progress in the Caribbean's ICT landscape. By promoting innovation and facilitating collaboration, this challenge encourages young innovators to showcase groundbreaking solutions to regional challenges, fostering partnerships and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders to leverage collective intelligence for industry advancement.

Problem Statement

Develop and present a working innovation product or solution that addresses a specific need or opportunity within the ICT landscape of the Caribbean region. Participants are encouraged to think creatively and leverage emerging technologies to create impactful solutions that have the potential to transform industries, improve quality of life, or drive socio-economic development.

The proposed solutions can take the form of:

- Web applications, data tools, apps etc.
- Potential integration of Artificial Intelligence/Machine learning
- Could be embedded on www.canto.org

Eligibility



Participants must be between the ages of 18 and 23 and reside in the Caribbean region.

Each team **MUST** be comprised of 2 to 4 members.



Team members should have working proficiency in English.



Two (2) members must possess valid passports & visa (if applicable) with an expiration date extending beyond April 2026.

Note: Visa application & on-site costs will be borne by the participants.



Individuals or teams who participated in the CANTO Innovation Challenge 2024 are not eligible to enter the 2025 competition.

How to Apply:

To apply for the CANTO Innovation Challenge, fill in the application form here before June 9th, 2025: <https://forms.gle/8quRiHSRzMaisEmC6>

Be sure to review eligibility requirements before submitting your application. If you have any questions our team can be contacted at: canto@canto.org.

Guidelines

- **Problem identification focus**

- Phase 1 submissions must clearly define a real-world ICT challenge affecting the Caribbean.
- Problems should be backed by research, data, and stakeholder analysis.
- Submissions must not propose full solutions in this phase—only a problem statement, impact analysis, and preliminary innovation direction are required.

- **Innovation focus**

Solutions should fall within the realm of ICT, including but not limited to software applications, hardware devices, digital platforms, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, cyber security, etc.

- **Practical Application**

Submissions should address a specific challenge or opportunity within the Caribbean context, demonstrating potential for practical implementation and positive impact.

- **Working Product**

Entries must include a functional prototype or demonstration of the innovation product/solution.

- **Presentation & Evaluation**

Participants will be required to present their innovation to a panel of judges during Phase 2. The final pitch should clearly highlight the problem identified, the solution's feasibility, technical execution, and potential impact.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

When entering the CANTO Innovation Challenge 2025, please ensure that your submission adheres to the following criteria:

- **Language Requirement**

All materials must be written in English.

- **Originality**

- Submissions must be original and not previously published or commercialized.
- Any third-party assets (e.g., datasets, frameworks) must be properly credited.

- **Content Standards**

- Your submission must avoid any language or imagery that is derogatory, inflammatory, threatening, defamatory, or otherwise offensive.
- Content that promotes hate, discrimination, or harm against any group or individual will be disqualified.

- **Legal Compliance**

- All content must comply with applicable laws.
- Any material that is unlawful or encourages illegal activities will be rejected.

- **Third-Party Materials**

- Proposals should not include third-party advertising, slogans, logos, or trademarks that imply external sponsorship or endorsement.
- If third-party content is used, it must be properly attributed.

- **Respect for Intellectual Rights**

Your submission must not violate any third party's publicity, privacy, or intellectual property rights

- **Submission Integrity**

- Incomplete, illegible, damaged, altered, or late submissions will be declared void.
- It is assumed that the individual submitting the proposal is the authorized account holder for the email provided. Verification may be requested if necessary.

CANTO reserves the right to disqualify any proposal that does not comply with these guidelines

Judging Procedure

The judging process will consist of two phases:

Phase 1: Problem Exploration

- A clear problem statement outlining the issue and its relevance to the Caribbean ICT landscape.
- An impact assessment detailing the stakeholders affected by the problem.
- An analysis of existing solutions and their shortcomings.
- A preliminary innovation direction, providing early insights into potential solutions (without requiring a full prototype).

***Disclaimer: If no Submissions meet the required standard to advance to Phase 2, CANTO reserves the right to halt the Challenge.**

Phase 2: The Solution Development

Based on their approved problem analysis, teams in Phase 2 will develop a functional prototype addressing the identified challenge. Selected teams will refine their ideas and submit:

- Technical documentation detailing system architecture, features, and feasibility.
- User testing reports capturing real-world validation and feedback.
- Business model canvas outlining sustainability and scalability.
- A working prototype, demonstrating the core functionality of their solution.

Finalists will pitch their solutions before a judging panel. Refer to page 7 for the rewards.

Recognition & Rewards



- ✓ Monetary Reward of \$2000USD
- ✓ Mentorship Program with Industry Experts
- ✓ Trip for two (2) team members to CANTO CONNECT 2026 (location TBA)
- ✓ Access to Funding Opportunities



- ✓ Monetary Reward of \$800USD
- ✓ Promotion through CANTO Channels
- ✓ Networking Opportunities with Industry Professionals



- ✓ Monetary Reward of \$400USD
- ✓ Exposure at CANTO Events
- ✓ Access to CANTO Resources and Workshops

Timeline

March 13th	Launch of call for applicants
June 9th	Closing of applications
June 30th	Announcement of Top 10
July 4th	Launch of Phase 2
August 20th	Presentation Skills Training (Virtual)
August 27th	Phase 2 Submission deadline
Sept 8th - 12th	Phase 2 Presentation week
Sept 30th	WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT!

Note: *Dates are targets and may be subject to change



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Sign up here:

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Thank you
for your
participation!

