STRATON Europe Project Terms and Conditions

European Strategic Technologies Challenge

§ 1 General Provisions

1. The organiser of the 'STRATON Europe – European Strategic Technologies Challenge' competition, hereinafter referred to as the 'Competition' or the 'Event', is the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, hereinafter referred to as the 'Organiser'.
2. The "STRATON Europe – European Strategic Technologies Challenge" competition is carried out as part of a project commissioned by the Minister of Science and Higher Education, hereinafter referred to as the "Project".
3. The competition is an international, four-day project-based event, held in person from 14 to 17 December 2026 in Gliwice at the Silesian University of Technology.
4. The aim of the Competition is to develop practical project management skills and interdisciplinary collaboration among undergraduates and PhD students, and to devise solutions to real-world technological, engineering, organisational and implementation problems.
5. The catalogue of challenges covers at least three strategic areas. Examples of such areas include nuclear energy, dual-use technologies and space technologies. A description of the challenge areas is provided in Annex 3. The challenges are open-ended and educational in nature. In the area of dual-use technologies, they do not include classified content or instruction relating to offensive applications.
6. The working language of the Event, competition materials, mentoring sessions and final presentations is English.
7. Official Event website: https://straton.polsl.pl/ Contact details:

Admission Office
Akademicka 2A Street
44-100 Gliwice, Poland
Room No. 282
straton@polsl.pl
+48322371690

§ 2 Rules of participation

1. Participants may be undergraduates and PhD students at universities in European countries who hold this status on the date of registration and during the Event, and who have been shortlisted in accordance with § 3; they are hereinafter referred to as 'Participants'.
2. Participation is free of charge, voluntary and exclusively on-campus. The Competition is open to students from various fields of study and academic disciplines.
3. Participants shall work in teams of 2–3 people, hereinafter referred to as 'Teams'. A maximum of 20 Teams may take part in the Competition. Each person may belong to only one Team. Teams will be formed on the first day of the Competition.

4. The Organiser anticipates the participation of at least 50 people from at least 6 European countries, including 10 universities or academic institutions.

6. The Organiser will provide workstations, presentation facilities, basic project materials, as well as catering and refreshments throughout the four days of the event.

7. Provision may be made for accommodation and a contribution towards travel costs for participants travelling from a considerable distance, including international participants.

8. Participants travelling from a considerable distance are required to arrange their own personal insurance covering travel and their stay.

9. Consultations with mentors and experts will be available as part of the Event.

10. Participants are obliged to comply with the Competition Rules, the principles of fair play, health and safety and fire safety regulations, and the rules of the venue where the competition will take place. They must not engage in any behaviour that endangers others or infringes upon their rights.

11. The current schedule for the event is available on the project website at https://straton.polsl.pl/.

§ 3 Applications and selection

1. The application period runs until **22 November 2026**, according to Polish time. Applications must be submitted via the registration form https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/CtA7ij2abQ .

2. The registration form includes: full name, email address, telephone number, university and country of the university, field of study or academic discipline, student or PhD candidate status, year of study, a description of skills and motivation, and the area of challenges. It includes a declaration of the accuracy of the data, acceptance of the Competition Rules and confirmation that the applicant has read the information on data processing. Consent regarding the use of one's image is separate and voluntary.

3. A mandatory formal criterion is the status of a student or PhD candidate at a university in a European country. The organiser may request a document confirming this status. The application must be complete and submitted by the deadline.

4. The organiser shall appoint a selection panel. Each application meeting the formal requirements will be awarded a score of 0 to 5 points for motivation to participate and 0 to 5 points for the alignment of competencies with the nature of the Event, for a total of up to 10 points.

5. For each criterion, 0 points indicates a lack of information to allow for assessment; 1–2 points – a weak justification; 3 points – a sufficient justification; 4 points – a good justification; and 5 points – a very good justification, supported by specific information. The results, together with a brief justification, are documented.

6. Candidates are selected in descending order of total points. In the event of a tie, priority is given, in the following order, to ensuring diversity in terms of the countries represented, the universities attended, and the fields of study and academic disciplines. Should it still not be possible to make a final selection based on these criteria, the decisive factor is the earlier submission date of the complete application.

7. The Organiser will send notification of selection or placement on the reserve list to the candidate's email address by 25 November 2026. The deadline for confirming participation is 29 November 2026. Failure to

confirm or withdrawal will allow the next person on the reserve list to be invited, in accordance with the selection rules.

8. Qualified participants will receive organisational information by 9 December 2026.

9. Within 3 days of receiving the result, a candidate may submit any objections regarding the formal assessment, the calculation of marks or the application of the selection criteria to the Organiser's contact address. The Organiser will respond within 3 days, before the final closure of the list of participants.

§ 4 Competition Entries

1. A Competition Entry is the original result of the Team's collaborative work, produced during the Event and addressing a single selected challenge. It may take the form of an engineering concept, a process or system model, a demonstrator, an implementation scenario, a feasibility study, an organisational recommendation, a service model, or a combination of these. There is no requirement to create a computer programme or a working prototype, unless this is specified by the selected challenge.

2. The entry comprises a description of the solution and a pitch deck presentation. The description may be included within the presentation, provided it enables the assessment of the problem, the assumptions, the proposed solution, its value, feasibility and further development. Additional models, analyses or demonstrators constitute supplementary materials.

3. The team must prepare a presentation in English, comprising 6–10 slides, in PDF or PPTX format. The presentation must include a title, the team's name and composition, a definition of the problem, the solution, its value and innovativeness, how it works or is implemented, users and applications, implementation potential, and a summary.

4. The presentation lasts a maximum of 5 minutes, followed by a question-and-answer session with the Committee. The time allocated for questions is the same for all teams and is announced at the start of the event.

5. Participants may use open-source materials and publicly available tools, whilst complying with their terms of use and respecting the rights of third parties. They must cite the sources, materials and tools used, including any significant use of generative tools. They are responsible for the accuracy and originality of their own contributions.

6. Mentors help participants to understand the problem and verify their assumptions, but do not carry out the work on behalf of the Team. A solution prepared in advance must not be presented as the result of work carried out during the Competition.

7. The entry must not contravene generally applicable laws, the rights of third parties, or contain classified information, trade secrets or data which the Team is not authorised to disclose. The Team ensures that the results may be published in accordance with the provisions of §6.

8. No substantive changes are permitted after the submission deadline. In the event of a documented failure on the part of the Organiser, the Organiser shall designate an equivalent method of submitting the entry. Before rejecting an entry on formal grounds, the Committee shall allow the Team to provide an explanation.

§ 5 Assessment and prizes

1. Entries shall be assessed by a Competition Committee appointed by the Organiser, comprising representatives of the Organiser and mentors specialising in the relevant challenge areas. The composition of the Committee and its chairperson shall be announced before the Teams commence their work.

2. A Committee member shall disclose any circumstances that may affect their impartiality and shall not evaluate an entry in respect of which they have a conflict of interest. Each entry shall be evaluated by at least three eligible Committee members.

3. The assessment covers six criteria: innovation – up to 10 points; substantive value and justification of the solution – up to 10 points; usability – up to 8 points; quality of the work and presentation – up to 6 points; potential for implementation and development – up to 6 marks; interdisciplinary collaboration and defence of the concept – up to 5 marks. Details are set out in Appendix 2. The maximum score is 45 marks.

4. The order of entries on the ranking list is determined by the number of points awarded. In the event of a tie, the entry that scores more points in the following criteria, in that order, shall be ranked higher: utility, implementation potential and innovativeness. If the order still cannot be determined, the Committee shall take a decision by vote, providing a written justification.

5. The Committee shall draw up a report containing the ranking, scores, reasons for the decisions, prizes awarded and recommendations. The Organiser shall publish the results, including the names of the teams, the titles of their projects and their scores, and shall provide the teams with their assessment sheets.

6. Prizes are awarded to the teams with the highest scores. Prizes are awarded to the top three entries in each of the three categories:

- Grand Prix,
- Responsible consumption and production,
- Impact of the message.

§ 6 Intellectual property and publication of results

1. Rights to their own contribution to the Competition Entry shall remain with the Participants or other entities entitled thereunder pursuant to generally applicable legislation or separate agreements. The Participant warrants that they are able to grant the rights provided for in the Competition Rules. The use of third-party elements shall take place exclusively within the limits of the rights held.

2. Upon submission of their entry, each Participant grants the Organiser, to the extent of the rights to which the Organiser is entitled, a non-exclusive, royalty-free and territorially unlimited licence for a period of 5 years, for the purposes of evaluation, documentation, education, dissemination of results and promotion of the Event.

3. The licence covers the following fields of exploitation: fixation and reproduction by means of printing and digital technology; storage in computer memory and repositories; public exhibition, display and performance; making the works publicly available on the Internet in such a way that anyone may access them at a place and time of their choosing; and the distribution, free of charge, of copies in catalogues and educational materials relating to the Event.

4. The results will be made available under an Open Access licence in accordance with the funding conditions of the Project. The organiser will publish the papers and the project catalogue in a repository or on the website https://straton.polsl.pl/. After five years, the licence becomes perpetual, subject to termination with one year's notice at the end of the calendar year. If the funding agreement requires a specific open public licence, its designation and terms must be determined and communicated to Participants prior to recruitment.

5. The Organiser shall attribute authorship in accordance with the Team's instructions. Technical changes to the format and layout that do not alter the content are permitted. Translations, substantive abridgements and other adaptations require the authors' consent. The Organisers may include links to the Teams' published works on the event's website or in information materials, stating their authorship. Any other use of the works, in particular their copying, distribution or publication, requires a separate agreement with the rights holders.

6. Participation in the Competition or the award of a scholarship does not result in the automatic transfer of economic copyright, industrial property rights or the right to obtain protection. Commercialisation, transfer of rights, implementation licences and further cooperation require separate agreements with the entitled parties, in the form required by law.

7. Teams must take into account the public nature of the final and the obligation to publish when selecting materials. Any issues regarding the protection of a solution must be clarified with the Organiser prior to the public presentation, without compromising the obligation to disseminate the results.

§ 7 Final provisions

1. Personal data shall be processed for the purposes and in accordance with the rules set out in Annex 1. Consent to the promotional use of one's image is not a condition of participation or of the award of a prize.

2. The Organiser may exclude a Participant or a Team for a material breach of the Competition Rules, in particular plagiarism, false statements, unauthorised assistance or a threat to safety. The decision must be supported by documented reasons and the Participant or Team must be given the opportunity to provide an explanation, unless immediate action is necessary to ensure safety.

3. The Organiser may cancel or postpone the Event due to force majeure or other circumstances preventing its safe conduct. In such a case, the Organiser shall immediately inform Participants of the reasons, further steps to be taken and the method of settling their previously approved costs.

4. Amendments to the Competition Rules must be published and communicated to registered participants. They may not be applied retrospectively, infringe upon acquired rights, or alter the selection or assessment criteria once the relevant stage has commenced.

5. A Participant may withdraw if a significant change prevents them from taking part. The Organiser may decide to reimburse costs incurred in relation to accommodation and travel in the event of a Participant's withdrawal or failure to comply with the provisions of the Project Rules for unjustified reasons. The final decision regarding the reimbursement of the aforementioned costs will be made on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances.

6. In organisational matters not covered by these rules, the Organiser shall decide whilst ensuring equal treatment. These competition rules do not exclude Participants' rights under generally applicable legislation or their right to pursue legal claims.
7. The following form an integral part of the Competition Rules: Appendix 1 – information on personal data and consent regarding the use of one's image; Appendix 2 – entry form; Appendix 3 – challenge areas.
8. The Competition Rules shall come into force on 2 November 2026.

Annex No. 1

Information clause and consent to the use of one's image

GDPR information clause for participants of „STRATON Europe – European Strategic Technologies Challenge"

1. **Personal Data Administrator**

The administrator of the personal data provided is the Silesian University of Technology, hereinafter referred to as the University, which may be contacted by post to the address: ul. Akademicka 2A, 44-100 Gliwice or by e-mail: BR@polsl.pl

2. **Data Protection Officer**

The administrator has appointed a Data Protection Officer who may be contacted in all matters concerning the processing of personal data post to the address: ul. Akademicka 2A, 44-100 Gliwice or by e-mail: iod@polsl.pl

3. **Purposes of processing**

The administrator processes personal data for the purpose of registering participation in STRATON Europe, communicating with participants in order to organize competition, and if you consent to receiving information about conferences and events with a scientific profile or promoting science organized by the Silesian University of Technology - also for the purpose of sending such information in the future.

4. **Legal basis for processing**

Processing is based on the grounds arising from Article 6 section (1) let. (e). (performance of a task carried out in the public interest) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) and the provisions of the Act of 20 July 2018 Law on Higher Education and Science - regarding personal data contained in the application form, and in the case of the image and sending information about events organized by the University Article 6 section (1) letter (a) - consent of the data subject.

5. **Withdrawal of consent**

Consent may be withdrawn at any time by sending an e-mail request to the following address: straton@polsl.pl and if you consent to receiving information about conferences and events with a scientific profile or promoting science organized by the Silesian University of Technology - also for the purpose of sending such information in the future.

1. **Legal basis for processing**

Processing is based on the grounds arising from Article 6 section (1) let. (e). (performance of a task carried out in the public interest) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) and the provisions of the Act of 20 July 2018 Law on Higher Education and Science - regarding personal data contained in the application form, and in the case of the image and sending information about events organized by the University Article 6 section (1) letter (a) - consent of the data subject.

2. **Withdrawal of consent**

Consent may be withdrawn at any time by sending an e-mail request to the following address: STRATON Europe competition, photographs and videos may be taken during the procedure, which may be published on websites and in publications belonging to the Silesian University of Technology and the following portals: [4]

a. Facebook – processing data on the terms set out by Facebook in its privacy policy at: https://.facebook.com/about/privacy,

b. YouTube - processing data on the terms specified by YouTube in its privacy policy at: https://www.youtube.com/intl/ALL_pl/howyoutubeworks/user-settings/privacy/,
c. LinkedIn - processing data on the terms set out by LinkedIn in its privacy policy at: https://pl.linkedin.com/legal/privacy-policy?src=direct%2Fnone&veh=direct%2Fnone&trk=homepage-basic_directory_aboutUrl,
d. Instagram - processing data on the terms specified by Instagram in its privacy policy at: https://www.facebook.com/help/instagram/155833707900388/
e. Twitter - processing data on the terms specified by Twitter in its privacy policy at: https://x.com/pl/privacy
f. TikTok - processing data on the terms specified by TikTok in its privacy policy at: https://www.tiktok.com/legal/page/eea/privacy-policy/pl

If the event is organized using an online platform enabling sound and image recording, and you do not consent to the use and dissemination of your image for information and promotional purposes of the Silesian University of Technology, please do not turn on the camera during the event.

Consent to the use of one's image

……. ……

name and surname date

Pursuant to Art. 6 section (1) let. (a) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation, hereinafter called "GDPR") I consent to free processing by the Silesian University of Technology of my personal data registered during „STRATON Europe – European Strategic Technologies Challenge" in audiovisual form (image, recorded voice/statement, name and surname) in order to:

- documenting and reporting on the progress of the 'STRATON Europe – European Strategic Technologies Challenge' competition
- disseminating the results of the competition, including the presentation of the solutions developed by participants, their achievements and the profiles of the winners;
- promoting the competition, its concept and the educational and scientific activities of the Silesian University of Technology, in particular through the publication of information and promotional materials on the university's website, on social media and via other communication channels.

I agree that my above specified data may be posted free of charge as part of their processing by Silesian University of Technology in the following places:

- on the University's website,
- in the Silesian University of Technology Bulletin,
- on the University's social media,
- in the Silesian University of Technology's information and promotional materials,
- in materials distributed to the media

At the same time, I declare that I have been informed that I have the right to withdraw my consent at any time, by sending an e-mail to the address: straton@polsl.pl and that the withdrawal of consent does not affect the lawfulness of the processing performed on the basis of the aforementioned consent before its withdrawal.

……

signature

Annex No. 2

APPLICATION FORM

I. Personal details and educational background

1. First name and surname:

…… ……

2. Email address:

…… ……

3. Telephone number:

……

4. University:

…… ……

5. Country:

…… ……

6. Field of study or academic discipline:

…… ……

7. Candidate's status:

☐ Undergraduate student

☐ PhD student

8. Year and level of study:

- For undergraduates: year of study and level of study (first or second cycle, or integrated Master's programme).

- For PhD students: year of study in the doctoral programme.

…… ……

II. Skills and Motivation

9. Description of your skills, experience and interests

Please describe the skills, knowledge and experience you have in the areas of project management, technical work, research or organisation that may be useful when working on technological challenges. You may also highlight your experience of teamwork or participation in projects, competitions or student initiatives.

……

…… .

10. Justification for your motivation to participate in STRATON Europe:

Why do you wish to take part in the event? What skills do you wish to develop, and what contribution can you make to the team's work?:

…… ……

…… ……

III. Preferred areas of technological challenges

10. Please rank the following areas of challenges in order of preference, assigning them positions from 1 to 3, where 1 indicates the most preferred area.

| Nuclear energy | …… |

| Dual-use technologies | …… |

| Space technologies | …… |

These preferences will be taken into account when organising the teams' work, as far as possible and in line with the event's objectives.

IV. Travel and accommodation

12. Will you need financial assistance for travel costs to the event?

☐ Yes

☐ No

13. If you answered yes, please specify the town and country from which you will be traveling:

…… ……

14. Will you need accommodation for the duration of the event?

☐ Yes

☐ No

15. If you answered yes, please specify the number of nights' accommodation required.

…… ……

The organizer may provide travel subsidies and accommodation for participants traveling from a significant distance. The granting of such support will depend on organizational capacity and available funds.

V. Declarations, confirmations and consents

16. Declarations and confirmations

☐ I declare that the information provided in the application form is true and up to date.

☐ I declare that I have read the Terms and Conditions for participation in STRATON Europe – the European Strategic Technologies Challenge and accept its provisions.

☐ I confirm that I have read the GDPR information clause for participants of the “STRATON Europa – European Strategic Technology Challenge” competition regarding the processing of personal data, which is provided in this form.

17. Declaration and consent to the recording and dissemination of one’s image:

I declare that I have read the information for participants of the "STRATON Europe – European Strategic Technology Challenge" competition regarding the recording and dissemination of one's image:

☐ I consent

☐ I do not consent

Annex No. 3

Challenge Areas

STRATON Europa is an interdisciplinary competition open to students from all fields of study. Working together on challenges brings different disciplines, experiences and ways of thinking into dialogue. Proposed solutions may be technological, social, organisational, business-oriented, legal, educational or design-led. Creativity, collaboration and a response to the real needs of people, institutions and the wider world are central to the competition.

A Nuclear Energy

How can society, the economy and institutions prepare for the development of nuclear energy? This area explores challenges surrounding its safe, responsible and efficient operation, as well as its role in the energy transition. Participants can address topics relating to technology, the environment, work organisation, skills development, education, communication and public trust. It offers an opportunity to create solutions that consider both the needs of the sector and the perspectives of local communities and future generations.

B Dual Use Technologies

How can knowledge and innovation support everyday life while strengthening the resilience of society, the state and infrastructure? This area focuses on solutions that can serve civilian purposes while also supporting security and crisis response. Challenges may explore communication, mobility, logistics, access to information and resources, continuity of services, and the social, ethical and legal dimensions of emerging technologies. Tasks are open and conceptual, with no classified content or instructions for offensive applications.

C Space Technologies

How can opportunities offered by space help us better address the needs of life on Earth? This area explores the development and use of space technologies, satellite data and the services they enable. Participants can develop ideas that support environmental protection, urban and regional development, the economy, education and public services. It also welcomes approaches to the responsible use of space, the organisation of space initiatives and their significance for society.

Across all three areas, the ability to connect different perspectives is essential. Specialist knowledge, an understanding of human needs, creativity and organisational skills can come together to produce valuable solutions.