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Smart London Districts Challenge-led Innovation Competition

Call for digital technologies: connecting people and creating communities

Background

The [Institute for Sustainability](#), in partnership with the [Mayor of London's Office](#), has launched a challenge-led competition to encourage SMEs and entrepreneurs to come forward with technology that could help the capital's major redevelopment projects cope with the demands of London's growing population.

Winners will earn the opportunity to pitch their innovations to organisations involved in some of the highest-profile redevelopment districts in the capital, including the [Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park](#) led by the London Legacy Development Corporation and [Imperial West](#) led by Imperial College London.

The districts are members of the Smart London Districts Network, created by the Smart London Board with the aim of supporting the Mayor of London's vision for 'smart city' innovation. They aim to encourage SMEs to provide solutions that are targeted at the challenges posed by the extraordinary growth of the capital. By harnessing technology and helping develop cutting edge ideas and products, the network members believe they can meet that challenges that growing cities face.

The Smart London Districts Network members are aiming to do more than simply build new homes and offices - they want to create thriving and dynamic communities – and they are interested in uncovering ways in which smart technology and data can support this aspiration.

Reasons to enter

- Winners will be invited to pitch their innovation to the Districts Network members who represent some of the largest and highest-profile redevelopment projects in London. Districts Network members are actively looking for new and innovative solutions to their real world challenges, which could be trialled in situ
- Winners will be profiled by the Institute for Sustainability and may be included in the Mayor of London's Office, EIT ICT Labs and other partner publicity
- Shortlisted SMEs and start-ups will be considered for innovation support through network partner EIT ICT Labs. This could include mentoring, investment brokerage or access to incubator space
- Entrants will have the opportunity to access pan European networks of large potential innovation buyers including through the Institute for Sustainability and EIT ICT Labs
- All entrants will be profiled on a pan European innovation database, run by partner organisation [iVeridis](#), where buyers of clean technology are actively looking for innovative solutions.

Criteria

The members are interested in how smart technology and data can be used to help connect people with others in their district as well as with the places they live, work and visit, creating a sense of place. This can be particularly challenging in the large, phased developments being led by the Districts Network members.

Solutions could be suitable for use during build phase or in full operation, or might be used to provide a link between the build and operational phases.

Solutions could include:

- innovative data sharing platforms that help multiple stakeholders share information and communicate better with the local community
- creative apps and smart technology to engage people with the local area and with each other
- cutting edge 'concierge services' which help make life easier for residents and allow facilities management services to engage with local people
- innovative platforms that enable social network building, collaborative approaches and mutual exchanges between residents, businesses and other organisations
- technology that supports the gamification of community-wide challenges
- apps and data sharing devices that help businesses engage with and incentivise visitors.

These are examples, but any smart innovation which will help connect people and create communities at district scale will be considered.

Example scenario

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is a 560 acre site. Its redevelopment following the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games is the responsibility of the London Legacy Development Corporation. The site includes¹:

- Five world class, BREEAM Excellent sporting venues
- Development of five new residential neighbourhoods comprising
 - 6,700 homes
 - Two schools
 - Nine nurseries,
 - Seven community spaces
 - Three health centres
- Commercial district, providing more than 8,000 jobs
- A new digital quarter for London at Here East
- Development of a culture and education quarter, housing world class institutions including the Victoria and Albert Museum, University College London and University of the Arts London
- 257 acres of open, biodiverse space
- 6.5km waterways
- 2000 events hosted in the park each year
- 9.3 million visitors expected annually from 2016.

¹ <http://queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-story/publications/documents;>
<http://queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/media/press-releases/huge-interest-as-olympicopolis-design-competition-opens>

Submission selection process

After the competition closing date, entries will be shortlisted and submitted for technical review and market applicability. A number of successful proposals will then be selected by the districts as winners and given the opportunity to pitch to Smart London Districts Network members. Shortlisted entrants who qualify as SMEs will be considered for innovation support by EIT ICT Labs.

Key dates

Competition opens: Monday 18 May 2015

Competition closes: Friday 12 June 2015

Assessment: June/July 2015

Winners and runners up notified: Early July 2015

Pitch meetings with Districts Network members: July 2015.

Who should enter?

Responses are welcome from a wide range of organisations, including SMEs, universities, public sector bodies and sole traders, all of whom are eligible to compete for the opportunity to pitch their innovation to senior decision makers from the organisations leading London's largest and most ambitious developments. Only entrants who qualify as SMEs will be considered for innovation support.

How to enter

We are working with [iVeridis](#), who are managing and recording competition entries. You will need to register on their website and fill in an online application to enter the competition. By registering, you will be visible to hundreds of buyers actively searching for clean technology and community building solutions. [Click here for further details on how to enter the competition](#)

London is home to a number of major, highly aspirational district-level redevelopment projects. The **Smart London Districts Network** brings together the public and private development organisations which are delivering London's largest and most ambitious development districts, providing a showcase for these exemplar developments and enabling collaboration and sharing of best practice as well as providing an opportunity to bring new smart city innovation to market.

The Smart London Districts Network supports the GLA's economic development and wealth creation aims by helping to stimulate demand-led innovation and improve the environment through resource efficiency and social development.

It has been created to support the Mayor of London's vision for 'smart city' innovation that addresses resource pressures whilst creating new economic and research opportunities. The network is a key commitment of the [Smart London Plan](#), developed by the [Smart London Board](#) and launched by the Mayor of London in December 2013.

For further information on the competition, please contact

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