



Startup-challenge
Houston | 2026

WHAT?

A competition rewarding **entrepreneurial projects** with the greatest potential

Open to all **students from Écoles Centrales**

A unique experience to test your project and gain visibility

Submit your application & dream of the €14,000 prize awaiting the winner!

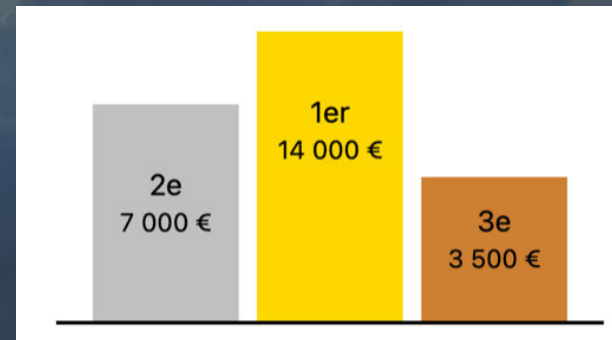
JOIN AN EXCELLENCE COMPETITION

11th edition

Montréal - Boston - San Francisco -
San Diego - Visio (COVID) – Seattle –
New York

And an amazing final in
Houston !

+21 laureates



1 jury of professionals &
mentors

VESTO



bloomin



mybeelity



NEOPOLIS



ernesti



ICHEN

AN ENTREPRENEURIAL PROJECT?

Eligibility criteria:

- ★ At least one founder still enrolled in one of Écoles Centrales
- ★ A defined project (identity, ambition, mission)
- ★ A complete team in place
- ★ A clear understanding of your offering and market
- ★ In R&D phase or with a first product version (ideally a pilot launching soon or underway)
- ★ A clear business model
- ★ A realistic and verified business plan

REWARDS

A final in Houston & a unique opportunity to:

- Pitch a Franco-American jury
- Pitch the day before the final in front of industry professionals
- Meet our alumni network, particularly those based in North America
- Benefit from a mentoring program

Win prizes to supercharge your project

- ★ 1st prize 14 000 €
- ★ 2nd prize 7 000 €
- ★ 3rd prize 3 500 €
- ★ + All finalists' travel expenses covered

PROCESS - a two-round selection

Round #1:

Identification of eligible projects by school via registration form

First selection by jury

Round #2:

Complete application via questionnaire

Second selection by jury

FINAL – 3 projects selected

Ranking by alumni present in person at the Alumni Days

Communication material - for Écoles Centrales

SAVE THE DATES

FEBRUARY

2026

Launch

MARCH

31

Deadline
Round 1 & selection
of eligible projects for
round #2

JULY

Deadline
Round 2

5-6-7 November

Final in Houston

MARCH

Round 1 launch
Call for applications

MAY

Announcement of
selected
applications &
launch of Round 2

JULY

Announcement of
3 finalists

See you in Houston in November for the final!



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[Alumni Days website](#)

*Competition support document
for Écoles Centrales*